

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON **July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, AT 6:00 PM** IN THE  
BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISISONER MEETING ROOM LOCATED  
AT 321 DEWEY MCGLARMRY ROAD.

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**

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the agenda. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, and Chairman Hal Wiley 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 June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. 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 for the motion.

### **Constitutional Officer:**

Tax Commissioner Barry Foster reported as follows:

- ☐ Collections for 2024 weren't good, but now we have caught up to about 97%
- ☐ Mobile Home sales we had 5 in total but only sold 1.
- ☐ Property Tax Sales we had a total of 47 and sold 39.
- ☐ Things have turned around, but that last 2-3% is hard to get.

### **Department Head Reports:**

Richard Dunagan EMS director reported as follows:

- ☐ Applied for a Grant for 30 "Stop To Bleed Kits"
- ☐ 20 Kits for Sheriff Office
- ☐ 7 Kits for Volunteer Fire Department
- ☐ 3 Kits for Road Department

- Due to S.O and Volunteer Fire Department received these kits 2 years ago they did not qualify for the grant.
- I will get with Road Superintendent Nathan Fountain to set up a time for training on these kits, they should be receiving the kits the 1<sup>st</sup> of August.

Keith Morrison DLS Director Reported as follows:

- Finished Spring/Summer softball
- We did not have all 8 and under girls so we had to bow out of the tournament.
- 10 and under girls we have some more improvement to do.
- 8 and under boys finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the district tournament, did not qualify for the State
- 12 and under boys finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and qualified for the State tournament and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the State tournament.
- 10 and under boys finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the District tournament and won the State tournament.
- Swim team swims every afternoon, State Meet will be July 18th & 19th, August 8<sup>th</sup> it will end.

### **County Board Reports: NONE**

### **County Manager's Report:**

County Manager Hampton Raulerson reported the following:

- We have moved into our new Administration building; it has been greatly received by all the employees.
- Lakenya Andrews has been promoted to site manager at Senior Center, we are expecting great things, and we are looking forward to working with her.
- We had our groundbreaking ceremony this morning for the Monitor Project, I spoke with the contractor today, looking to finish this project by the end of the year or shortly after the first of the year.

### **Annexation Notification:**

**Rezoning Application: NONE**

**Alcohol Application: NONE**

### **Appointments:**

#### *Solid Waste Authority*

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to appoint Hampton Raulerson to the Solid Waste Authority Board, to replace Tim Kegebein. 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

### **Old Business: NONE**

**New Business:**

*Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Ben Hill County, Georgia Providing Temporary Property Tax Relief For Eligible Standing Timber Located In A Disaster Area In Ben Hill County*

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Ben Hill County, Georgia Providing Temporary Property Tax Relief For Eligible Standing Timber Located In A Disaster Area In Ben Hill County. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion, which passed with Commissioner John Mooney, Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting for the motion.

*Resolution To Request The Legislators to Enact Legislation To Provide For A Technology Fee To Be Charged By The Magistrate Court Of Ben Hill County*

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve *Resolution To Request The Legislators to Enact Legislation To Provide For Technology Fee To Be Charged By The Magistrate Court Of Ben Hill County*. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion, which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner John Mooney, and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting for the motion.

*Intergovernmental Agreement for Election Services For November 2025 Municipal Election*

Commissioner John Mooney made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Election Services For November 2025 Municipal Election. Vice-Chair Hope Harmon seconded the motion, which passed with Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner John Mooney, and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting for the motion.

*Ratify Georgia Defender Contract*

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon made a motion to approve the Public Defender Contract. Commissioner Daniel Cowan seconded the motion, which passed with Vice-Chair Hope Harmon, Commissioner Daniel Cowan, Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner John Mooney, and Chairman Hal Wiley all voting for the motion.

**Public Comments: NONE**

**Legislative Report:**

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon reported, I went to ACCG Regional meeting in Colquitt County, I think they were just trying to poll us to see what issues are important to us right now. One of the hot topics was the traffic cameras that are picking up to give people citations, we don't have that issue.

There were some State representatives present that wanted to hear our thoughts on some of this legislation that is being passed on the State level.

I will be headed to NACO so I will definitely have a report next month.

**Executive Session: NONE**

**Commissioner's Remarks:**

Vice-Chair Hope Harmon thanks everyone who showed up for the groundbreaking this morning, it was a great occasion with a really good turnout.

Mr. Kender took photos, I will be sharing those with Hampton to share them with everyone.

I took a group of youth to a camp this passed weekend that Holistically Anchored had, and because they are doing our Opioid Prevention Program, all the kids were able to go for free. We left on Friday and returned on Sunday. I slept in a bunk, I camped outside we had smores, I stayed with the kids all weekend. The kids talked about how great a time they had and for many it was their first camping trip and mine. The kids were concerned about missing the fireworks show, but we were able to have one on Friday as well.

Chairman Hal Wiley stated that this morning was a good occasion, congratulations to Vice-Chair Hope and Commissioner Calloway for working so hard getting that done for your District, I know it's been a long process. Hampton and I got to show up for the groundbreaking.

The stuff that is going on in Texas, being in the position we are all in, and me being the new guy, I can't imagine dealing with something like that, we need to pray for the people in Texas. I can't imagine what the Mayor and Commissioner are going through.

**Meeting adjourned.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Hal Wiley, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_ Pamela D. Turner, County Clerk