

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 05, 2023 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
Daniel Cowan	Commissioner
John Mooney	Commissioner
Michael Dinnerman	County Manager
Donna R. 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

Chairman Steve Taylor added Resolution to Authorize Investment/Local Government Investment Pool Account to the agenda under New Business.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the agenda to include Resolution to Authorize Investment/Local Government Investment Pool Account. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes that was held on August 08, 2023. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Appointments: NONE

Constitutional Officer: NONE

Department Head Reports:

Ag Extension Agent Holly Anderson stated she will remain as County Extension Coordinator until the position is filled. The new Agent position was posted on August 23rd. A full-time Americorp position is also available. They are hoping to fill both the Americorp Position and ANR Agent Position as soon as possible. Holly also gave a report on the hurricane damage throughout the county.

Thomas Holt, Nandini Patel, Allie Braddy gave an update on the current 4H activities.

County Board Reports: NONE

County Manager's Report:

County Manager Michael Dinnerman reported:

- Working with Georgia Power on Ed Ward Road.
- Working with Larry on designing the road with hopes to negate extra cost.
- Work is in progress on the 4H & Ag Extension building. He hopes the project is completed by the first of the year.
- Funding for the Monitor project has been approved.
- CDBG for Flint Road has been approved.
- The Health Department is undergoing some repairs to the walls & floors.

Annexation Request:

The City of Fitzgerald sent a notification for annexation for said property located at 129 Ocilla Hwy from GB-County-GB City and Bowens Mill Hwy (U.S. Highway 129) from GB-County-GB City.

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application: NONE

Appointments: NONE

Old Business:

Ben Hill County Board of Health Vacancy

Chairman Steve Taylor stated they need an appointment for the Board of Health. He asked the Commissioners to submit names at the October Regular Monthly meeting.

New Business:

FY 2025 Authorizing Filing 5311 Application Resolution

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the FY 2025 Authorizing Filing 5311 Application Resolution with the Department of Transportation for a grant under Title 49 U.S.C., Section 5311 and authorize the Chairman to execute the document. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner John Mooney, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Surplus Resolution/Media Building Equipment (New 4H Building)

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Surplus Property Resolution for equipment left in the Media Building. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Surplus Resolution/Caterpillar Grader with Ditcher

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Surplus Property Resolution for Caterpillar Grader with Ditcher. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

State of Emergency Resolution/Ratify

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to ratify the State of Emergency Resolution. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Region 8 EMS Advisory Council Appointment

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to nominate Mark Shealy to the Region 8 EMS Advisory Council. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Pit Bull Ordinance

County Manager Michael Dinnerman presented a Pit Bull Ordinance for the Commissioners review and to discuss with him regarding any changes they have. Mr. Dinnerman stated he is looking for input regarding the matter.

Resolution to Authorize Investment/Local Government Investment Pool Account (LGIP)

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Authorize Investment Resolution for the 2023 SPLOST and authorize the Chairman to execute the document. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Agenda Changes and/or add on:

Legislative Report: NONE

Public Comments:

James Campbell, 1186 West Roanoke Drive, stated he has been a Bailiff at the Ben Hill County Courthouse for almost 2 years. There is a place in the Courthouse where the door has been closed but it needs to be repaired. Several attorneys have brought the unfinished wall to his attention. He is asking the Commissioners to please finish the interior wall at the Courthouse.

Executive Session/Legal

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

The Executive Session meeting took five minutes.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to end the Executive Session and re-enter the Regular Monthly Meeting. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner John Mooney, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

Commissioner's Remarks: None

Meeting adjourned.

_____ Steve Taylor, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk