

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON APRIL 29, 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 adding the Summer Food Program update as the first agenda item. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Vice Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Scott Downing, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Scott Downing made a motion to relax the rules on addressing the Chairman, Commissioners, and the public. 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.

### **Summer Food Program**

Executive Director Development Authority of Ben Hill County Courtney Whitman gave an update concerning the Summer Food Program. She stated Ben Hill County three sites are the Monitor Center, Legion Park, and Fitzgerald High School. She stated she has two potential sponsors at this time. They are Mr. Herbert Jones of Ben Hill County and Mrs. Smith of Alapaha GA. The dilemma is both have submitted the proper paperwork to be Ben Hill County Sponsor.

Ms. Whitman stated she believe Ben Hill County needs their own sponsor because if the program is operating correctly under USDA guidelines; this will look good for our community and hopefully open doors of opportunity.

### **Communication Study Update**

Tulsa Consultant Todd Meckler updated the Commissioners on the following items: confirm radio programming, confirm licensing/site ERP, confirm amplifier configuration, perform intermodulation/co-location study, perform noise floor measurements, and perform of line sweeps. Mr. Meckler discussed his finding on each item listed. His conclusions are the

Sheriff needs to reprogram all radios to different currently licensed receive frequency, relocate all agencies to centrally located tower with more height, and a single point of contact is needed to be responsible for preventive/corrective radio maintenance and system organization. Mr. Meckler stated the county is in good condition at this point.

### **Public Transportation**

Tim Pinson, of Mitchell County, stated he operate a public transit vehicle for multiple counties. He stated he is very interested bringing his service to Ben Hill County. He stated the county would only be responsible for providing insurance for the vehicles.

### **2014 Budget Review**

County Manager Frank Feild gave a brief summary of the 2014 budget revenues and expenditures as of March 31, 2014. Mr. Field stated he is comfortable with where we are. He encouraged Departments to tighten their belts so we don't have reckless spending.

### **Budget Requests & Adjustments**

County Manager Frank Feild submitted a budget request on behalf of 1st Community Faith In Action in the amount of \$6,200.00 to sponsor their Summer Youth Work Program. Vice-Chairman OD Netter suggested postponing this item until Commissioner Scott Downing is present because he was the one in support the program.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve a budget increase in the amount of \$926.00 for the Tax Commissioner computers. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Mr. Feild submitted a budget increase on behalf of the Joint Drug Taskforce in the amount of \$8,294.56 for this year. Vice-Chairman OD Netter said to postpone this adjustment and allow the Drug Commander to present his own proposal.

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to approve a budget increase in the amount of \$31,289.84 for the Communication Study in line item 1000-57.9000 and increase the revenue line item 31.1100 Real Properties. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman OD Netter, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

The meeting was adjourned.

---

Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

---

Donna R. Prather, County Clerk