

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON OCTOBER 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
Frank Feild	County Manager
Donna Prather	County Clerk

Commissioner Bennie Calloway was absent.

Chairman Philip C. Jay III called the meeting to order.

Reverend Godfrey O'Rear 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.

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, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Public Comments: NONE

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting held on September 2, 2014. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Scott Downing all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting held on September 30, 2014. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, and Commissioner Scott Downing all voting for the motion.

Constitutional Officer: NONE

Department Head Reports:

Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein gave a brief update on all the activity at the Road Department. He asked the Commissioners for a budget amendment in the amount of \$5,569.31 for repairs and maintenance.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$5,691.31. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Tim thanked the Commissioners for the budget amendment.

Tim also reminded the Commissioners of the EPA law changes on water. He stated this will also affect local farmers and will be costly to the County.

County Extension Coordinator Jeri Gilleland gave an update on all the activity at the 4H Office and Ag Extension.

Department of Leisure Services Director Joe Parrish gave an update on the Fall Sports. He stated it has been going good.

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 Report: NONE

County Manager's Report:

County Manager Frank Feild reported the following:

After reviewing many applications from highly-qualified people, Donna Lampkin has selected Antavia Blount to fill our Receptionist position. She came to us from Dorminy Medical Center, and we are delighted to welcome her on board.

We have selected Kenyatta Thorpe to fill the ACCG grant Intern position in the Development Authority. She served as an intern with John Crowley and Toni Sawyer, and graduated from the Appalachian School of Law with Juris Masters and Juris Doctors Degrees. We are very fortunate to have a person of this caliber working with the county, and look forward to helping her advance her career.

2014 CDBG

We have scheduled a Public Hearing for 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 14th in this room to discuss the closing-out of the 2010 CDBG grant and the scope of the 2014 CDBG grant.

Guarded & Signalized Railroad Crossing – Anderson Memorial Church Road

The County leveled and resurfaced the approaches to this crossing.

DOT has given CSX a Notice to Proceed with construction and authorized \$377,808. CSX will schedule and install.

Guarded & Signalized Crossing – Lilac Road

The County has completed the drainage work and resurfaced the approaches to his crossing. The Road Department did the drainage work, and the resurfacing cost \$10,800. Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein then took photos and forwarded them; which caused DOT to immediately issue a Preliminary Engineering Request to CSX.

\$18,835 is approved for the Preliminary Engineering Estimate. Once CSX concurs, DOT will issue a Notice to Proceed. This will produce a construction cost estimate. DOT will then prepare an agreement; issue a Notice to Proceed with construction; and authorize funding. DOT estimates this crossing will cost between \$220 and \$250K; and that we are 6-months away from an agreement.

2014 Homeland Security Grant

We received a Homeland Security Grant thru GEMA for a new 100KW trailer-mounted generator. This is a \$ 68,000 No-Match Grant. This state-of-the-art equipment was manufactured by Fischer Scientific, and EMA Director Jason Miller picked it up in Macon on October 2nd.

EMA Director Jason Miller is working with Fitzgerald Water Light & Bond to identify critical community facilities and install bypass switches on them.

Perry House Road Bridge

We are still looking for community partners willing to invest in the Perry House Road Bridge Project. The Herald-Leader is the only agency that has shown any interest to date. The Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank has not announced when they will begin accepting grant applications for 2015, but they recommend we commit \$400,000 in community matching funds if we hope to be successful in our next application. This would be about 50% of the project cost.

Irwin County recently received Federal funding for 2 of its County bridges. These bridges were damaged by flooding and were allowed to deteriorate to the point they were classified by DOT as dangerous. This allowed them to be put in the State Transportation Improvement Plan; and subsequently qualify for Federal Funding. Although we do not do business this way, this is an alternative strategy for the Perry House Road Bridge.

Emergency Management Agency

EMA Director Jason Miller picked up two security screening devices through his surplus contacts in Atlanta to replace the ones in the Courthouse, the Sheriff's Office, and the Jail. This saved us \$ 5,800.

While he was there, he ran across several trailer loads of computers in excellent condition that had been briefly used by the Center for Disease Control. He was able to help the Ben Hill County School Systems acquire 735 computers for the schools at no cost to them; and also bought 29 for the County. The Federal Government originally paid about \$1.0 Million for these computers. If we had bought these computers new, it would have cost our taxpayers the equivalent of 3 mills; which would have been \$135 added to the tax bill of the average home in Ben Hill County. The County computers will be used to support the Strike Force Project, the Roads Department, and the Tax Assessor.

