

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON NOVEMBER 4, 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   |
| Bennie Calloway   | Commissioner   |
| Daniel Cowan      | Commissioner   |
| Frank Feild       | County Manager |
| Donna Prather     | County Clerk   |

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

Pastor Connie Graham 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, Commissioner 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: NONE**

**Acceptance of Prior Minutes**

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting held on October 6, 2014. 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.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting held on October 20, 2014. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Vice-Chairman OD Netter all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting held on October 20, 2014. 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.

**Employee Years of Service Recognition Presentation:**

County Manager Frank Field introduced the following employees for their years of service and dedication to Ben Hill County:

*\*20 Years of Service*

Diane Duncan, Magistrate's Office

Mark Shealy, EMS

Jed Clark, E911

Emmitt Butler, Road Department

Elaine Fowler, Tax Commissioner's Office

*\*25 Years of Service*

Rita Petrie, Tax Commissioner's Office

Darryl Davis, Road Department

*\*30 Years of Service*

E. Bernard Coker, Road Department

Joyce Merritt, Tax Assessor

**Constitutional Officer: NONE**

**Department Head Reports:**

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

**County Board Report:**

Mr. Connie Graham gave an update on the Community Service Board.

**County Manager's Report:**

County Manager Frank Feild reported the following:

*Municode*

Municode is finalizing the recodification proofs. They will print us five hard-bound copies and post everything on-line. The County Ordinances will then be accessible from the MUNICODE.com website or the hyperlink from the County website at [www.benhillcounty.com](http://www.benhillcounty.com).

*Dog Tag Fees*

Sec. 10-78 of the County Ordinances requires dog owners to obtain licenses for their dogs every year. The fees are \$3 per dog if it is neutered or spayed; and \$5 if it is not neutered or spayed. Our ordinances also require proof of rabies vaccination.

We are working with the City and Humane Society to standardize our policies at the Animal Shelter. The County requirements to license dogs and the fees have been in effect since May 4, 1993; however, it appears they have not been enforced. Effective January 1, 2015, the County will begin enforcing the requirement to license dogs. Applications and tags can be obtained at the Humane Society Animal Shelter.

### Road Resurfacing

Commendations are in order for Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein and the Road Department for another outstanding resurfacing job. Using over ½ Million dollars in combined SPLOST and LMIG money, he was able to resurface 777 miles of roads that desperately needed it. The cost per mile averaged out to be \$ 67,378; which is the best average we have ever achieved. Our citizens are very fortunate to have such a highly-skilled Road Superintendent. We admire his work, and appreciate all he does for us.

### DOT Traffics Study

We asked the DOT District Traffic Engineer for an update on the status of the proposed “Round-About” at the intersection of SR 90 (Dewey McGlamry Rd.) and Lower Rebecca

DOT plans to have a safety project for the roundabout at this location. However, planning has not begun, the project is not in the STIP, and construction is still a few years away. Meanwhile, DOT has promised to see what they can do to enhance safety along the SR 90 approaches to this intersection; and will recommend what we could do along the Lower Rebecca Road approaches.

### County Employee Picnic

The County Employee & Family Picnic will be held on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Senior Citizen Center. We will be serving barbecue, ribs, hot dogs and hamburgers; and have a lot of games planned for both the kids and adults. The staff is very excited about this, and I’m glad we can do this for our employees.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign quitclaim deed for the North Merrimac property. 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.

**Annexation Request: NONE**

**Rezoning Application: NONE**

**Alcohol Application: NONE**

### **Old Business:**

#### **Public Transportation Equipment Agreement**

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the Agreement with DOT for Public Transit equipment, authorize the Chairman to sign the documents, and to formally name this the Ben Hill Transit System, and authorize the County Manager to solicit bids for a 3<sup>rd</sup> party contract operation. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter and Commissioner Scott Downing voting for the motion.

#### **Substance Abuse Policy**

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to postpone this agenda item. 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.

## **Organizational Review**

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to accept this review and charge all Constitutional Offices and Departments with implementing the recommendations and best practices. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion. Vice-Chairman OD Netter opposed.

## **Ambulance**

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the BB&T proposed note for 72-months at 2.12% interest to finance the \$145,521 ambulance; direct the County Attorney to examine and render an opinion on the proposed Lease-Purchase Agreement; and authorize the Chairman to sign all the required documents. Vice-Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

## **New Business:**

### **Dog Control Officer Appointment (Leon Johnson & Steve Smith)**

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to appoint City Marshal Leon Johnson as the Dog Control Officer, and City Animal Control Officer Steve Smith as the Alternate Dog Control Officer. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Chairman Philip Jay all voting for the motion. Commissioner Bennie Calloway and Vice-Chairman OD Netter opposed.

### **Development Authority of Ben Hill County Board Member Appointment**

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to nominated Dwain Parrish. 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.

### **Excess Property Resolution**

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the excess property resolution to declare a Caterpillar Road Grader as surplus; authorize the County Manager to advertise and dispose of it by public sale; and direct all net proceeds from the sale be used to acquire replacement equipment for the Road Department. Vice-Chairman OD Netter second the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

### **Agenda Changes and/or add ons: NONE**

### **Legislative Report:**

Commissioner Scott Downing reported the ACCG 11<sup>th</sup> District Meeting is November 18<sup>th</sup> in Berrien County at the Ag Building beginning at 4:30 pm until 6:30 pm.

### **Commissioner's Remarks:**

Vice-Chairman OD Netter thanked Tim Kegebein and Darryl Davis for the paving work that has been done.

Commissioner Scott Downing thanked Tim Kegebein for paving Sweet Pea Road.

Chairman Philip Jay gave his condolences to Commissioner Daniel Cowan on losing his grandfather and congratulations on the birth of his new baby girl.

Meeting adjourned

\_\_\_\_\_ Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk