

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON JULY 25, 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
Scott Downing	Commissioner
Daniel Cowan	Commissioner
Frank Feild	County Manager
Toni Sawyer	County Attorney
Donna Prather	County Clerk

Commissioner Bennie Calloway was absent.

Chairman Philip Jay III called the meeting to order.

Ben Hill Volunteer Fire Department

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to relax the rules on addressing the Chairman and Commissioners. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing and Commissioner Daniel Cowan both voting for the motion.

Commissioners Scott Downing asked County Attorney Toni Sawyer concerning an opinion she was to get concerning purchasing Volunteer Fire Department equipment being purchased with Ben Hill County Tax ID, General Fund, and SPLOST Funds. She stated any equipment purchased with Ben Hill County Tax ID, General Fund, and SPLOST Funds belongs to Ben Hill County. She also stated any equipment purchased with the funds given to the Volunteer Fire Department by contract belongs to the Volunteer Fire Department.

Commissioner Scott Downing suggested having the Auditors or someone outside the County to audit the Volunteer Fire Department books to see what equipment was purchased with Ben Hill County Tax ID to determine what equipment belongs to Ben Hill County and what belongs to the Volunteer Fire Department. Commissioner Downing stated in order for them to move forward they must first establish who owns the equipment.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to relax the rules on addressing the public. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Vice-Chairman OD Netter all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Scott Downing asked Planning Director Jason Miller is the life of the equipment purchased stated in the grant. Mr. Miller replied not all equipment is the same? The ropes have expiration dates on them; but the other equipment could last for years if it is maintained properly.

The Commissioners continued to discuss ways to determine what equipment that was purchased by the Volunteer Fire Department actually belong to Ben Hill County. Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to allow a representative outside the County to audit the Volunteer Fire Department equipment beginning with grants. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion. Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to allow Chip Starling from the National Fire Service Office to be the representative outside the County to audit the Volunteer Fire Department equipment beginning with grants. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

The Commissioners reviewed and discussed the Volunteer Fire Depart contract line by line and made changes as they saw fit.

After further discussion, Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion rescind the motion he made to allow Chip Starling from the National Fire Service Office to be the representative outside the County to audit the Volunteer Fire Department equipment beginning with grants. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Scott Downing all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to allow Pat Ashley from Meeks CPA Firm to be the representative outside the County to audit the Volunteer Fire Department equipment beginning with grants and he will be assisted by Jason Miller. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Scott Downing all voting for the motion.

The meeting was adjourned.

Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

Donna R. Prather, County Clerk