

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON JANUARY 7, 2014 AT 6:30 PM IN THE
BEN HILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

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

Chairman Philip Jay III called the meeting to order.

Chairman Jay announced this meeting was posted 24-hours in advance in compliance with Georgia Law. All Commissioners were telephonically notified. An announcement and agenda were posted on the Commissioners I-Pads, distributed by e-mail, posted on the county website, and posted on the door to the Commissioner's Meeting Room. The Herald-Leader was notified by E-mail.

Pastor Steve O'neal 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, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Vice-Chairman OD Netter all voting for the motion. Commissioner Bennie Calloway opposed the motion.

Approval of the Agenda/Agenda Changes

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to change agenda the items Communication Study and Sheriff Vehicle Resolution to the present time in the meeting. 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.

Communication Study

Sheriff Bobby McLemore state a study has already been done for the radios and he has received a bid from Motorola to purchase the equipment he needs. He stressed to the Commissioners the need for the radios by stating they are his deputies' lifeline and by not having them their lives are in harms way. He stated he is asking for their help in purchasing the radios.

After further discussion, the Commissioners decided the Communication Study is needed because it will benefit the entire County and not just the Sheriff Department.

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

Sheriff Vehicle Resolution

County Manager Frank Feild stated the Sheriff is in need of one truck and three new cars. He stated he obtained a bid thru the ACCG Lease Purchase Program for \$77,594 to purchase one truck and two cars on a 60 month note with payments being \$1,355.98 per month. We project there will be enough funds accrued by mid-February 2014 to purchase one new car for cash. These payments and purchase will be made from 2011 SPLOST.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Sheriff Vehicle Resolution, Lease Agreement, and authorize the Chairman to sign all documents. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan and Commissioner Scott Downing, and all voting for the motion.

Public Comments: NONE

Deputy Calvin Wilcox expressed to the Commissioners the need to purchase radios and new cars for the Sheriff Department.

Wendell Thompson stated he was present at the meeting asking for an update on his recommendation from a previous meeting to build a bi-pass on the east side of town because of travel created by the train. He also wanted to know the progress of the new DLS Facility that will be built at Paul Park.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to change the agenda item County Boards Report to the present time in the meeting. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Vice-Chairman OD Netter all voting for the motion.

County Boards Report

Chief Executive Officer David Sofferin of Behavioral Health Services of South Georgia introduced the new Behavior Health Crisis Center to the Commissioners and the public. He stated the purpose of the facilities is to serve individuals with mental health challenges as close to home as possible.

Chairman Vanessa Melton of the Hospital Authority stated she came to support and to say thank you to the Commission. She stated the Hospital Authority Board really appreciates the support they are receiving from the Commission and County Manager Frank Feild. She mentioned they are on top of the situation and recently they hired a consultant with medical expertise that will provide them with an assessment and some recommendations on where they need to go at this point. She stated they are doing everything possible to keep a hospital in our area.

Required Annual Actions

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve Frank Feild as County Manager, Donna Prather as County Clerk, Toni Sawyer as County Attorney, Meeks CPA as County Auditors, Wells Fargo, Planters First, Colony Bank, Community Bank, Bank of America, and Local Investment Pool as County Financial Institutes, Herald Leader as County Legal

Organ, and approve rehiring all County employees. 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.

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

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting Minutes held on December 2, 2013. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes held on December 3, 2013. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting Minutes held on December 11, 2013. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Public Hearing Minutes held on December 30, 2013. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting Minutes held on December 30, 2013. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Constitutional Officer: NONE

Department Head Reports:

EMS Mark Shealey gave a brief overview

County Manager's Report:

County Manager Feild reported the County was able to pay all its bills on December 31st. He stated EMS had run over 100 calls as of January 6th and has added a 3rd shift to handle the increase in service. Mr. Field also reported EMS implemented paperless with I-pads on December 30th; and it has made a dramatic difference.

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application: NONE

Old Business:

Elections Department Relocation

County Manager Frank Feild reported the Board of Elections have move to its new location and there are still a small amount of work left to complete.

Employee Handbook Changes

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the Employee Handbook Changes. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Ambulance Lease Purchase Resolution

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Ambulance Lease Purchase Resolution, Lease Agreement, and the Chairman to sign all documents. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Scott Downing, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Departmental Review/Staffing Study

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve conducting a Departmental Review Staffing Study. 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.

Queensland Property Purchase

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the purchase of the lot next to the Solid Waste Collection site in Queensland for \$1000. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan and Commissioner Scott Downing, and all voting for the motion.

New Business:

Abstract of Kenneth Justice Family Books

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to allow County Manager Frank Feild to negotiate with the Justice Family to explore options concerning the books. 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.

ACCG Centennial Resolution

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the ACCG Centennial Resolution. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Qualifying Fees Resolution

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Qualifying Fees Resolution for the

next two county elections. 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.

Excess Property Declaration

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the Excess Property Declaration and give the County Manager permission to dispose of the equipment. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

De-Obligation of 2010 CDBG Funds

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the De-Obligation of the 2010 CDBG Fund and authorize Chairman to sign the letter. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Application for 2014 CDBG Grant Application

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve submitting the 2014 CDBG Grant Application. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Scott Downing all voting for the motion.

Agenda Changes and/or add ons: NONE

Legislative Report:

Commissioner Scott Downing reported the Legislative will be meeting at the end of the month in Atlanta.

Commissioner's Remarks: NONE

Meeting adjourned

_____ Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk