

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON **MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2025, AT 6:00 PM** IN THE  
BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSISONER MEETING ROOM LOCATED  
AT 321 DEWEY MCGLARMRY ROAD.

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Hal Wiley	Chairman
Hope Harmon	Vice-Chair
Daniel Cowan	Commissioner
John Mooney	Commissioner
Hampton Raulerson	County Manager
Pamela D. Turner	County Clerk

Commissioner Bennie Calloway was absent.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Hal Wiley called the meeting to order

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon gave the invocation.

Everyone gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the Agenda/Agenda Changes**

Vice Chair-Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, and Chairman Hal Wiley 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 April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting for the motion.

**Constitutional Officer: NONE**

**Department Head Reports:**

Keith Morrison DLS reported:

- Baseball and Softball season has started with 80 more kids in the program than last year, games are on Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays
- The Swim Team will start this week in the pool
- New Skeet machine out at the shooting range, everything is going well
- Hosting 10 and under girls Allstar Saturday June the 7<sup>th</sup>

**County Board Reports: NONE**

## **County Manager's Report:**

County Manager Hampton Raulerson reported the following:

- The new Administration Building (formerly Planters First Bank) waiting on the carpet to come in, once that is completed we will have the building clean, then we can start moving in.
- AsystYou have a little more to finish in IT, then equipment can be moved in.
- Still working on the Personnel Manual with Attorney Nick Kensley, we will review and get it finalized
- Assessment notices will be mailed out on Thursday
- The roadbed on Flint Road has started being constructed so that paving can begin.

## ***Annexation Notification:***

**Rezoning Application: NONE**

**Alcohol Application: NONE**

## **Appointments:**

*Reappointment to Board of Assessor/Ratify*

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to reappoint Wesley Mitchell to the Board of Assessor. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting for the motion

## **Old Business:**

### **New Business:**

*Contract Between Ben Hill County and Kellerman Construction for the Monitor Enrichment Center Project/Ratify*

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the contract between Ben Hill County and Kellerman Construction for the Monitor Center Project. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion, which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Daniel Cowan and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting for the motion.

*Cost Estimate for LRA Application/Tulip Road Resurfacing*

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Cost Estimate LRA Application for Tulip Road Resurfacing. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion, which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner John Mooney, and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting for the motion.

## **Legislative Report:**

Vice- Chair, Hope Harmon reported:

### **Annual ACCG Conference Recap – Savannah, GA**

The Annual ACCG Conference in Savannah was a success. Commissioners participated in various educational sessions designed to strengthen our leadership, policy, and governance skills. These classes provided practical tools and insights that will support our continued work on behalf of our community.

We also had the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions with both elected and non-elected officials from across Georgia. These conversations allowed us to exchange ideas, share challenges, and explore collaborative solutions on issues impacting counties statewide.

### **Legislative Session Update**

One of the most informative sessions covered a legislative policy wrap-up for the 2025

session and a preview of the 2026 legislative landscape.

- HB 92 was introduced as a cleanup to HB 581. ACCG and GMA jointly hosted a webinar just days before the conference to address key questions and highlight the most significant changes. For those interested, I can coordinate with Mrs. Pam to provide access to the webinar recording.

During the conference, I spoke with Dante with ACCG regarding a critical update:

- Due to our decision to opt out, we will be required to go through the Public Hearing process again in 2027.
- After this round, we should not need to repeat the process unless changes are made.
- Importantly, counties still have the option to opt in at a later time if future guidance and data from the state indicate that participation would be beneficial.

### **Opioid Prevention Program Update**

The Opioid Prevention Program continues to make an impact in our community.

- Holistically Anchored hosted a highly attended session at the Monitor Enrichment Program two weeks ago, with participation from both students and parents.
- More educational and support sessions are planned, and I will continue to provide updates as we expand our work to protect and support children and families affected by the opioid crisis.

**Public Comments: NONE**

**Executive Session: NONE**

Richard Dunagan from AmeriPro reported:

- Last Month EMS ran 244 calls
- 166 Transport to local hospitals
- The response time was 1.5 minutes to get out of the station and on the way to the call
- 6.7 minutes on scene with patients

**Commissioner's Remarks:**

**Meeting adjourned.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Hal Wiley, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_ Pamela D. Turner, County Clerk