

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2014 AT 10:00 AM 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 called the meeting to order.

Public Holiday

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to approve December 26, 2014 and January 2, 2015 a Public Holiday for all county employees except emergency services. 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.

2014 Budget Review

County Manager Frank Field gave a power point presentation on the 2014 revenues and expenditures budget. He reported expenditures are at 89.77% and revenues are at 66.07%. Both should be at 83.33%.

He stated he believe there will be adequate revenues in 2014 to give each employee an extra paycheck on December 18th; which is a week before Christmas. This is the right thing to do for our employees; particularly since they have not had a cost of living increase in 9 years. We realize the Commission was severely criticized by the Sheriff in the press for doing this last year; but note that he personally handed out the checks to his employees, and then cashed his. The estimated cost is \$120,000.

2015 Budget

Vice-Chairman OD Netter made a motion to authorize the County manager to bid out the 2015 TAN Note for \$2.5 million. 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.

Mr. Field stated our strategy on projecting expenses for the 2015 Budget is to use the 2014 figures as a baseline for all Constitutional Offices and Departments; with the exception of the Elections Department, since 2015 is not an election year. We have also kept the

contracts at the 2014 level. Some adjustments may be needed to individual budgets; and we are continuing to look at them. Currently, we believe we have a balanced budget.

Mr. Field recommend allowing any Constitutional Officer or Department head that is uncomfortable with their proposed 2015 Budget to present their case at the Special Called Meeting on Wednesday, November 26th before a final decision is made. There will be a Public Hearing to present the Budget and receive comments at 10:00 a.m. prior to the Special Called Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

Donna R. Prather, County Clerk