

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2018 AT 6:00 PM IN THE
BEN HILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Steve Taylor	Chairman
Daniel Cowan	Vice-Chairman
Bennie Calloway	Commissioner
John Mooney	Commissioner
Hope Harmon	Commissioner
Michael Dinnerman	County Manager
Donna Prather	County Clerk

Call to Order

Chairman Steve Taylor called the meeting to order.

Pastor Terry Cole gave the invocation.

Everyone gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda/Agenda Changes

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to add Fiber System Resolution and Fiber System Sales Agreement agenda items to New Business. Commissioner Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Acceptance of Prior Minutes

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes held on August 07, 2018. Commissioner Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Presentation:

Mr. Pat Ashley of Meeks CPA gave a brief review of the 2017 audit findings. Mr. Ashley pointed out the fund balance is \$416,000. He stated this amount have several contributing factors. He also stated he is available to answer any questions the Commissioners might have and he likes delivering good news.

Michael Erwin, RMS Owner and Third-Party Operator, stated Georgia Department of Transportation is proposing a Regional Transit System under the Regional Commission. Mr. Erwin believes the purpose for this change is it would be easier for Georgia Department of Transportation to manage the transit system. He also mentioned RMS absorbs all extra cost; but if the regional proposal goes through any extra cost outside of the contract would be the responsibility of the County.

Constitutional Officer:

Tax Commissioner Barry Foster gave an update of all activity at the Tax Commission Office.

Department Head Reports:

Road Department Superintendent Tim Kegebein reported the 2018 LMIG road projects are complete. The roads included Nora Morris, Miller Road, Bethlehem Church Road, Thistle Lane, and County Farm Road.

Public Hearing/Verizon Cell Tower

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to enter into the Public Hearing to discuss Special Exception for a Verizon Cell Tower to be placed on 120 Ohio Road. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Hope Harmon, and Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Attorney Andrew Rotenstreich spoke on behalf of Susanna Coleman and Verizon Wireless. He stated the tower would be a 190 foot monopole with a 9 inch lightning rod to protect electronics. This design doesn't have any wires; but structurally will support three additional wireless carriers. Mr. Rotenstreich stated the purpose for the tower is the gap in coverage in the area for Verizon customers.

JoAnn Lafaber stated she is excited about having more coverage; but she wanted to know if there would be any humming from the tower that will affect the animals. Mr. Rotenstreich answered no.

Kathaleen Fish asked how many more towers will be placed on the property. Mr. Rotenstreich answered this will be the only tower.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to close the Public Hearing and to re-enter the Regular Monthly Meeting. Commissioner Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Hope Harmon, Commissioner John Mooney, and Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

County Board Reports: NONE

County Manager's Report:

County Manager Michael Dinnerman reported the following:

- He and Finance Director Darlow Maxwell are working on the budget.
- He and Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein are working on cleaning up the Road Department.
- Advertisement for the 16 In Car Cameras will be in the newspaper this week. We are still in the process of pursuing six more USDA Grants for the Sheriff Department and one for the Road Department.

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application: NONE

Consent Items: NONE

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

Special Exception/Verizon Cell Tower

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to table this agenda item. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner Hope Harmon and all voted for the motion.

Annexation and Rezoning Notice/ 243 Perry House Road

The City of Fitzgerald sent a notification for Annexation and Rezoning for said property 243 Perry House Road from P & GB County to P City.

E911 Telephone Service and Prepaid Wireless Resolution

Commissioner Hope Harmon made a motion to adopt the E911 Telephone Service and Prepaid Wireless Resolution. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

E911 Prepaid Wireless Resolution

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to adopt the E911 Prepaid Wireless Resolution. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Hope Harmon all voting for the motion.

Drug Testing of New Employees Policy

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to adopt the Drug Testing of New Employees Policy. Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Hope Harmon, and Commissioner Bennie Calloway all voting for the motion.

Surplus Property Resolution

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to adopt the Surplus Property Resolution. Commissioner Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Revolving Loan Fund

Arising Industries

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve Arising Industries loan for a minimum of \$75,000 but up to \$100,000 at 3.75% interest rate. The terms are to mirror South Georgia Region Commission. Commissioner Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

The Skillz Handyman Service

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve The Skillz Handyman Service loan in the amount of \$13,000 at 3.75% interest rate for 60 months. Commissioner Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Lumber Brothers Tree Service

Commissioner Hope Harmon made a motion to approve Lumber Brothers Tree Service loan in the amount of \$14,929 at 3.75% interest rate for 60 months. Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Hope Harmon, Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Commissioner John Mooney all voting for the motion.

OD Netter, RLF Board Chairman, gave an update on the activity of the RLF Board.

Fiber System Resolution & Sales Agreement

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to adopt the Fiber System Resolution, authorize the Chairman and the County Manager to execute the sale of the Fiber System agreement with the City of Fitzgerald and Georgia Public Web, and allow the Chairman to sign all documents. Commissioner Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Agenda Changes and/or add on:

Legislative Report: NONE

Public Comments:

Allan Clements expressed his concerns for the new proposed location for the dumpsite that is located on Sweet Pea Road. Mr. Clements would like for the County to find another location besides near his home.

Louise Hall expressed her concerns for the new proposed location for the dumpsite that is located on Sweet Pea Road. Ms. Hall is requesting the dumpsite do not be moved to her neighborhood.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway left the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Executive Session

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to enter into Executive Session for pending litigation. Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, and Commissioner Hope Harmon all voting for the motion.

Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan made a motion to close Executive Session and re-enter the Regular Monthly Meeting. Commissioner Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Hope Harmon, and

Commissioner John Mooney all voting for the motion.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Hope Harmon, and Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to deny Vicky Bergquist claim. Commissioner Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Commissioner Hope Harmon, and Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Commissioner's Remarks: NONE

Meeting adjourned

_____ Steve Taylor, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk