

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON MARCH 26, 2014 AT 4:00 PM IN THE  
BEN HILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Those present for the meeting were as follow:

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 Jay III called the meeting to order.

Vice Chairman OD Netter made a motion to change the agenda by entering into Executive Session first. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Vice Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Vice Chairman OD Netter made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Commissioner Scott Downing seconded the motion; which passed with Vice Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

**Executive Session**

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to end Executive Session. Vice Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Vice Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve Executive Session minutes. Vice Chairman OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Vice Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

**Extension Office**

County Manager Frank Field reported he and Vice-Chairman OD Netter met with Laura Johnson, Southwest District Extension Director, to address some issues. He said he thinks they are back on track. Vice-Chairman OD Netter stated all the contracts were signed during the meeting.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to relax the rules on addressing the Chairman, Commissioners, and the public. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Vice-Chairman OD Netter all voting for the motion.

### **Faith In Action**

CEO and Founder of 1<sup>st</sup> Community in Action Reverend Herbert Jones ask the Commissioners to partner with Faith In Action summer program that will employ at least 20 youth this summer. He stated the youth in our community can't find employment during the summer months; but this program would provide jobs for them. He stated he has made the same proposal to the Board of Education, Fitzgerald Water Light & Bond, and the City of Fitzgerald. The program will be six weeks and they participate in an educational trip to the Capitol in Atlanta.

### **Communication Study**

County Manager Frank Feild reported they are continuing the communication study. He stated a lot of problems were found as well as a lot of good solutions. He stated only one tower is needed instead of three and partnerships are being developed to help fund the project. They are putting the tower up at Joslyn Road. The preliminary work has been done. He stated they might be able to partner with Irwin EMC because they need antenna.

### **2005 & 2011 SPLOST Update**

County Manager Frank Field, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Vice-Chairman OD Netter met with DLS and City Representatives to discuss the 2005 SPLOST Recreation funds. A general agreement that the concession stand and restrooms are a priority. DLS is getting a quote for the project. There were a number of other projects discussed during this meeting.

### **Budget Request**

Election's Supervisor Cindi Dunlap submitted a revised budget requesting an increase of \$50,820.00 because of the election year and wage increase.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the budget increase. 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.

EMS Director Mark Shealy requested an increase in the amount of \$2125.00 because it is time to renew the ambulances and personnel licenses.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the budget increase in the amount of \$2,125.00. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Scott Downing, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

EMS Director Mark Shealy requested an increase in the amount of \$6,985.00 to pay for the increase in the insurance premium due to an error by Taylor and Townson.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to approve the budget increase in the amount of \$6,985.00. 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.

**Budget Adjustments: NONE**

**2014 Budget Review**

County Manager Frank Feild gave a brief summary of the 2014 budget revenues and expenditures as of February 28, 2014.

Mr. Feild reported congregate meals at the Senior Citizen will resume on Friday April 4, 2014.

Mr. Feild also stated he had a conference call with Carl Vinson Institute on Tuesday morning. They will visit in the next few weeks to begin interviewing the employees. The location will be nurture; probably in the Commissioners meeting room. Mr. Feild said the wage study will begin after the departmental review is completed.

**SPLOST Update**

Commissioner Scott Downing stated his concerns about the shortfall in the SPLOST collections because of the TAVT Tax. He raised a question as to whether or not the Commission wanted to reimburse SPLOST from the TAVT Tax or remove some of the projects listed on the SPLOST referendum. He stated it is something they are going to have to review in the future.

The meeting was adjourned.

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

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