

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON MARCH 03, 2020 AT 6:00 PM IN THE
BEN HILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Steve Taylor	Chairman
Hope Harmon	Vice-Chair
Bennie Calloway	Commissioner
Daniel Cowan	Commissioner
John Mooney	Commissioner
Michael Dinnerman	County Manager
Donna Prather	County Clerk

Call to Order

Chairman called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Everyone gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda/Agenda Changes

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

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes held on February 04, 2020. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to close the Regular Monthly Meeting to enter the Public Hearing with the right to re-enter the Regular Monthly Meeting. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner John Mooney, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Public Hearing

Special Event Ordinance

Chairman Steve Taylor stated a Special Event Ordinance was created to establish requirements for the conduct of special events within the unincorporated areas of Ben Hill County to repeal conflicting ordinances.

Special Event is defined as any organized activity that is open to the public, having as its purpose entertainment, recreation and/or education, such as festivals, races, concerts, etc., that is initiated by an entity other than the Ben Hill County.

There were no public comments.

Ed Ward Road Closure

Chairman Steve Taylor stated Public Hearings give the Commissioners an opportunity to hear the citizens concerns. Mr. Taylor stated they received a letter from Modern Dispersions South Inc. asking them to consider closing Ed Ward road because the Board of Education purchased property to build a new school on the road. This would increase traffic and create a hazardous situation because of the train cars that goes back and forth to the property across the street that is also owned by Modern Dispersions South Inc.

Mr. Taylor asked if anyone would like to speak in favor of closing the road. There were no public comments.

Mr. Taylor asked if anyone would like to speak that was not in favor of closing the road:

Justin Phillips, Colony Peanut Manager, stated he don't want the road close because they use the road for equipment, seed, etc. This road keeps them off highway107 and they use it regularly for farming.

Connie Sexton stated she is not in favor of closing the road.

Charlie Dorminy stated he owns property on the road and closing it would affect the market ability on his property. Mr. Dorminy stated closing the road would have a significant impact on farmers. He is asking for the road not to be closed.

Chairman Steve Taylor asked if anyone else would like to speak regarding the road?

Chairman Gary Smith, representing the School Board, stated their desire is for the road to remain open. He would like to see improvements to the road.

Cliff Ward stated he travels Ed Ward road quite a bit. He respects Modern Dispersions South Inc. request and reason; but he worries about the precedent closing the road would set.

County Manager Michael Dinnerman asked how many citizens in the audience were not in favor of closing the road. Twenty-Five (25) hands were raised.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to close the Public Hearing to re-enter the Regular Monthly Meeting. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon second the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner John Mooney all voting for the motion.

Constitutional Officer: NONE

Department Head Reports:

Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein reported work has begun on Appomattox Road. Due to the rain, there will be delays this week. We have received a lot of rain, so we are working on roads as quickly as we can. They worked the past weekend to get caught up.

County Board Reports: NONE

County Manager's Report:

Mr. Dinnerman reported:

- ❖ The County finances are in good shape and we are doing quite well.
- ❖ We are improving the network of computers.
- ❖ We have applied for eight (8) grants for the Road Department.
- ❖ Elections Department has move into the new building.

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application: NONE

Appointments:

Complete Count Committee Chairman Christine Graham stated the committee began meeting August 2019. The committee is an organized group of members that is making sure everyone is counted in the community. The committee consists of individuals from Government, Education, Faith-based/Homeless Outreach, Media, Community Organizations, Businesses, and Senior Citizens.

Fitzgerald Utilities have been given 6,000 inserts that will be mailed out in cycles with utility bills. Posters will also be posted throughout town. The school system will use their message system to send information out regarding the census.

Ms. Graham stated her only concern is they may not have reached the Hispanic community.

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

2019 Budget Amendment Resolution

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the 2019 Budget Amendment Resolution. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Special Event Ordinance

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to adopt the Special Event Ordinance. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Special Event Application

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to adopt the Special Event Application as presented. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner John Mooney all voting for the motion.

Special Exception/Rodeo

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the special exception petition by owner Heriberto A. Serrano to establish a rodeo on said property at 717 Lower Rebecca Road zoned G-F. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Authorization Agreement Resolution

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to adopt the Authorization Agreement Resolution authorizing an agreement between the City of Fitzgerald and the Board of Commission to adequately fund the Department of Leisure Services, fund the swimming pool for the 2020 season, and roll back/reduce the Department of Leisure Services participation fees. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, and Commissioner John Mooney all voting for the motion.

IGA/City of Fitzgerald for DLS Additional Funding

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the IGA between Ben Hill County and the City of Fitzgerald to adequately fund the Department of Leisure Services, fund the swimming pool for the 2020 season, and roll back/reduce the Department of Leisure Services participation fees. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

FY 2020 CDBG Potential Conflict of Interest

County Manager Michael Dinnerman stated Ben Hill County will be applying jointly with the City of Fitzgerald to obtain FY 2020 CDBG funding for public facility Monitor Enrichment Center improvements on Monitor Drive.

Chairman Taylor asked, are there any potential conflict of interest regarding Monitor Center that needs to be disclosed publicly at this time?

There was no conflict of interest regarding FY 2020 CDBG funding for public facility improvements.

FY 2020 CDBG Submittal Resolution

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to adopt the FY 2020 CDBG Submittal Resolution to submit a joint application with the City of Fitzgerald to obtain FY 2020 CDBG funding for public facility improvements. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner John Mooney, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

2020 TAN Resolution

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to adopt the Tax Anticipation Note Resolution for a revolving bank line of credit for one million (\$1,000,000) at 3.75% fixed interest rate to be obtained from Community Bank of Fitzgerald and Colony Bank of Fitzgerald, payable on or before December 31, 2020. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which

passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Ben Hill Transit Vehicle Maintenance Policy Update

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to adopt the updated Vehicle Maintenance Plan that includes the following changes; spark plug replacement interval changed from 90,000 miles to 100,000 miles and 100,000 transmission service intervals. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner John Mooney all voting for the motion.

Agenda Changes and/or add on:

Legislative Report:

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon reported she and Chairman Steve Taylor attend the Capitol Connection Conference in February. Some things to look for are unfunded mandates by the State and Medicare/Medicaid concerning inmates being excluded while incarcerated.

Public Comments:

Tax Commissioner Barry Foster stated he was glad to see County Attorney Nick Kinsley back after being out sick.

Department of Leisure Services Director Keith Morrison thanked County Manager Michael Dinnerman and Commissioners for helping resolve DLS budget issues. He also thanked Sheriff Cone for proving law enforcement for DLS sporting events.

Executive Session

Commissioner's Remarks:

Chairman Steve Taylor stated he was glad to see County Attorney Nick Kinsley back.

Commissioner John Mooney stated we have heard the concerns from the public regarding closing Ed Ward Road. He asked the Commissioners to also remember the liability regarding the road when the new school is built.

Meeting adjourned

_____ Steve Taylor, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk