

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON **MARCH 3RD 2026, AT 6:00PM** IN 4H AND BEN HILL COUNTY EXTENSION
SERVICE BUILDING LOCATED AT 321 DEWEY MCGLAMRY RD

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 Turner	County Clerk

Commissioner Bennie Calloway was absent

Call to Order

Chairman Hal Wiley called the meeting to order

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

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes that was held on 02/03/2026. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting for the motion.

Constitutional Officer: NONE

Department Head Reports:

DLS Director Keith Morrison reported:

- Basketball season is finished; he also thanks the Sheriff for providing security at the District Tournament games that were hosted for 10 and under girls
- Registering now for baseball/softball that will end on Friday, we will start with our evaluation and draft after that

County Board Reports: NONE

County Manager's Report:

County Manager Hampton Raulerson recognized E911 Director Georgia Rimes for being awarded for Communication Director of the year for 2025, by the Georgia Chapter Association of Public Safety Communication Officials.

She was nominated for Communication Officer of the year, and our E911 Center was also nominated for E911 Center of the year 2025.

Congratulations to them on all the hard work that they do.

County Manger Hampton Raulerson reported as follows:

- LMIG project is coming along nicely
- Ed Ward Road, the section that needed resurfaced is completed.
- On Marigold Road, Tulip Road and Sundew Road, have got the first layer down, should be finished in the upcoming weeks.

Annexation Request/Notification: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application: NONE

Appointments:

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to appoint Nessa Williams as the Chair to the Board of Elections. 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 on the motion

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to reappoint Eric Lewis to the Ben Hill DLS Board. 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 on the motion

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to reappoint Charlene Lankford to the Ben Hill County Hospital Authority. 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 on the motion.

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

Discussion of the CDBG Conflict of Interest Requirements

County Manager Hampton Raulerson reported that last year we began an application for Eastside Church Rd. and were unable to get the necessary number of surveys from households, working on that now, hopeful of hitting the threshold this year.

The board discussed potential conflicts of interest. No conflict of interest were found for the application target area.

Adoption of the CDBG Submittal Resolution

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to Adopt the CDBG Submittal Resolution. 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 on the motion

Resolution Declaring County Property Surplus and Authorizing the Disposal of Said property

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Resolution Declaring County Property Surplus and Authorizing the Disposal of Said property. 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.

Ratify Appointing A Personnel Hearing Officer

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to appoint Norman Crowe as the Personnel Hearing Officer. 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.

Southern Georgia Regional Commission FY2027 Nutrition Annual Contract

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve Southern Georgia Regional Commission FY2027 Nutrition Annual Contract. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting for the motion.

Ratify Holistically Anchor Inc. Letter

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve Holistically Anchor Inc. Letter. 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.

Legislative Report:

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon reported on the NACO conference in Washington DC where she met with Senator Ossoff and Senator Warnock, had a productive conversation on the necessities that benefit rural Georgia not just Metro.

I spoke about our EMS services, the rising cost of things and about matching grants for Counties like ours.

I also thank Senator Warnock for helping us get the Congressional Direct Spending for our hospital.

Executive Session:

Commissioner's Remarks:

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon Holistically Anchor is a big part of Education, the Middle school has a 21st Century grant program in the afternoon from 5pm-6pm, so they have been coming two days a week, and doing educational activities with the kids.

Anywhere from 40-60 kids attend this after school program so they rotate the groups.

They also will be doing outreach at the Chicken Festival

They are also looking for other opportunities; I also contacted the Hospital to see if they will be doing any Health fairs.

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon will also reach out to Wiregrass.

Meeting adjourned.

_____ Hal Wiley, Chairman

_____ Pamela Turner, County Clerk