We have also acquired a light plant that will illuminate 70-acres, a mobile lab that will be converted to a mobile command center, and 2 more light plants that will be picked up next week.

A summary of surplus, used, and grant capital equipment Jason has acquired in the last 24 months is attached to your I-PADS. He has brought over \$2.8 million worth of high-quality equipment to Ben Hill County; at a total cost of about \$30,000. This is an incredible accomplishment. Our community will benefit greatly from having this equipment; and we are paying about a penny on the dollar for it.

Sheriff Vehicles

Instead of buying a new police interceptor for the Sheriff at the end of the year with accrued SPLOST funds, we were able to acquire a pre-owned Dodge Charger in excellent condition with a full police package for \$15,000. We estimate this saved SPLOST and the General Fund over \$15,000. In turn, the Sheriff has identified four Ford Crown Victoria's as excess; and they are on the agenda for the Commission's decision. These four vehicles balance the scales for the four new vehicles the County has purchased for the Sheriff this year.

EMS

EMS Director Mark Shealy received a new, state-of-the-art ventilator, through the Wiregrass Coalition at no cost. This \$14,000 piece of mutual aid equipment was desperately needed, and will be put in the first-out transfer truck.

He also expects to receive the grant application paperwork later this month from the GA Trauma Commission. We understand they will be offering a \$5,500 no-match grant for EMS equipment and supplies.

Development Authority of Ben Hill County

The last concert of the season, "Summer Nights in the Park", was held on September 6th. It received numerous compliments from music lovers, who would have gladly traveled to Atlanta to hear the quality bands the heard in Blue & Gray Park for Free. Our Development Authority is already making plans for the 2015 Season.

The Development Authority set up an outstanding community trip to the Annual State of the Port Address in Savannah on Sep. 25th. We had the opportunity to speak to a lot of people about the opportunities for investing in our community, and developed a number of excellent contacts with international logisticians. The next day, we were treated to a guided tour of the port; which was an incredible experience for all of us. Our community is well-positioned to become one of Georgia's inland ports; offering terminal transfer, warehousing, and full-service maintenance and repair of trucks, containers and railroad equipment.

Distress System

The county has purchased, installed and tested the distress system that serves the County Offices, the Clerk of Court, the Probate Judge, the Tax Commissioner and the Superior Court Judges. 911 can once again receive distress calls from any of these offices.

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application: NONE

Old Business:

Public Transportation

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Contract with DOT for the 5311 Public Transportation Program and authorize the Chairman to sign the documents. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter and Commissioner Scott Downing both voting for the motion.

Property Transfer

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the property transfer of this parcel to the Development Authority of Ben Hill County to use in the housing project application; direct the County Attorney to prepare the transfer documents; and authorize the Chairman to sign them. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing and Vice-Chairman OD Netter both voting for the motion.

Excess Property Resolution

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the resolution declaring the sheriff vehicles listed as excess property and authorize the County Manager to dispose of them. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing and Vice-Chairman OD Netter both voting for the motion.

Water Well Trust Resolution

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the resolution commending the Water Well Trust for their benevolence to our citizens. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing and Vice-Chairman OD Netter both voting for the motion.

Queensland Quit Claim Deed/Larry Stewart & Calvin Wilcox

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve Quit Claim Deeds on the two Queensland well properties in favor of the property owners of the respective adjacent houses; the grantees being Larry Stewart and Calvin Wilcox; and authorize the Chairman to sign all documents. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter and Commissioner Scott Downing both voting for the motion.

MUNICODE Recodification

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the recodification proofs, recommended changes, and authorize MUNICODE to move forward with production. 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.

2014 CDBG Engineering Agreement

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the Engineering Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign all documents. 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.

2005 SPLOST Projects

County Manager Frank Feild recommendation to the Commission is to assign the County staff the responsibility for upgrading the concession stand and bathrooms at Lions Park. He also recommended that any funds left over after the work is completed be applied to roads and bridges or drainage.

Commissioner Scott Downing move to postpone the concession stand at Lions Park and schedule a Workshop Meeting to discuss this matter.

New Business: NONE

Agenda Changes and/or add ons: NONE

Legislative Report:

Commissioner Scott Downing this week is the Legislative Conference and they are offering some good classes to take.

Commissioner's Remarks:

Commissioner Scott Downing thanked EMA Director Jason Miller and Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein for the good work they have done.

Meeting adjourned

_____ Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk