

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON JUNE 7, 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

Call to Order

Chairman Philip Jay III called the meeting to order.

Pastor Bennie Calloway 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:

Gudrun Mills asked the Commissioners to consider reappointing David Walker as Chairman of the Board of Elections.

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Public Hearing Minutes held on May 03, 2016. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes held on May 03, 2016. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

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

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Workshop Monthly Meeting Minutes held on May 12, 2016. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

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

Constitutional Officer: NONE

Department Head Reports: NONE

County Board Reports: NONE

County Manager's Report:

Elections

County Manager Frank Feild congratulated Keysa Lewis, the Elections Department, and all of the Poll Workers for conducting an excellent elections primary. We received several accolades concerning the large number of young people that Keysa recruited and trained as poll workers; with one exception. This was a flawless process and we appreciate David Walker's leadership in handling his board member's complaint at the local level.

Dave Bishop, Sr. and Pine Level Church Road Crossings of CSX Railroad

County Manager Frank Feild stated DOT issued CSX notices to proceed with the preliminary engineering for guarded signals at the Dave Bishop, Sr. and Pine Level Church Road crossings of the CSX Railroad. Funding support has also been promised in the amounts of \$12,270 and \$14,970 respectively.

CSX reconfirmed their commitment to reimburse the County \$10,000 toward our costs of improving the approaches to these two crossings. CSX is scheduling the signal improvements, and will get back to us when this is on the calendar.

Perry House Road Bridge

DOT will release bid information for 25 bridges on June 17th; one of which is the Perry House Road Bridge. The first phase of our work will involve design. During this phase GDOT will determine the timing for construction. Once construction begins, the contractor will have approximately 180 days to close the bridge using an off-site detour, to complete the work at the site, and to re-open the road. We anticipate this being done a lot faster.

Once we know when construction is scheduled to begin, we will notify the public and post detour information. Plans currently call for using Old Whitley Crossing Road in Irwin County, the Ocilla Highway, and Ed Ward Road as the primary detour route while the bridge is closed. We have coordinated with Irwin County, and they understand and support the project.

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application:

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve alcohol licenses for Babubnai Patel/Stop N Go. Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, 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. Budget Amendment/ Insurance Premium Tax
2. Excess Equipment Resolution

Old Business:

Appoint Election's Board Chairman

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to appoint David Walker as Chairman of the Board of Elections. Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner John Mooney all voting for the motion.

Revolving Loan Board Appointments

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to amend the Revolving Loan Fund Policy to allow (1) one year terms. Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney and Commissioner Daniel voting for the motion. Commissioner Bennie Calloway opposed.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to reappoint OD Netter and Constance Manley to (1) one year terms and appoint Eric Stone, Joseph Manley, and Stewart Smith to (2) two year terms. Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Daniel, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway voting for the motion.

Federal Building Update

County Manager Frank Feild reported we have cancelled the lead paint abatement contract on the Federal Building with Balfor Environmental. We took delivery of, and paid for, a new HVAC unit; at a cost of \$ 9,000; but it has not been installed.

Commissioner Mooney has developed a proposed Intergovernmental Agreement that may offer a comprehensive solution to a number of ongoing concerns.

Commissioner John Mooney presented the Commissioners with an Intergovernmental Agreement prepared by County Attorney Toni Sawyer that included improvements to and possession of the Federal Building, Grand Conference Center, Grand Theatre, and Monitor Gymnasium properties.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion adopt the Intergovernmental Agreement. Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan seconded the motion. After further discussion, the motion failed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway and Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan opposing the motion and Commissioner John Mooney voting for the motion.

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.

New Business:

District Attorney Brad Rigby

District Attorney Brad Rigby introduced himself to the County Commissioners. He stated has taken Denise Fachini's place and appreciate the support the County is giving him for his appointment. He also introduced and thanked Charles Sheppard and Celenese Floyd for the work they do in Ben Hill County.

Employee Health Insurance

County Manager Frank Feild thanked Commissioner Daniel Cowan for again helping us explore the possibilities for our Employee Health insurance program. His expertise has allowed us to find the best options very quickly.

We engaged the services of Painter & Troutman Insurance to assist us in obtaining quotes for the Employee Health Insurance and other policies this year. This is the same company that helps the City.

In 2013 and 2014, our claims were greater than the premiums we paid. Fortunately, we were in the ACCG insurance pool, so our renewal rates did not jump as much as they normally would have; but in 2015, our claims rate dropped to about 75%; which now makes us much more competitive when applying for insurance. This decrease is due to our wellness program, good leadership at the department level, and retirement of some employees who had high claims.

We propose increasing the employee contribution to \$44.17 every 2-week pay period. This is an \$8.64 increase, and the first one we have done since 2012. The employees will now be contributing 15% of the total cost of their premiums. This will insure our employees continue to have the best plan we can afford, while realizing very modest savings to the County.

We also have a quote from Aetna which will allow the County to pay for a \$25,000 Basic life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment policy for our eligible employees. We can pay for this with our cost savings, balance the books, and still have a little bit left over.

Commissioner John Mooney stated he spoke with Ms. Troutman concerning the policy she had been working on and come up another way of doing the health insurance. After further discussion, the Commissioners decided to vote.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to approve the renewal of our Blue Cross Blue Shield Plan; approve providing the Aetna Basic Life and AD&D policy; and authorize the Chairman to sign the necessary documents. Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan seconded the motion, which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway and Vice-Chairman voting for the motion and Commissioner John Mooney opposed the motion.

Agenda Changes and/or add ons: NONE

Legislative Report: NONE

Commissioner's Remarks:

Commissioner Bennie Calloway asked if the training through ACCG was mandatory. He stated the classes help you to see a different perspective of government because you can't run County Government the way you would run your personal business.

Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan stated the classes are helpful; but expensive.

Chairman Philip Jay thanked the Commissioners and Staff for the work they have done.

Meeting adjourned

_____ Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk