

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON JUNE 06, 2023 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 R. 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

Chairman Steve Taylor added agenda item Media Center Building School Contract to New Business.

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to approve the agenda as presented to include Media Center Building School Contract. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, 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 minutes that was held on May 02, 2023. 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.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to suspend the Regular Monthly Meeting to enter the Public Hearing to discuss a Special Exception. 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.

Public Hearing

Cell Tower Special Exception/ Astor Road

Building & Zoning Administrator Jacob Hughes stated Vertical Bridge Developments, LLC applied for a Special Exception to erect a Verizon cell tower on 556 Astor Road. This tower would be beneficial for Ben Hill County Public Safety, 911 Communications, and the citizens in the community. The Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Planning Commission approve the request on May 15, 2023. Mr. Hughes recommended approval of the Special Exception.

There were no public comments.

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

Appointments: NONE

Constitutional Officer: NONE

Department Head Reports: NONE

County Board Reports: NONE

County Manager's Report:

County Manager Michael Dinnerman reported:

- Ameripro EMS is now fully staff and operating smoothly.
- He received a proposal for \$1.1 million from Georgia Power to move power lines.
- He is working with the engineer to see if the cost can be lowered.

Annexation Request: NONE

Rezoning Application: NONE

Alcohol Application:

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve Family Dollar Stores of Georgia alcohol application to sell beer and wine. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion. Commissioner Bennie Calloway opposed the motion.

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

Cell Tower Astor Road/ Special Exception

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Special Exception contingent upon signing the Communication Agreement between Vertical Bridge Developments, LLC and Ben Hill County Board of Commissioners. 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.

Technical Ordinance Update

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the update regarding the Technical Ordinance. 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.

Surplus Resolution/Sheriff

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve the Surplus Resolution to declare the 2005 FR60 Mobile Home surplus and to deem the said property no further use or value to the Ben Hill County Sheriff Department. 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.

2023 Employee Health Insurance

County Manager Michael Dinnerman stated the 2023 Employee Health Insurance premium rate increased by 2%. This includes a \$2.54 monthly increase.

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to approve Partners Benefit Group Anthem renewal rate that will include a 2% increase. Commissioner Bennie Calloway seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, and Chairman Steve Taylor all voting for the motion.

FY 2023 CDBG Submit Application Resolution/Ratify

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon motion to ratify the vote to approve the Resolution to submit an application to obtain FY 2023 CDBG Funds for street paving, flood, and drainage improvements on Flint Road. 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.

Public Defender FY 23-24 Budget & Contract

County Manager Michael Dinnerman stated there are no changes from last year's contract.

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon motion to approve the Public Defender's FY 23-24 Budget and contract and authorize the Chairman to execute the document. 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.

July Meeting Date/ 11th next Tuesday

Chairman Steve Taylor stated due to July's Regular Monthly Meeting is scheduled for July 4th; the date will change to July 11th.

Hospital Board Appointment

Commissioner Daniel Cowan made a motion to submit Daphne Williams and Michael Melton names to the Hospital Authority Board. 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.

Municipal Election Agreement

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve Municipal Election Contract in the amount of \$35,582.00 and authorize the Chairman to execute the contract. 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.

Media Center Building School Contract

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve Media Center Building contract, forward a letter to the Superintendent and attorney regarding changes in the contract, and authorize the Chairman to execute the document. 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.

Agenda Changes and/or add on:

Legislative Report: NONE

Public Comments: NONE

Executive Session

Commissioner's Remarks: NONE

Meeting adjourned.

_____ Steve Taylor, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk