

Minutes

Dodge County Board of Commissioners

January 4, 2016

Present: Dan McCranie, Chairman
William T. Howell, Jr., Vice-Chairman and District 1 Commissioner
Brian Watkins, District 3 Commissioner
Karen Cheek, District 4 Commissioner

Also Present: John Harrington, County Attorney
Bobby Peacock, County Manager
Nancy Gail Rogers, County Clerk

Absent: Terry Niblett, District 2 Commissioner

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 4, 2016, in Suite 101 of the Dodge County Courthouse Annex. Chairman McCranie called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to add an executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters after the Public Comments on the agenda. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to add the executive session with Commissioner Howell making the second. All voted in favor of the addition to the agenda. Chairman McCranie then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag followed by a devotional by Commissioner Cheek and prayer was given by Commissioner Watkins.

Elected Officials/ Department Heads

Charles Williams of the Eastman Dodge Chamber of Commerce and Tax Assessor Dale Jones were recognized as present but neither had any comments.

Approval of Minutes

A. December 21, 2015 Regular Meeting

Chairman McCranie asked for any additions, corrections, or deletions to the minutes of the December 21, 2015 regular meeting presented to the board in printed form. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve seconded by Commissioner Watkins. All voted in favor of the motion.

B. December 30, 2015 Called Meeting

Chairman McCranie then asked for any additions, corrections, or deletions to the minutes of the called meeting held on December 30, 2015 also presented to the board members in printed form. After review Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

Old Business

A. Recreation Department Appointment

Chairman McCranie asked if there were any nominations for the appointment to the Recreation Department board that was tabled at the prior meeting. Commissioner Howell nominated Jon Butler and Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close the nominations. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to close the nominations. Butler was appointed by acclamation.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Chairman McCranie asked if there were any questions concerning the printed check list of Accounts Payables. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable list with Commissioner Watkins making the second. All voted in favor of approval.

B. Permission to Bid TAN Line of Credit for 2016

County Manager Peacock asked the board for permission to accept bids on an operating line of credit tax anticipation note in the amount of \$2,500,000. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the bid process for the line of credit and Commissioner Cheek seconded his motion. She asked if all local banks would be asked to bid and Peacock replied yes to all three local banks. The vote was unanimous to start the bid process.

C. Appoint Vice-Chairman, County Attorney, and County Clerk

Commissioner Cheek nominated Junior Howell for Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close nominations seconded by Commissioner Cheek. The vote was unanimous to close nominations and Howell was appointed Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to appoint John Harrington the County Attorney for 2016. Commissioner Howell made a motion to close nominations seconded by Commissioner Watkins. All voted in favor of the motion and Harrington was appointed by acclamation and he thanked the board for the opportunity to serve them again.

Commissioner Howell made a motion appoint Gail Rogers the County Clerk followed by a motion to close nominations by Commissioner Watkins. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to close nominations and Rogers was also appointed by acclamation.

D. 2016 Holiday Schedule

Chairman McCranie asked if there were any questions concerning the list of proposed holidays to be observed by county employees during 2016. After the county manger acknowledged the holidays were the same as observed the prior year, Commissioner Howell made a motion to

approve the proposed holidays. Commissioner Cheek seconded his motion and all voted in favor of the motion.

E. January Meeting Date Change

Chairman McCranie announced the next scheduled meeting date would fall on the Martin Luther King holiday and normally the meeting was changed to the following Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to change the meeting dated to Tuesday, January 19th and Commissioner Howell seconded his motion. The vote was unanimous to make the change and Chairman McCranie asked that the local paper be notified of the change as well.

F. Camey Pace

Dodge County Tax Assessor employee, Camey Pace, gave handouts to the board members of two personnel leave policies circulated in their department, one adopted by the Dodge County Board of Assessors and another adopted by the Dodge County Board of Commissioners. She asked the board to clear the confusion as to which policy actually governed the Tax Assessor employees. County Attorney Harrington informed Pace that the Board of Assessors were not elected officials and therefore could not set a policy that would take precedent over one adopted by the Dodge County Board of Commissioners for all Dodge County employees.

G. Lori Monk – Property Tax

Lori and Randall Monk addressed the board about late fees assessed on their 2015 property taxes. Monk said the first and only notice they received had a due date of December 20th. She said other family members told them they received a second tax bill correcting the due date to December 1st, but they did not receive the corrected bill and paid their taxes according to the original notice by December 20th. Monk asked if the late fee of \$15+ dollars could be waived. Commissioner Watkins said a mistake was made by the county by sending the first bill with the wrong due date and he made a motion to forgive the late fee only for the tax bill provided taxes were paid on or before December 20. County Attorney Harrington said the decision could have a greater effect on the county than just one tax bill. Commissioner Watkins said the motion would have no effect on bills collected after December 20th. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion and all voted in favor of the abatement of late fees.

Commissioner Reports

There were no reports presented by the board.

County Manager Report

The county manager asked the board for permission to publicize the qualifying fees set by state law at three percent (3%) of salary for county officials to be elected in 2016 as follows:

- Clerk of Superior Court \$1,491.65
- Probate Judge \$1,491.65
- Sheriff \$1,779.86
- Tax Commissioner \$1,491.65
- Magistrate \$1,491.65
- Coroner \$ 108.00
- Member of the Board of Education \$ 117.00
- Chairperson-Board of Commissioners \$ 270.00
- District Member-Board of Commissioners \$ 90.00

County Manager Peacock announced that the fees along with the dates for qualifying should run in the local newspaper and that qualifying for the Primary election would begin on Monday, March 7, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. and would end on Friday March 11, 2016 at 12 noon. Commissioner Howell made a motion to advertise the fees and dates in the local newspaper seconded by Commissioner Watkins. All voted in favor of the motion.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Executive Session

Commissioner Howell made a motion to move into Executive Session seconded by both commissioners Cheek and Watkins. All voted in favor of the motion and Chairman McCranie cleared the meeting room for the session.

Return to Regular Meeting

At the conclusion of the Executive Session, Commissioner Cheek made a motion to return to the regular meeting. Commissioner Watkins seconded her motion and the motion was approved.

Adjourn

With no other motions or business to come before the board, Commissioner Howell made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to adjourn.