

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON DECEMBER 07, 2021 AT 6:00 PM IN THE  
BEN HILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

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

Commissioner John Mooney was absent.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Steve Taylor called the meeting to order and 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 as presented. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

**Acceptance of Prior Minutes**

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting that was held on November 02, 2021. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

**Constitutional Officer: NONE**

**Department Head Reports: NONE**

**County Board Reports: NONE**

**County Manager's Report: NONE**

**Annexation Request: NONE**

**Rezoning Application: NONE**

**Alcohol Application: NONE**

**Appointments: NONE**

**Old Business: NONE**

## **New Business:**

### *FY 2022 Proposed Budget*

County Manager Michael Dinnerman presented a balance budget to the Commissioners and the public in the amount of \$10,630,290. He stated the \$720,000 increase is attributed to salaries and benefits. The increase is based on the salary study that was conducted several years ago. We also had an increase in fuel, IT, attorney fees and COVID. We will recoup some of the COVID money back through GEMA for FY 2020 and 2021.

Mr. Dinnerman commended CFO Darlow Maxwell for his work preparing the budget.

### *MOU Resolution/National Prescription Opioid*

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to adopt the MOU Resolution between the State of Georgia and certain local government entities concerning the national distributor and J&J Settlements and directing the execution of the acknowledging and agreement for a collective \$26 billion and appointing County Manager Michael Dinnerman as the duly appointed representative for the County. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

### *Reapportionment Map Resolution*

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to adopt Reapportionment Map drafted by the Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

### *Local Government Agent Appointment for Abandoned Mobile Home Act Resolution*

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to adopt the Local Government Agent Appointment for Abandoned Mobile Home Act Resolution appointing the Building and Zoning Director of the County to serve as the local government agent. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

### *Supporting Reform to Georgia's Annexation Dispute Resolution Law*

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to adopt the Supporting Reform to Georgia's Annexation Dispute Resolution Law. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion; which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

### *Ben Hill Transit Drug & Alcohol Policy*

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to adopt the revised Transit Drug and Alcohol Policy required by Department of Transportation (DOT). Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

### *Board of Elections Appointments*

Chairman Steve Taylor informed the Commissioners that the Board of Elections has a Board appointment next month. He recommend reappointing Thelma Graham back to the Board.



*Cleghorn's Grocery RLF Loan/ Garret Wright & Tyler Martin*

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve Garret Wright & Tyler Martin Revolving Loan Fund Loan in the amount of \$85,000 for 12 years @ 3.75% interest rate. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

**Agenda Changes and/or add on: NONE**

**Legislative Report:**

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon reported they discussed the top five concerns at the Annual Conference. The two that will directly impact Ben Hill County is Mental Health Reform and Coroners as Constitutional Officers.

**Public Comments:**

Mr. Jerry Lanier, 135 Drexler Lane, addressed his concerns regarding people dumping runoff water across the dirt road he live on. He especially unhappy with the logging companies that tear up the roads, turn the water to the roads, and leave it messed up.

Mr. Lanier also thanked Road Superintendent Tim Kegebein and his employees for the work they did on his road.

**Executive Session**

**Commissioner's Remarks:**

Commissioner Bennie Calloway stated he would like to say publicly we have good Constitutional Officers.

**Meeting adjourned**

\_\_\_\_\_ Steve Taylor, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk