

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 6, 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
Hope Harmon	Commissioner
Frank Feild	County Manager
Donna Prather	County Clerk

Call to Order

Chairman Philip Jay III called the meeting to order.

Reverend 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

Commissioner Bennie Calloway added Federal Building to Old Business.

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

Public Comments:

Ms. Doris Lamar requested an appeal from the Commissioner on behalf of her Revolving Loan Fund application denial from the Revolving Loan Fund Board. She read the reason why her loan was denied from a letter she received from the Revolving Loan Fund Board and stated she meet all requirements listed.

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes held on August 02, 2016. Commissioner Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner John Mooney all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting Minutes held on August 04, 2016. Commissioner Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner John Mooney all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting Minutes held on August 04, 2016. Commissioner Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner John Mooney all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting Minutes held on August 08, 2016. Commissioner Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner John Mooney all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting Minutes held on August 31, 2016. Commissioner Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner John Mooney all voting for the motion.

Constitutional Officer: NONE

Department Head Reports:

Dorminy Medical Center Chief Financial Officer Paige Wynn stated she has a letter of intent that was already discussed back in June that will allow Dorminy Medical Center to explore the opportunity to refinance their current bond debt. Ms. Wynn stated this doesn't obligate them to doing the renewal.

Ms. Wynn stated because Ben Hill County is on the bonds, she need a letter signed from the County stating Raymond James & Associates will serve as underwriter and not as a financial advisor in connection with the issuance of the Bonds.

Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve signing the Letter of Intent on behalf of Dorminy Medical Center for Underwriting Service through Raymond James & Associates. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Hope Harmon, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

County Board Reports: NONE

County Manager's Report:

Westwood Community Park

The Westwood Community now has a beautiful new park; thanks to the leadership of Commissioner Bennie Calloway and the County Staff. It includes two covered pavilions with picnic tables, a big swing set, a paved and fenced basketball court, and a playground set with slides.

The following have been working on this project over the last 2-years; including Tim Kegebein, the Road Department, Jason Miller, the Maintenance Department; and Commissioner Calloway.

The park sign was erected last month. It was designed by Michael Santee; fabricated and framed by Charlie Pepper; and installed by Michael Goodman and Jack Smith.

2009 CHIP Program

We have completed cancelling all the deeds to secure debt on the 2009 Community Home Investment Program (CHIP). This grant was closed out and audited 2 years ago. However, we had provided a number of home-owners down payment assistance as 2nd mortgages; and these debts could not be released until 5 years after closing.

Transportation Press Release

We prepared a press release on all the Transportation Projects the Road Department has underway. It is posted on the County website; and may appear in The Herald-Leader, if space permits.

CDBG Grant Award

Ben Hill County will be awarded another \$500,000 CDBG Grant for street improvements and drainage. This project includes St. John's Road, which is 0.557 miles long and has 14 homes; and Ashton Way, which is 0.37 miles long and has 13 homes.

Board of Election Supervisor

Keysa Lewis has completed all the required elections courses to achieve the State of Georgia County Certification as an Elections Official. She received her certificate signed by Secretary of State Brian P. Kemp on August 12th. This is a remarkable accomplishment for a lady who became our Elections Supervisor on March 21st without any background in elections. She has put a lot into her training; in addition to running her department during a hectic election year; and we are very proud of her accomplishments. She completed most of her training on-line and on her own time; at no cost to the County.

2017 Budget Preparation Guidelines

Later this month, Mr. Feild will be issuing written guidance to the departments, constitutional offices and the outside agencies that are granted appropriations from the General Fund, concerning preparing their requests for the 2017 Budget.

He stated this guidance is much more detailed than what has been provided in the past; and includes functional priorities, the County's financial position, challenges, approach going forward, preparation guidelines, and a master budget calendar. This guidance reflects the best practices of other counties in Georgia.

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application: NONE

Consent Items

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Budget Amendments, Purchasing Policy, Rural Impact Resolution, and the Employment Management Policy Changes. Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, and Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway and Commissioner Hope Harmon all voting for the motion.

1. Budget Amendments

2017 LMIG Funds:

Commission approval of this item would authorize an amendment of the 2016 Budget to increase the Revenue line 33.4115 (Road Department LMIG Grant) by \$391,847.14 and increase Expenditure line 4200-54.1500 (LMIG Road Project).

EMS Wal-Mart Grant:

Commission approval of this item would authorize an amendment to the 2016 Budget to increase the Revenue line 34.2601 (EMS Grant) by \$1,500.00 and increase Expenditure line 3600-53.1100 (EMS Supplies).

2. Purchasing Policy

A purchasing policy has been prepared that provides detailed guidance on purchasing by County offices. It requires an approved Purchase Order Number for all individual expenditures; and a Signed Purchase Order for all purchases over \$500. Vendors will be notified that they must provide the Purchase Order Number or Purchase Order itself with their invoices in order to receive payment.

3. Rural Impact Resolution

The National Association of Counties and the White House Rural Council are promoting a program called The Rural Impact County Challenge. Its goals are to encourage public, private and nonprofit leaders to reduce the number of children living in poverty in rural areas. The program includes a variety of resources; to include community coaching for selected participating counties.

Commission approval of this resolution would authorize the County to join the Rural Impact County Challenge and designate Commissioner Harmon as the Commission's Representative.

4. Employment Management Policy Changes

The Department of Labor has issued a new rule on overtime pay. It amends regulations under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) that determine which employees are eligible for overtime pay, and nearly doubles the salary threshold for overtime exemption from \$23,660 to \$47,476. The rule takes effect on December 1, 2016 and applies to executive, administrative and professional employees; collectively referred to under FLSA as "White Collar" workers. The rule also provides for an automatic update of the salary threshold every three years.

Old Business:

Library Board Vacancy

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to reappoint Anne Jordan to the Fitzgerald Ben Hill County Library Board. Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Hope Harmon, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

County Surveyor Resolution

Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan made a motion to adopt the County Surveyor Resolution petitioning the General Assembly to abolish by local law the elected office of the Ben Hill County Surveyor and authorize the Governing Authority of the County to appoint the County Surveyor. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Hope Harmon all voting for the motion.

Courthouse Windows

Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan made a motion to reallocate \$74,000 in the 2011 SPLOST Government Building to pay for replacing the Courthouse windows. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Hope Harmon all voting for the motion.

Federal Building

Commissioner Bennie Calloway stated it seems the Federal Building has gotten lost since the focus has been working on the budget. He stated they need to let it go and give the building to the City of Fitzgerald.

After further discussion, the Commissioners asked County Attorney Toni Sawyer to resend the resolution she had previously prepared.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to transfer the Federal Building to the City of Fitzgerald. Commissioner Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Hope Harmon, and Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion. Commissioner John Mooney voted opposed the motion.

New Business:

Revolving Loan Fund Loan

- Al's Lawn Care
- Buddy's Lawn Care Service

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Revolving Loans for Al's Lawn Care in the amount of \$18,000 and Buddy's Lawn Care Service in the amount \$9,200. Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Hope Harmon, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Agenda Changes and/or add ons: NONE

Legislative Report: NONE

Commissioner's Remarks:

Commissioner Hope Harmon thanked the EMS, Road Dept., and the Sheriff for allowing her to shadow them. She also announced she would head up the Summer Nights In The Park on October 29th.

Meeting adjourned

_____ Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk