

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON MAY 05, 2020 AT 6:00 PM IN THE
BEN HILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Hope Harmon	Vice-Chair
Bennie Calloway	Commissioner
Daniel Cowan	Commissioner
Michael Dinnerman	County Manager
Donna Prather	County Clerk

Chairman Steve Taylor and Commissioner John Mooney were absent.

As the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared COVID-19 a global pandemic (3/11/20), President Donald Trump declared a National Emergency (3/13/20), Governor Brian Kemp declared a Public Health Emergency for the State of Georgia (3/14/20), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has recommended social distancing measures be implemented for all individuals to prevent the continued spread of the illness, this special called emergency meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Ben Hill County was held with attendance by telephone conference under the authority of OCGA 50-14-1(g) and OCGA 38-3-54. Notice of this meeting was given to the legal organ, posted on the county website and in the county commissioner's office. The notice contained direction and opportunity for any citizens desiring to attend and/or participate in the meeting by phone

Call to Order

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

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon called each Commissioner name to record their vote.

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes held on March 03, 2020. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Vice-Chair Hope Harmon all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes held on March 11, 2020. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Vice-Chair Hope Harmon all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes held on March 18, 2020. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Vice-Chair Hope Harmon all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes held on April 14, 2020. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Vice-Chair Hope Harmon all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon called each Commissioner name to record their vote.

Constitutional Officer: NONE

Department Head Reports: NONE

County Board Reports: NONE

County Manager's Report:

Mr. Dinnerman reported:

- ❖ The advanced voting date has changed to May 18th
- ❖ The Personal protection equipment has been ordered for Elections employees.
- ❖ Plexiglass has also been installed for all employees.
- ❖ He is working with attorneys, Judges, and State Officials regarding the shortage of poll workers. Elections need 28 poll workers; but only have 8.
- ❖ Restricted public access has been extended to June 1st.
- ❖ The number of coronavirus cases is steady.
- ❖ The Health Department is testing for coronavirus by appointment.

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application: NONE

Appointments: NONE

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

Tax Commissioner Waiver Resolution Ratify

County Manager Michael Dinnerman explained the Commissioners were polled by email on March 31st regarding the resolution and everyone voted to adopt the resolution that allowed the Tax Commissioner to waive penalties and interest on past due taxes subject to collection by the Ben Hill County Tax Commissioner, as well as the waiver of penalties for failure to file personal property tax returns. The original deadline for payment fell between March 23, 2020 and May 15, 2020.

Mr. Dinnerman stated the Commissioners need to ratify the vote.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to ratify the vote. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Vice-Chair Hope Harmon all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon called each Commissioner name to record their vote.

Public Defender FY 20-21 Contract

County Manager Michael Dinnerman stated the personnel budget is based on the county's caseloads; therefore, the budget dropped because the Public Defender's caseload dropped. The investigators did receive a 2% raise. The increase was \$539.77. Mr. Dinnerman stated we still have a savings of \$3,112.58 and a two years savings of \$37,279.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to approve the Public Defender FY 20-21 Contract as presented and authorize the Chairman to sign all documents. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Vice-Chair Hope Harmon all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon called each Commissioner name to record their vote.

Agenda Changes and/or add on:

Legislative Report: NONE

Public Comments: NONE

Executive Session

Commissioner's Remarks:

Commissioner Daniel Cowan thanked Vice-Chair Hope Harmon for a job well done conducting the meeting.

County Manager thanked everyone for joining in the meeting. He stated EMA/E911 Director Brandon Fletcher has been a superstar and has gone above and beyond the call of duty. He stated he would like to thank him publicly for a job well done.

Meeting adjourned

_____ Steve Taylor, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk