

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON AUGUST 5, 2014 AT 6:30 PM IN THE
BEN HILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

OD Netter	Vice-Chairman
Scott Downing	Commissioner
Daniel Cowan	Commissioner
Frank Feild	County Manager
Donna Prather	County Clerk

Chairman Philip Jay and Commissioner Bennie Calloway was absent

Vice-Chairman OD Netter called the meeting to order.

Reverend Ted Kandler gave the invocation.

Everyone gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendments To The Rules Of Order

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 and Commissioner Daniel Cowan both voting for the motion.

Approval of the Agenda/Agenda Changes

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing and Commissioner Daniel Cowan both voting for the motion.

Public Comments:

Terri Rodrigues expressed the Commissioners her concerns regarding her zoning application that was tabled at the last Zoning Board meeting. She wanted to know why she couldn't add a mobile home behind her mobile home so that her daughter could move in. She stated her neighbor has three mobile homes on their property and don't have as much property as her.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion for County Manager Frank Field to send the Zoning Board a letter requesting them to make a decision on the original zoning application from Terri Rodrigues. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing and Commissioner Daniel Cowan both voting for the motion.

Larry Stewart stated he was at the meeting to express his concerns about the Queensland Water System. He wanted the County to repair a well on his father's property and dig a well for him at his current resident. Mr. Stewart stated the other resident has a new well and making payments; he stated he wanted to do the same.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve getting a quote to see what the cost would be to repair the well at Mr. Stewart father's house and to dig a well at his current residence. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing and Commissioner Daniel Cowan both voting for the motion.

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting held on July 8, 2014. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan and Commissioner Scott Downing both voting for the motion.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting held on July 30, 2014. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan and Commissioner Scott Downing both voting for the motion.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Public Hearing held on July 30, 2014. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan and Commissioner Scott Downing both voting for the motion.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting held on July 30, 2014. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan and Commissioner Scott Downing both voting for the motion.

Presentations

Sandra Gremsey/USDA Area Specialist

Sandra Gremsey announced that Ben Hill County was approved for \$80,000.00 for the Rural Business Enterprise Grant for the Appleseed Program. Ms. Gremsey read the letter of conditions that explained all the terms of grant. She also report the Ben Hill County Development Authority was approved for \$99,000 in 2010 for the Rural Business Enterprise Grant so that the Revolving Loan Fund can lend money to those starting a business at a low interest rate.

Mandy Young/Affordable Equity Partners

Mandy Young gave a brief presentation on the affordable housing AEP builds for senior and single family. She stated Ben Hill County is a good candidate for the housing project. She also mentioned the project will allow for much needed low income affordable housing. She showed several different styles that they have built. Ms. Young provided a timeline for the potential housing development.

Steve Pair

Steve Pair gave a presentation concerning an idea he has to help the Arts Council raise money. He wants to put up a wall of ceramic tile with hand prints on the tile between the Arts Council building and the Federal building. He would also need to use the ceramic kilns. The project would be operated by the Arts Council.

Department of Leisure Services Director Joe Parrish stated he had no problem with the Arts Council using the ceramic kilns.

Constitutional Officer: NONE

Department Head Reports:

Ben Hill County Development Authority Executive Director Courtney gave an update on all the activity for the Ben Hill County Development Authority and Ben Hill County Revolving Loan Fund.

County Board Reports:

Fitzgerald Ben Hill County Chamber Executive Director Christi Schirack gave an update on all the activity at the Chamber of Commerce. She also thanked the Commissioners for their support.

Department of Leisure Services Director Joe Parrish gave an update on all the activity at the Department of Leisure services.

County Manager's Report:

County Manager Frank Feild reported the following:

Queensland

The Water Well Trust has drilled 7 individual wells for Queensland homeowners. All have been connected, tested, and accepted; the contractor is being paid. There are funds available to drill one-more well and it will be drilled this week.

We are now planning the final steps to shut-down the Queensland Community Water System. The target date to turn-off the main valve is September 1, 2014. At that point, the County will be out of the water business.

RBEG Grant

Mr. Field stated he have prepared and coordinated four Service Agreements to execute the USDA RBEG Grant

USDA Housing Presentation Grant

Mr. Field reported we did not submit an application for the USDA Housing Preservation Grant. One of the requirements was to advertise our intent in the local legal organ at least 16-days prior to the suspense; and we were not able to make this happen. However, we have identified a contractor (Linda Carroll) who is interested in working with us on USDA housing grants. She will be watching for other opportunities.

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application: NONE

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

Head Start Lease

Commissioner Scott Downing made to approve the new Head Start Lease. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing and Commissioner Daniel Cowan both voting for the motion.

Health Department MOU

Commissioner Scott Downing made to approve the health Department MOU and authorize the Chairman to sign the document. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing and Commissioner Daniel Cowan both voting for the motion.

Commissioner Scott Downing made to amend the motion by deleting the 4th bullet that states *“to include personnel cost and operating expenses.”* Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing and Commissioner Daniel Cowan both voting for the motion.

DLS Ceramic & Kilns

Department of Leisure Services Director Joe Parrish stated he is in favor of the Arts Council using the ceramic kilns. He stated he would move the large and small kiln to the Senior Citizen Building and allow the Arts Council to have access to them.

Commissioner Scott Downing made to move the large and small kiln to the Senior Citizen Building and allow the Arts Council to have access to them. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing and Commissioner Daniel Cowan both voting for the motion.

Commissioner Scott Downing made to postpone choosing the site for the wall and add it back to the agenda for further discussion. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing and Commissioner Daniel Cowan both voting for the motion.

Russell Road paving

Commissioner Scott Downing made to add Russell Road to the paving list. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing and Commissioner Daniel Cowan both voting for the motion.

Agenda Changes and/or add ons: NONE

Legislative Report:

Commissioner Scott Downing reported he attended the Transportation Study meeting today. He stated there will be six more meeting with the closes one being in Tifton, GA. He mentioned the study will determine how transportation will be funded.

He also reported at the last Transportation and Economic Policy Meeting they had good discussion and they had good attendance from the Department of Transportation. He mentioned they had the chance to discuss issues with them.

Commissioner’s Remarks: NONE

County Manager Frank Field informed every one of the unveiling of the plaque of the Queensland School that commemorated 100 years. He stated the Commissioners and School Board was represented well. He also honored the graduates of the Queensland school and those that were home for homecoming.

Meeting adjourned

_____ Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk