

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON DECEMBER 30, 2013 AT 6:30 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
Bennie Calloway	Commissioner
Daniel Cowan	Commissioner
Frank Feild	County Manager
Donna Prather	County Clerk

Chairman Philip Jay III called the meeting to order.

Sheriff Radios

County Manager Frank Feild reported the Sheriff is requesting an immediate purchase of new VHF radio equipment package in the amount of \$49,348.00; if purchased by December 31st. Mr. Feild recommended postponing this purchase until a communication study is complete. This will also allow time to determine the availability of 2013 year end funds to make the purchase.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to postpone this agenda item. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Hospital Update

Chairman Philip Jay reported it is his understanding the Hospital Authority has found a consultant that specialize in dealing with crisis to determine the next step the hospital will take. Mr. Jay stated a report is expected from the consultant in early January.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan asked whether or not we have direction.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter stated the Commission doesn't have any say so as to running the Hospital. He said the Hospital Authority has all the say so as to running hospital; but the Commission can make suggestions. He stated he would like to see the emergency room developed, he would like to move the Health Department into the wing Ben Hill County built if the hospital is not going to be using it, and they need to start recruiting doctors to use the hospital. Mr. Netter stated this is nothing new. The Hospital has been in this shape for years.

He said if the local people that have insurance don't use the facility because of the lack of confidence in the physicians; the hospital will not grow. He also suggested closing down the Care Center and sending those patients to the emergency room. Mr. Netter stated we need to be proactive.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan stated we should know more about what is going on at the hospital because we are on the hook for \$9.2 million. He stated to him, this is a part of Ben Hill County because we are responsible for the bond.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to relax the rules on addressing the Chairman, Commissioners, and 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 Bennie Calloway opposed the motion.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway said to Vice-Chairman OD Netter, don't we appoint the Hospital Board Members and he asked if any of the Commissioners were on the Board. Vice-Chairman OD Netter answered there are no Commissioners on the Hospital Authority Board.

Commissioner Scott Downing recommended letting the Board Members appointed by the Commission know they are representing the County as a whole through the power of the Commission. He also mentioned he didn't think the understood the rules the fall under.

Chairman Jay stated he will be requesting a meeting with the Hospital Authority.

2014 Proposed Budget

County Manager Frank Feild recommended to the Commissioners is to adopt the proposed 2014 budget of \$ 8,813,950.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the 2014 budget in the amount of \$ 8,813,950; with the special instruction to reduce every Department travel line item by 50% and put it into a restricted contingency account. After Constitutional Officers and Department Heads have spent their available funds, they must submit a request for travel to the County Manager for approval. Upon approval, disbursements will be made from the restricted Contingencies account. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

2014 Proposed Special Accounts Budget

Vice Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Special Revenue Fund budgets that includes Sheriff Special Fund, Drug Abuse & Education Fund, Jail Fund, Special Investigation Fund, Supplemental Juvenile Fund, E911 Fund, CHIP Grant Fund, EIP Grant Fund and BHC Development Authority Fund. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the

motion; which passed with Vice Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Tax Anticipation Note

Vice Chairman OD Netter made a motion to authorize the County Manager and County Clerk to solicit bids for a 2,500,000.00 Tax Anticipation Note. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Scott Downing all voting for the motion.

Board of Election Board Members Reappointment

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to re-appoint David Walker, Danny Young, and Thelma Graham to the Board of Elections and to appoint David Walker as Chairman of Board. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Vice Chairman OD Netter all voting for the motion.

The meeting was adjourned.

_____ Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk