

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON **August 4th, 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 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

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the agenda with changes to add consider roads for 2026 LMIG under new business. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner John Mooney, and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting for the motion.

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes that was held on July 7th, 2026. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, 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: NONE

County Board Reports:

Ashley PRAIN the Community Partnership Coordinator for Legacy Behavioral Health stated that they provide mental and behavioral health services to the community of Ben Hill County.

- We served 33 Ben Hill County residents at our crisis center in Valdosta
- Ben Hill County Calls to the Crisis Line was 123
- Ben Hill County ranking in GA out of 159 counties for crisis episode was 22
- Ben Hill Counties residents served in our outpatient clinic was 192, this is in person or tele therapy session

- The WAVE Mobile Clinic comes twice a month at the Family Connection Location (408 S. Sheridan Street), we are currently servicing 59 clients in Ben Hill
- We have received funding for a second mobile clinic; we will be adding another location to reach more people in the community that may not be aware of our services
- We also offer free QPR certification training for suicide prevention to all counties; we will be at the Ben Hill County Senior Center later this month

Erica Simpson, the director of the Legacy Prevention Initiative and a Lowndes County Math teacher, stated that they did CPR training for Turner County Elementary/Middle and High School. She is here to discuss Youth Substance Abuse prevention.

- Vaping has become an epidemic in the school system
- The goal is to provide prevention education for grades 6-12 on vaping, marijuana and alcohol, we would like to bring this education to the Ben Hill County School System
- This is an hour-long session that is held in the classroom every year, however there is an online session for High Schoolers
- There are a lot of parents who don't realize the dangers of vaping, so we offer parent workshops
- We will also be in Ben Hill talking with grandparents who are raising grand kids
- We also offer Substance Youth Prevention where we provide a safe place/space for kids

County Manager's Report:

- Update on some of damages from the rainfall event that happened a month and half ago, the State has agreed to fund \$383,400.00 for the repair of Union Cemetery Road, to install a box culvert.
- Still waiting for a response about Flint Road
- 2025 Ben Hill County Preliminary Ratio Study shows that we are in compliance with the ratio at 39.63

Annexation Notification: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application: NONE

Appointments: NONE

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

Tony Eckler-Auditor Report

- Large part of the 2025 Audit is to provide assistance to prepare documents of the financial statement
- The Format and Content are based on County standards, which the State Department of Audits oversees the performance and is required by State Law to follow these standards
- The General Fund report shows comparison between each year, the General Fund did increase its Fund balance from last year by over 2 million dollars, which is healthy
- I do encourage everyone to educate themselves on different levels of financial matters
- Understanding AI and how to implement it safely within the workplace

Resolution of the Board of Commissioner of Ben Hill County Approving A Revision of the Ben Hill County Emergency Operations Plan

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Resolution of the Board of Commissioner of Ben Hill County Approving A Revision of the Ben Hill County Emergency Operations Plan. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting on the motion.

Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of BHC Approving the Conveyence of Property

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve Resolution of the Board of Commissioner of BHC Approving the Conveyence of Property Portion of Ed Ward Road. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting for the motion.

Consider Roads for 2026 LMIG

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve roads for the 2026 LMIG in the amount of \$579,053.69. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Daniel Cowan and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting on the motion.

Legislative Report: NONE

Public Comments:

David Coffey 169 Meadow Lane Fitzgerald Ga. 31750 stated that he and Jake Hughes have had many conversations on the Codes in Ben Hill County, and that the Codes have come a long way and he thanks Jake for that.

Second, he stated that the ditch is encroaching on his daughter and son-in law property, located on Taylor Farm Road

Coffey provide the address to the Chairman where the problem is occurring.

David Coffey also stated that he has been struggling to get the numbers from the Ratio Study from the Tax Assessor Office.

I have also asked for documentation that I believe is public information, the information that the Tax Assessor Office produced was not the information that I requested. I have had conversation with the State to see what the Tax Assessor Office is required to present for public viewing.

I would encourage all the members of Commissioners, Mr. Raulerson and Mr. Kinsley to make sure that Tax Assessor Office is up to standard.

David Coffey was given a copy of the 2025 Ben Hill County Preliminary Ratio Study at the meeting

Executive Session

Commissioner's Remarks:

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon mentioned as a reminder that Grand Homecoming is this week, there will be a lot more people in town.

Meeting adjourned.

_____ Hal Wiley, Chairman

_____ Pamela D. Turner, County Clerk