

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON DECEMBER 16, 2020 AT 5:00 PM IN THE  
BEN HILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

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

Commissioner Bennie Calloway was absent.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Steve Taylor called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Everyone gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the Agenda/Agenda Changes**

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

**Acceptance of Prior Minutes**

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes that were held on November 03, 2020. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Chairman Steve Taylor, and Commissioner John Mooney all voting for the motion.

**Public Hearing/2021 Proposed Budget**

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to suspend the Regular Monthly Meeting to enter the Public Hearing to discuss the 2021 Proposed Budget. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner John Mooney, Chairman Steve Taylor, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

County Manager Michael Dinnerman stated the purpose of this Public Hearing is to present the proposed budget to the public in the amount of \$9,562,786 for revenues and expenditures and the special revenue and capital fund budgets: Sheriff Special Revenue Fund, Drug Abuse, Jail fund, Special Investigations, Supplemental Juvenile, Emergency 911, Development Authority, L.M.I.G., CDBG Grant, SPLOST 2011, SPLOST 2017, and Transportation (T-SPLOST).

Mr. Dinnerman stated there is a \$200,000 increase in the budget due to IT, recurring maintenance contracts, and insurance. He and CFO Darlow Maxwell feel like it is a very reasonable budget.

Chairman Steve Taylor asked if there were any public comments regarding the 2021 Proposed Budget.

There were no public comments.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to close the Public Hearing and return to the Regular Monthly Meeting. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Chairman Steve Taylor, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

**Constitutional Officer:**

Tax Commissioner Barry Foster stated he is surprised that the citizens are paying as well as they are. The collection rate is up 2.7 % from last year this time.

**Department Head Reports: NONE**

**County Board Reports: NONE**

**County Manager's Report:**

Mr. Dinnerman stated:

- COVID has impacted the following Departments; Sheriff Office, Tax Assessors, and Magistrate. We have split the shifts among the employees in the Election's Office and Administration as a precaution.
- He is very concern about the COVID outbreak.
- The Road Department is starting to receive the equipment through the USDA Grant.
- Our cash position is up \$2.5 million ahead of this time last year. We are financially healthy.
- SPLOST collection is up \$250,000 more than last year. This is year to date.
- LOST collection is up \$227,000 more than last year. This is year to date.

**Annexation Request: NONE**

**Rezoning Application: NONE**

**Alcohol Application: NONE**

**Appointments:**

**Old Business: NONE**

**New Business:**

*FY 21 Contract Amendment/RMS Operator Agreement*

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the RMS Amended FY 21 Operator Agreement. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Chairman Steve Taylor, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

*Roundabout Lighting Intergovernmental Agreement*

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve Roundabout Lighting Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Fitzgerald. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Chairman Steve Taylor, and Commissioner Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

*Tax Commissioner Delegating Authority of Waiver of Penalty Resolution*

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to adopt the Tax Commissioner Delegating Authority of Waiver of Penalty Resolution for 2021. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

*Newell Collision Repair, LLC RLF Loan/Ratify*

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to Ratify the vote to approve Marian Harris Newell Revolving Loan Fund Loan in the amount of \$45,000 @ 3.75% interest rate for 6 years. Collateral for the loan includes two (2) paint booths, one (1) frame machine with attachments, one (1) welder, and one (1) air compressor. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

*Christmas Bonus*

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve Christmas bonuses in the amount of \$50 for full-time employees and \$25 for part-time employees. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

*Surplus Property Resolution/Road Department*

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to adopt the Surplus Property Resolution declaring County Property as surplus and authorizing the disposal of said property. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Chairman Steve Taylor, and Vice-Chair Hope Harmon all voting for the motion.

**Agenda Changes and/or add on:**

**Legislative Report: NONE**

**Public Comments: NONE**

**Executive Session**

**Commissioner's Remarks:**

County Manager Michael Dinnerman stated it has been a tough year; but the County is Healthy. He stated he has enjoyed working with the Commissioners this year and he wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Chairman Steve Taylor encouraged everyone to stay safe and continue to wash their hands, practice social distancing, and wear a mask.

**Meeting adjourned**

\_\_\_\_\_ Steve Taylor, Chairman

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