

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON MAY 03, 2016 AT 6:30 PM IN THE
BEN HILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Philip C. Jay III	Chairman
Daniel Cowan	Vice-Chairman
Bennie Calloway	Commissioner
John Mooney	Commissioner
Frank Feild	County Manager
Donna Prather	County Clerk
Toni Sawyer	County Attorney

Public Hearing: Closing Snipe Road & Portions of Oriole Road

County Manager Frank Feild stated the Ben Hill County Board of Commissioners is considering closing Snipe Road and the Oriole Road Crossing of the CSX Railroad Line. Both Snipe Road and Oriole Road are County roads that have been maintained by the Road Department and are on the inventory of roads that we annually provide the Department of Transportation.

Snipe Road is 0.3 mile unimproved dirt road that runs north and south; connecting Owl Road with the Jacksonville Highway. It is located about 50 yards west of, and runs parallel to, Peachtree Road in the Industrial Park. It runs across private farmland and does not provide access to any homes. There is very little traffic on this road. If the Commission closes this road, it would do so by abandoning its prescriptive rights and the right-of-way would revert to the adjacent property owners.

The Oriole Road Crossing of the CSX Railroad Line is located east of the Industrial Park, and lies between the Dave Bishop, Sr. Road Crossing and the Pine Level Church Road Crossing. Oriole Road is an improved dirt road that has moderate traffic and provides access to several homes and farmlands.

This project involves the County improving the approaches to both the Dave Bishop, Sr. and Pine Level Church Road Crossings. We will build-up, level and pave the approaches like we did at the Lilac Road Crossing; and improve the drainage. DOT will add these two crossings to the State Transportation Improvement Program for Federal funding of Active Warning Devices (which are train-activated, signalized, guarded crossing devices with flashing lights). These devices cost about \$350,000 each, and are installed by CSX. DOT and CSX have offered to help reimburse the County for some of our costs of upgrading the approaches; which we estimate will cost about \$65,000. Once the Active Warning Devices are installed at the Dave Bishop, Sr. and Pine Level Church Road Crossings, the County will close the Oriole Road Crossing and 0.6 miles of Oriole Road; from its intersection with Dave Bishop, Sr. Road to its intersection with Pine Level Church Road. This will also be done by the County abandoning its prescriptive rights, and the right-of way will revert to the adjacent property owners.

Public Comments

No Public Comments

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner John Mooney, and Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Meeting adjourned

Call to Order

Chairman Philip Jay III called the meeting to order.

Pastor Ted Kandler gave the invocation.

Everyone gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendments To The Rules Of Order

No action was taken

Approval of the Agenda/Agenda Changes

No action was taken.

Public Comments:

Louie Harper expressed his concerns on replacing the Courthouse windows along with the work that have been done. He stated the Courthouse is on the National Register of Historic and there are guidelines on how repairs are to be done.

Lisa Eldridge expressed her passion for restoring historical buildings. She also stated Ben Hill County has people to work on historic buildings. She said she could do the work cheaper than anyone else because she loves and lives in Fitzgerald.

Gudrun Mills reminded the Commissioners that the Board of Elections has not been reappointed and she doesn't understand why. She also stated Kathleen has been ignored for a position in which she is qualified for.

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes held on April 05, 2016. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting Minutes held on April 19, 2016. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting Minutes held on April 27, 2016. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Constitutional Officer: NONE

Department Head Reports:

Revolving Loan Fund and Development Authority of Ben Hill County Chairman O.D. Netter gave an update on both Boards. He also answered questions submitted Commissioner John Mooney to County Manager Frank Feild concerning the Revolving Loan Fund Board.

Chief Magistrate Judge Lisa McCard gave an update on camera equipment purchased by the Law Library Funds.

County Board Reports: NONE

County Manager's Report: NONE

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application:

Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve alcohol licenses for Sue's Bait & Tackle. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Consent Items

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner John Mooney all voting for the motion.

1. Excess Equipment Resolution
2. Budget Amendment

Old Business:

Presentation/OD Netter

County Manager Frank Feild presented O.D. Netter Jr. with a plaque on behalf of the County employees thanking him for his years of service as a Commissioner and for the support he gave the employees.

Resolution to Close Snipe Road and Portions of Oriole Road

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to adopt the Resolution to immediately close and abandon Snipe Road; and to close and abandon Oriole Road from its intersection with Dave Bishop, Sr. Road to its intersection with Pine Level Church Road as soon as new guarded signalized equipment is installed at the CSX Railroad Crossing Sites on Dave Bishop, Sr. and Pine Level Church Roads. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Board of Elections Appointments

The Commissioners were given a ballot in order to appoint board members that included the following nominees; Berma Ridgeway, Rudolph Russell, Dr. Tom Green, Danny Young, David Walker, and Joseph Manley

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to appoint Dr. Tom Green, Danny Young, and David Walker to the Board of Election. Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney and Commissioner Daniel voting for the motion. Commissioner Bennie Calloway opposed.

The Commissioners postpone selecting a Chairman for the Board of Elections until the next Regular Monthly Meeting.

Federal Building Update

County manager Frank Feild reported we are waiting on Balfor Environmental to schedule the lead paint remediation inside and outside the Federal Building. Our maintenance staff is planning the replacement of the HVAC system. This obligates a total of \$24,534; and we have suspended further work as the Commission has directed.

The City is taking action to formally approve the transfer of this building.

Future City-County Joint Services

County manager Frank Feild reported the City has formally responded to 5 proposals from the Commission for Joint Services or Service Delivery Strategies. They include building permits & inspections, business licenses, E-911, EMS and Solid Waste. We are pleased with the dialogue and look forward to further discussions.

The City previously researched the feasibility of changing their calendar year; discussed it with their auditors; then decided not to do it. They revisited this when the Commission began discussing it, because it would affect them; but they are still opposed to making the change. They stressed that if the City and County are in different fiscal years, it may create problems in the budgeting process and financials; and, if the County proceeds with the change, the joint service budgets must become a priority discussion.

Revolving Loan Fund

Revolving Loan Fund Chairman OD Netter gave an update on the activity of the Revolving Loan Fund.

New Business:

Employee Salary Supplements

County Manager Frank Feild stated the Commission directed the staff to draft a policy concerning award of employee salary supplements at the end of the year, and to tie them to the budget performance of their respective Constitutional and Departmental Offices. The Commission appreciates how important it is for employees to have a little extra cash just before Christmas, and wants to encourage additional fiscal responsibility during difficult economic times

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to amend the Employee Salary Supplements Resolution by changing those departments that are over budget supplement from \$150.00 to \$250.00. Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner John Mooney all voting for the motion.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to adopt the Employee Salary Supplements Resolution formalizing the award of employee salary supplements based on Constitutional Office and Departmental Budget vs Actual performance. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Agenda Changes and/or add ons: NONE

Legislative Report: NONE

Commissioner's Remarks:

Commissioner Bennie Calloway said he took the Civic Engagement class at the ACCG Conference in Savannah. He stated the class encouraged them to engage younger people to get involved as board members and appointments. He also said the information learned in class need to be implemented being that the County spends the money for the training.

Meeting adjourned

_____ Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk