

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON MAY 6, 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.

Reverend 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, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Bennie Calloway, and Vice-Chairman OD Netter all voting for the motion.

Approval of the Agenda/Agenda Changes

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the agenda. 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.

Public Comments:

Helen Baker stated she moved to Fitzgerald five years ago and never attended any Commission meetings; but wanted to know what exactly the Commissioners job was. She wanted to know if there was any help available for the elderly to cut their grass, do plumbing, and other things. She also stated she work at the Sheriff's Office calling the seniors that live alone. She stated she is encouraging the seniors to utilize the Senior Citizen Building but many of them do not have transportation. She wanted to know if transportation was available to transport them to and from the Senior Citizen Building.

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting minutes held on April 7, 2014. 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.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the Public Hearing minutes held on April 8, 2014. 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.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes held on April 8, 2014. 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.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting Minutes held on April 29, 2014. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Scott Downing all voting for the motion.

Constitutional Officer:

Sheriff Bobby McLemore reported the last vehicle has been purchased and getting prepared to be put on the road. He also reported the Community Service van transmission is down and he don't have the money to fix it. He stated he has talked with Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein to see if he could repair it; but he doesn't have the funds either.

Department Head Reports:

District Extension Director Laura Perry Johnson gave a brief update on the Extension Office. She thanked Ben Hill County for their support.

Senior Citizen Director Cathy Posey gave an update on the activities at the Senior Citizen Center.

Executive Director for the Development Authority of Ben Hill County Courtney Whitman gave a brief update on the Summer Food Program.

County Board Reports: NONE

County Manager's Report:

County Manager Frank Feild reported the following:

Vehicles

County Manager Frank Field reported we received the wire transfers from BB&T for the Sheriff's vehicles and have paid the dealer. We also did a cash purchase of the 3rd patrol car he ordered using accrued SPLOST funds.

Departmental Review/ Staffing Study

The Carl Vinson Institute of Government sent us a survey to be filled out by all the Constitutional Offices and Departments. After they review the surveys, they will schedule a team visit and spend a day or two on-site; meeting with and visiting the Constitutional Offices and Departments.

Westwood Park

We have developed a plan to build Westwood Park next to the County's solid waste collection site. The land has been partially cleared and the layout is being flagged. The park will include a 20' x 30' pavilion set on a concrete slab with picnic tables; a playground

with equipment; a fenced, asphalt-surface basketball court with 2 goals; parking for 15 cars; security lighting; and a walking track around the perimeter. This will be a County-owned and maintained park.

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application: NONE

Old Business:

Public Transportation

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to restrict \$79,000 from 2011 Transportation SPLOST account, give County Manager Frank Feild permission to expedite the application, and authorize the Chairman to sign all documents. 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.

Student Summer Work

We received the attached invoice concerning the Student Summer Work Program, and this was raised as a budget request during the Special Called Meeting on April 29th. However, discussion was postponed until this meeting.

No Action was taken.

Fitzgerald/Ben Hill Land Bank

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve scheduling a Public Hearing on the Fitzgerald/Ben Hill Land Bank at 6:00 p.m. on June 3, 2014 prior to the Commission's Regular Meeting and include the Land Bank as an action item on the Regular Meeting Agenda. Notice of the Public Hearing will be posted in The Herald-Leader, at Commissioners Office, and on the County website at www.benhillcounty.com. Copies of the draft Intergovernmental Contract will also be posted on the County website and made available for public viewing in the County and City Offices during normal business hours. 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.

2005 SPLOST Priorities

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to de-obligate the 2005 SPLOST Recreation funds. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

After further discussion, Commissioner Bennie Calloway withdrew his motion. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to not build the horse arena in Ben Hill County; but to use the funds somewhere else. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to not build the horse arena in Ben Hill County; but to use the funds somewhere else. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the County Manager Frank Field recommendations for the 2005 SPLOST Recreation Account which included the following: Acquiring and improving the property at 110 S. Sherman Street for use as the Fitzgerald Opry; at a cost not to exceed \$85,000.00; Improving the Monitor Center to meet ADA standards; at a cost not to exceed \$15,000.00; Constructing and equipping the Westwood Community Park at 174 Westwood Drive; at a cost not to exceed \$25,000.00; use the remaining \$194,00.00 on Lions Park. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to move the \$194,000.00 for Lions Park and \$25,000.00 for Westwood Park into a separate account from the other funds. 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.

New Business:

Roads & Bridges Presentation

County Manager Frank Field and Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein presented to the Commissioners and the public a power-point presentation showing the conditions of the roads and bridges in Ben Hill County along with the cost to repair them.

Website Update

Special Administrative Aide Michael Santee unveiled the new look for the Ben Hill County website. Everyone liked the new face to the website.

Agenda Changes and/or add ons: NONE

Legislative Report: NONE

Commissioner's Remarks: NONE

Meeting adjourned

_____ Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk