

MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON MARCH 03, 2016 AT 10:00 AM IN THE
BEN HILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Those present for the meeting were as follow:

Philip C. Jay III	Chairman
Daniel Cowan	Vice-Chairman
OD Netter	Commissioner
Bennie Calloway	Commissioner
John Mooney	Commissioner
Frank Feild	County Manager
Donna R. Prather	County Clerk

Chairman Philip Jay III called the meeting to order.

Service Delivery Strategy Update

Commissioners John Mooney expressed his concerns for a motion that was made at the January 15th Special Called meeting that included Service Delivery Strategy meeting with the City Council at the end of January 2016. He asked if the meeting happened.

Chairman Philip Jay stated he met with Mayor Mark Masee and believe that he is on board to have the meeting and committed to City of Fitzgerald Deputy Administrator Cam Jordan and County Manager Frank Feild initiating the process. Chairman Jay also stated during the discussion, he was released from making a meeting happen.

The Commissioner discussed the agenda item.

Cultural District

Chairman Philip Jay stated the resolution has not been provided by the County Attorney at this time; but the objective is to reallocate \$150,000 from the Fitzgerald Ben Hill County Development Authority to the Downtown Development Authority to purchase the Masonic Lodge and Ben Hill County deed the Federal Building to the City of Fitzgerald to complete the Art District Project.

Commissioner OD Netter suggested giving the City of Fitzgerald the Grand Theater and the Federal Building.

Commissioner John Mooney quoted the Ben Hill County Comprehensive Plan Section 4: Community Economic Development Policies, "The FBHDA will have a director that is coordinator of all economic development activities in Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County which will include those of:

- a. Fitzgerald & Ben Hill Development Authority
 - b. Ben Hill County Development Authority
 - c. Ben Hill & Irwin Joint Development Authority
 - d. Tourism Department
 - e. Fitzgerald – Ben Hill Arts Council
 - f. Fitzgerald Ben Hill Chamber of Commerce
 - g. Other activities conducted by the City of Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County
4. The director of the FBHDA will coordinate with each of these arms of economic development through the appropriate agency head for each agency.”

After reading the statement, Commissioner Mooney said he feels they voted on this but are not following it.

Executive Director Fitzgerald Ben Hill County Development Authority Jason Dunn addressed the Commissioners by saying he thinks the project is a good idea; but the timing is off right now due to another project. He stated he thinks the Masonic building does need to be occupied.

Commissioner Netter stated it is a good idea to purchase the building; but the issue is the funding to purchase the building. He suggested making a deal with the owner of the Masonic Lodge to hold the building until it could be purchase. He also suggested looking at using SPLOST to help purchase the building. Mr. Netter also suggested pulling away from the Grand Theater and the Federal Building because the County doesn't use the Grand Theater.

Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan stated he is not in favor of purchasing any old buildings and that he would love to give away these buildings. He also mentioned he is not in support and don't think Mr. Dunn knows all of the plans for these buildings.

After further discussion, Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan made a motion to deed the entire Federal Building to the City of Fitzgerald. Commissioner OD Netter seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, Commissioner OD Netter, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner John Mooney all voting for the motion.

Commissioner OD Netter made a motion authoring County Attorney Toni Sawyer to prepare the deed. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner OD Netter, Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

Donna R. Prather, County Clerk