

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON JUNE 26, 2013 AT 4:00 PM IN THE
BEN HILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Those present for the meeting were as follow:

Philip C. Jay III	Chairman
OD Netter	Vice-Chairman
Bennie Calloway	Commissioner
Daniel Cowan	Commissioner
Frank Feild	County Manager
Donna Prather	County Clerk

Commissioner Scott Downing was absent.

Chairman Philip Jay III called the meeting to order.

2012 Preliminary Audit/Pat Ashley

Mr. Ashley presented a draft copy of the 2012 audit to the Commissioners. He stated there could possibly be more changes before the audit is completed and the final report will be completed by the end of the week. He pointed out that there is a fund balance at this time of \$547,204.00.

2012 SPLOST Expenditures

Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein brought to the attention of the Commissioners that in the new SPLOST he is not able to pay for sign material. He said if he will not be able to purchase the material out of SPLOST, he will need a budget adjustment to cover the cost.

Sheriff Bobby McLemore stated the two items he had in the 2011 SPLOST are replacing the jail roof and new patrol cars. He stated he found out the leak on the roof was coming from the air duct and once that was fixed he no longer have any problems. The Sheriff suggested using the money set aside for the jail roof to purchase new patrol cars.

Preliminary Tax Digest Estimate/Joyce Merritt

This agenda item was postponed until July Meeting

Employee Health Insurance

County Manager Frank Field reported at the June 4th Regular Meeting, the Commission approved renewal of the Blue Cross Blue Shield employee health insurance plan; sponsored by ACCG. This involved an annual premium increase of \$ 84,472. He stated Commissioner Cowan and I continued to work with Blue Cross Blue Shield and found a plan that is much better for the employees. In addition, it only increases the premiums by \$28,306. This plan

will save the County nearly \$60,000. A summary comparison of our old plan and the new plan are on the I-Pads. We recommend a 2013 budget increase of \$14,153 for health insurance; which is half the cost of the new plan's premium increase. The balance for the first six (6) months of 2014 will be added to the 2014 budget when it is presented for review and approval.

He also mentioned there will be a meeting with the Department Heads next week to discuss employee health insurance, a Wellness Program, and the projected impact of the Affordable Health Act's "30-hour Rule" on our part-time workforce.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to rescind the motion made by Vice-Chairman OD Netter to approve the health insurance provided through ACCG that included a 15.3% increase. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the new health insurance plan that included a 4% increase. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Vice-Chairman OD Netter all voting for the motion.

2005 SPLOST

County Manager Frank Field stated he and Commissioner Daniel Cowan met with the DLS Board on June 14th. They provided us with two documents, which are attached, explaining what was not done with the 2005 SPLOST projects and what was actually spent. The DLS Board is committed to restricting all the excess 2005 SPLOST Recreation funds (\$331,535.27) for Phase I of the multi-purpose building. They asked if the Commission and Council are interested in paying for a swimming pool. They are preparing a resolution outlining their recommendations to the Commission and Council.

Fire Trucks and Hoses

County Manager Frank Field stated the Volunteer Fire Department has identified their top five (5) priorities and request. They want the Commission to provide the funding for the request in the amount of \$24,762.19.

He stated the staff is focused on acquiring the items that were missing during the joint inventory; contracting a drought study to certify alternate water sources; and testing and certifying our fire engines and their hoses. These are absolutely critical for us to maintain our current ISO ratings when the ISO inspectors arrive.

Mr. Field said we don't question the need for the equipment on Mr. Conger's priority lists; but many items are not critical to the ISO inspection; and many others can be acquired at much lower costs. The Staff has been very successful in finding good used vehicles and equipment at great savings to the County; and this has allowed us to fill a lot of gaps that the County would otherwise not be able to afford. We recommend the Commission allow us to continue with our priorities, and consider funding Mr. Conger's requests after the critical items are completed.

Volunteer Fire CEO Allen Conger stated the equipment he is requesting is to just keep the Volunteer Fire Department in business and to maintain service.

50 Year Drought Study

County Manager Frank Field mentioned this work is essential to maintaining our ISO ratings. Cost of Alternate Water Certification is \$12,000; payable in two \$6,000 installments. Additional work included at no cost is pressure testing of hoses and pump testing of our fire engines. The normal cost is \$600 per engine. Mr. Field recommendation to the Commission is to approve and authorize payments.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the National Fire Services Office proposal for a 50 year Drought Study. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Vice-Chairman OD Netter all voting for the motion.

2013 Budget Review/Adjustments

County Manager Frank Feild gave a brief summary of the 2013 revenues and expenditures for the month of April. He stated the expenditures are at 41.07% for the month of May and year to date total is \$3,548,496.11. The revenues are at 27.53% for the month of May and the year to date total is \$2,351,165.22. Mr. Field stated everyone seems to be on track.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve an increase the Road Department expense line item 4200-54.1500 and revenue line 33.4114 Road Department Grants by \$267,081.50 that was received from DOT for 2013 LMIG road resurfacing. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve continued funding for the Volunteer Fire Department at the same amount as their 2012 budget by adding \$ 447.00 for the month of July 2013. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve an increase the Sheriff Department budget by \$26,376.43 to compensate for the Transport Deputy position. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve an increase the Jail Budget by \$ 2,165.00 to compensate for paid time off between January 1 and April 30, 2013 and to increase Adjust E-911 Budget by \$ 6,558.64 to compensate for paid time off and training between January 1 and April 30, 2013. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve a \$22,879.68 increase to the Elections Expenditures Budget and an offsetting increase to the General Fund Revenues of \$22,879.68. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Energy Excise Tax

County Manager Frank Field stated he drafted the attached documents using the ACCG models and coordinated them with the City. The City Attorney Gill Braddy subsequently contacted the County Attorney to coordinate the wording of the Intergovernmental Agreement. This was discussed at the Regular Meeting on November 11, 2012. A public notice was prepared and published on the County Website and in The Herald-Leader. On November 30th, Shaw Industries sent us a letter objecting to the tax. This was discussed again at the Regular Meeting on December 4th. The County Attorney objected and Commissioner Netter requested action be postponed.

On June 11, 2013 Commissioners OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, Mayor Masee, and staff members participated in an ACCG webinar on the Energy Excise Tax. Mayor Masee promised to provide a copy of the analysis of anticipated revenues his staff had prepared. The Commissioners asked the County Staff to develop a list of manufacturers and lay out the process in a summary paper to help educate the manufacturers and the public. They asked that this be put on the agenda for discussion at the Special Called Meeting in June and that we print out the IGA and provide copies to all elected officials of the City and County, plus all manufacturers. They also asked that we lay out the chronology and conduct a Joint Public Hearing in July at the Chamber of Commerce.

He said he discussed these documents again with Gill Braddy, the City Attorney, yesterday. He said his colleagues in the region also used the ACCG models to draft their documents and he has no problem with these drafts. However, since the Intergovernmental Agreement must be approved and signed by both the Commission and the Council, he wants to be sure the verbiage is consistent with the legal requirements of both governing bodies.

Reeves-Walker & Brown Properties

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the sale of the Reeves-Walker and Brown Properties to the Ben Hill County Development Authority for \$46,000.00. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Approve NACO Voting/Vice-Chairman OD Netter

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to approve Vice-Chairman OD Netter as a voting delegate at NACO in July 2013. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Vice-Chairman OD Netter all voting for the motion.

The meeting was adjourned.

_____ Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk