

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON **June 3<sup>rd</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

**Call to Order**

Chairman Hal Wiley called the meeting to order

Commissioner Bennie Calloway 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. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, 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 May 6th, 2025. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting for the motion.

**Constitutional Officer: NONE**

**Department Head Reports: NONE**

**County Board Reports: NONE**

**County Manager's Report:**

County Manager Hampton Raulerson reported the following:

- Cathy Posey will be retiring from the Senior Center, her last day will be June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- Laura Hughes with 4H, when she goes out on maternity leave, she will not be returning. She will be taking another opportunity in Tifton. UGA will be looking to fill that spot shortly.

***Annexation Notification:***

**Rezoning Application: NONE**

**Alcohol Application: NONE**

**Appointments:**

*Hospital Authority Board*

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to nominate April McDuffie to the Hospital Board Authority. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting for the motion

**Old Business:**

*Personnel Policy*

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to adopt the Personnel Policy. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting for the motion

**New Business:**

*Employee Medical Insurance*

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to adopt the Plan change not to allow spouses on the Plan and accept the renewal for Angle Medical. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion, which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting for the motion.

*Equipment Purchases for Road Department*

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the purchasing of 309 Excavators with Grinder Head and a Motor Grader. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion, which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner John Mooney, and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting for the motion.

*Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Agreement Between Between Ben Hill County & Golden Environmental LLC*

**Discussion:**

County Manager Hampton Raulerson stated what we would be contracting with Golden Environmental for curbside pickup, this will not be mandatory.

The County will continue to operate two-man convenient sites and maintained the hours we currently have, located at Joshlyn and Westwood.

The charge for the monthly can will be \$25.00 an additional can would be \$11.50 a month.

Golden will purchase cans and a Trash Truck, along with taking over the commercial customers that we have. Golden will also pickup from the convenient sites.

The Pros from County aspect, it would take the service off us, that we currently have to man and take care of. This will save the County money. Those who are currently been serviced by the City it would reduce the amount they are paying. It will open a service for those who live in unincorporated areas who may want this service, who currently may not have this option.

Right now, I don't think there is any company who is willing to provide service, with the convenient sites we have opened. The City is not willing to go out and has no interest in expanding because of the convenient sites, which I have discussed with the City.

The Cons would be passing the cost directly to the consumers, this can be seen as a Pro and Con, because you are paying for your service directly not through taxes (user fee).

In the long term I hope this will help clean up the community and so that people won't have to transport their trash all over.

Commissioner John Mooney stated, anytime we have an opportunity as Government to a fee for service model it tends to be preferable. In this situation with residential trash collections and convenient site operation, this is a situation that residence of Ben Hill County don't see it and don't have to deal with it very often, because it's one thing their tax bill they get annually, but the way that we pay for it, the way we fund it now is a very inequitable.

It's very problematic for the way we fund the Government and the way we suppose to fund the Government, State direct us we are not supposed to be doing it the way we are doing it right now, and this creates imbalances where certain individual, certain households pay considerably more than others household, regardless of the service they consume. It's an inequitable across the board.

This gives us an opportunity to move to a model where everybody that generates trash has a way to pay for it, and some people are not paying more than others, everyone is paying a fair market rate for trash collections. This is why most communities across the Country has gone to this model, instead of running convenient sites.

This makes good sense for us, Ben Hill County has known that we should have been doing this for a long time, this has been on the table for awhile we just never got it done. The fact that Richard is willing to come in and get this done and not make it mandatory, where citizens who don't won't to participate don't have to, this is an opportunity we never had before. I look forward to making it happen.

County Manager Hampton Raulerson also stated that he did reach out to other companies to see if they were interested and as of date no one has responded back.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway asked the question, what does it mean when it was stated that it would not be mandatory?

County Manager Hampton Raulerson responded by stating that curbside pickup will not be mandatory, they have the option to contact Mr. Golden and his company to have this curbside provided and if not, we still will have Joshlyn and Westwood convenient sites open that they can go to.

Chairman Hal Wiley posed the questions are Joshlyn and Westwood site the most used, why were those two picked?

County Manager Hampton Raulerson stated that Joshlyn is one of the higher used ones, and the other is the site behind the Jail, but there is no way of securing that location. Westwood was chosen because it's already enclosed and secure. This way we will have one on the East side and one on the West side of town.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway asked, "Is the system we have now broken, we don't benefit from it, it's costing us?"

County Manager Hampton Raulerson responded it's costing us.

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon responded that the ones that's getting garbage collection that live in the County are paying more. I live in the County and pay more for garbage collection at this moment. This service would be cheaper for me and my neighbors. We live in the County, and we are paying more for the service that we have now.

Chairman Hal Wiley asked will the garbage truck cause wear and tear on the roads, is that a concern?

County Manager Hampton Raulerson stated that in his experience no it will not, this will be once a week, going down the road. If a road is not constructed properly, it could be an issue, but if you have proper road, it would not be an issue.

The only time it becomes a real issue if we have a storm event and the roads are not passable, and things could get backed up for a couple of days while the roads are made passable.

Mr. Richard Golden stated that Tift County went to this same model in 2015, they are not mandatory either. They have the same model as Ben Hill County, with convenient sites still open and they have the opportunity for curbside pickup.

County Manager Hampton Raulerson stated that in our area, Baldwin, Telfair and Wilcox have the same model, where they have convenient sites and provide curbsides

Mr. Richard Golden stated that Irwin County does have convenient sites and that Golden serves about 300 citizens through subscriptions.

Chair Hal Wiley asked Road Superintendent Nathan Fountain how this would affect the road department?

Road Superintendent Nathan Fountain stated that the benefits would be that the Road Department will be able to focus on road work, and gain a CDL driver from Solid Waste, it has put a bit of a strain on us suppling the manpower for various things as rebuilding cans, maintaining the dump sites by replacing rocks, suppling 3 or more employees to non-manned dumpsites after holidays to collect garbage with the backhoe and dump trucks.

Golden would be a big help for the Road Department; it will take a lot of strain off us so that we can focus a lot more on the road work.

**Public Comments:**

*Jason Miller 290 Othar Lee Rodger Road Fitzgerald GA-* My concern is this has been in the works for a long time, there probably will be a lot of people will go for this, and I understand that this will save some money. We voted for new garbage trucks and garbage cans this is what was on the Splost ballot. I do know that you can take Splost money and fund this until we can probably put it on the ballot and let the folks vote on it. We hadn't had a public hearing on it. I would think something vastly across the County deserves a couple of public hearings. I just heard of this last night. I hadn't heard nothing or read nothing about this. I know it has been discussed; it was discussed when I was at the County, previous County Commissioner Kathy Davis talked about it. I am asking if we can have some public hearings, can y'all table this. Have some public hearings over the course of next month, try to work through it a different way, because this is quick to me. I am asking the Commissioners to consider public hearings.

*Shannon Dorough 409 Primrose Rd Fitzgerald GA-* I live on Primrose Road which is a dirt road on the corner, the dumpsite on Othar Lee Rodgers Road is the dumpsite I have been going to for 30 years, no disrespect to the County road department but its hard for y'all to keep up with the scrapping especially when it rains over the last decade. Besides my concerns about the road conditions, I don't know what kind of trucks y'all are talking about bringing down the roads, I know what my pickup truck does to my road. What bothers me is that the corner of Primrose Road has been a continuous dumpsite when our Humane Society is not available to take on dogs. I get dogs, cats and everything else dumped on that corner. And if I am getting dogs dumped off out there and they start to knock over my trash can. I don't like that idea, as I said early when those dumpsites are closed, the one that I have used for 30 years right down the road. Once this dumpsite is closed, people will come right down there in the same place they throw their dogs off they will throw their trash off. I have had a mattress, bicycles, you name it, trash get thrown right here on the corner. I pay too much in taxes for people to use my property as a dumpsite, so when the dumpsite closes, I know they are coming to the nearest dirt road area and throw out their trash. Requesting delay motion and gave public hearing.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the contract between Ben Hill County and Golden Environmental LLC. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion, which passed with, Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting for the motion.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan and Commissioner Bennie Calloway opposed.

**Legislative Report: NONE**

**Executive Session: NONE**

**Commissioner's Remarks:**

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon stated that there will be a session this Saturday with Holistically Anchored, hosted at Commissioner Calloway Church, they will be offering some free resources and some information about Opioid Prevention and do an afternoon session as well for families.

**Meeting adjourned.**

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Hal Wiley, Chairman

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Pamela D. Turner, County Clerk