

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON MARCH 08, 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

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**

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to change the agenda by adding Board of Elections Re-appointments to New Business. 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.

**Public Comments:**

Gudrun Mills, representing the Board of Elections and a private citizen, stated she has served on the Board of Election for 10 years and believes they have a good. She also stated Kathleen Searcy is certified by the State and thinks she will make a good Office Manager and she need to be paid what the previous Office Manager was being paid.

Commissioner John Mooney attended the meeting at this time.

Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan made a motion to extend Gudrun Mills public comment time. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner John Mooney all voting for the motion.

Mrs. Mills continued on by asking why the Board of Elections hasn't been re-appointed and why Kathleen Searcy hasn't been hired as Office Manager. She mentioned if the Commissioners have any questions; please contact the Board because they want to open up communication.

Board of Elections Chairman David Walker stated when the Board was formed, they selected the Office Manager and present them to the County Manager; but now things have been changed, the County Manager is hiring the Office Manager and they are being shut out of the process.

**Acceptance of Prior Minutes**

Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting Minutes held on February 1, 2016. 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.

Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes held on February 2, 2016. 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.

Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting Minutes held on February 8, 2016. 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.

Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting Minutes held on February 8, 2016. 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.

Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting Minutes held on February 29, 2016. 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.

**Constitutional Officer: NONE**

**Department Head Reports:**

4H Agent Jeri Gelliland gave an update on all the activity Ag Extension and 4-H.

Executive Director Development Authority of Ben Hill County Courtney Whitman gave an update on all activity for the Revolving Loan Fund.

Acting Office Manager Kathleen Searcy gave an update on all activity at Election's Office.

Martha Jones gave a report for activity at the Fitzgerald Ben Hill County Library for 2015. She also reported upcoming events for 2016.

**County Board Reports: NONE**

**County Manager's Report: NONE**

**Annexation Request: NONE**

**Rezoning Application: NONE**

### **Alcohol Application:**

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Club Palm's/Frank Reider alcohol licenses. Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

### **Old Business:**

#### **2016 Tax Anticipation Note Resolution**

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to approve the 2016 Tax Anticipation Note Resolution. 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.

#### **Board of Health Appointments**

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to appoint Jim Turner and County Manager Frank Field to the Board of Health. 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.

#### **County Legislative Coordinator Appointment**

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to appoint Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan as County legislative Coordinator. 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.

#### **Coastal Plain Board Appointment**

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to appoint Shirley Brooks to the Coastal Plain Board. 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.

#### **Fitzgerald Ben Hill County Planning & Zoning Board Appointment**

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to accept Palmer Parrott resignation letter. 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.

Commissioner John Mooney nominated Chris Calhoun.

### **New Business:**

#### **Ben Hill Transit/Zero Tolerance Policy**

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to postpone this agenda item. 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.

#### **Ben Hill Transit/Maintenance Policy**

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Ben Hill Transit Maintenance Policy. 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.

### **Engineer & Administrator for 2016 CDBG Application**

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve Carter & Sloop, Inc. as the Engineer and Association Local Government Assistant, Inc. as the Administrator for the 2016 CDBG application. 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.

### **Intergovernmental Agreement DLS Construction**

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to postpone this agenda item. 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.

### **Employee Salary Supplement**

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to postpone this agenda item. 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 rescind the motion for Intergovernmental Agreement DLS Construction agenda item and Employee Salary Supplement agenda item. 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.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to postpone the Intergovernmental Agreement DLS Construction agenda item and Employee Salary Supplement agenda item indefinitely. 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.

### **Chamber of Commerce Contract**

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Chamber of Commerce Contract and authorize the Chairman to sign the document. 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.

### **Volunteer Fire Department Contract**

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Volunteer Fire Department Contract to include an increase in the annual payment to \$69,000, change the effective dates to read January 1, 2015 thru December 31, 2016 to cover the lapsed period, and authorize the Chairman to sign the document. 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.

### **Road Closing/Oriole Road & Snipe Road**

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion authorize the publication of a notice of proposed closing of the Oriole Road Crossing and Snipe Road, and schedule a Public Hearing 30-day later to receive public comments. 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**

Commissioner Bennie Calloway nominated Danny Young, David Walker, and Joseph Manley for the Board of Elections.

**Agenda Changes and/or add ons: NONE**

**Legislative Report: NONE**

**Commissioner's Remarks:**

Commissioner Bennie Calloway stated Acting Office Manager for the Board of Elections Kathleen Searcy is doing a great job and he wanted to thank her publicly for the job she is doing. He also mentioned the other Commissioners should appreciate the work she is doing.

Chairman Philip Jay thanked Ms. Searcy for the work she is doing at the Election's Office.

**Meeting adjourned**

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

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