

## **Minutes**

### **Dodge County Board of Commissioners**

**January 6, 2014**

**Present:** Dan McCranie, Chairman  
William T. Howell, Jr., Vice-Chairman, Commissioner District 1  
Terry Niblett, Commissioner, District 2  
Brian Watkins, Commissioner, District 3  
Karen Cheek, Commissioner, District 4

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

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 6, 2014, in Suite 101 of the Dodge County Courthouse Annex.

Chairman Dan McCranie called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. Commissioner Karen Cheek gave a devotional and led those attending in prayer.

#### **Elected Officials / Department Heads**

Tom Cranford, Chairman of the board of directors of the Recreation Department came before the board members with a request for a possible land purchase. He asked for permission to use SPLOST funds to purchase ten (10) acres adjacent to the recreation department to be used for future development at the complex and hopefully to eliminate parking problems. He explained a section of the recreation complex was land locked and the board was hopeful a right of way from Jim Pruet Road could be obtained with the purchase. Commissioner Howell made a motion to allow the Recreation Department board to negotiate to obtain a good faith offer for the land purchase to be presented to the Board of Commissioners for consideration. Commissioner Cheek seconded the motion. Commissioners Howell, Watkins, and Cheek voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Niblett abstained from the vote. Chairman McCranie told Cranford that a special meeting could be called for approval if needed. Cranford thanked the board for their time and support.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

A. December 16, 2013 regular meeting  
Chairman McCranie asked for any additions, deletions or corrections to the minutes of the December 16, 2013, regular meeting presented in printed form to the board members.

Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve seconded by Commissioner Watkins. All voted in favor of the motion.

#### B. December 30, 2013 Budget Hearing

Chairman McCranie asked for any additions, deletions or corrections to the minutes of the budget hearing held on December 30, 2013 also presented in printed form to the board.

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve seconded by Commissioner Howell. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

#### **Old Business**

Chairman McCranie called for any old business pending before the board. Commissioner Niblett asked if there was anything new on the Sheriff Department firing range. Chairman McCranie said he was waiting on feedback from the deputies and there was nothing new to report.

Commissioner Cheek asked if any progress had been made drafting the new ordinance for the club curfew. County Attorney Harrington replied that there had been no progress due to his holiday and vacation schedule. He said he would prepare a draft and email to the board members before the next meeting.

#### **New Business**

##### A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the accounts payable list presented to the board in printed form seconded by Commissioner Howell. Before voting Commissioner Howell asked if check number 14038 to Georgia Power Company for \$3,205.06 was the power bill for the jail. County Manager Peacock said no, it was for various departments. Vote was taken and the motion carried.

##### B. Election of Officers

Chairman McCranie asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Niblett nominated William Howell seconded by Commissioner Watkins. Commissioner Niblett then made a motion to close nominations and approve election of Commissioner Howell for Vice-Chairman.

Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the election of William Howell as Vice-Chairman.

##### C. Appointment of County Attorney & Clerk

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to appoint John Harrington County Attorney for 2014 seconded by Commissioner Howell. All voted in favor of the motion. Attorney Harrington thanked the board.

Commissioner Howell made a motion to appoint Gail Rogers County Clerk for 2014 seconded by Commissioner Cheek. The vote was unanimous for the appointment.

#### D. Appointment – RDC

The county manager said the appointment was for the Regional Planning and Development Commission and he was currently serving on the board and would continue to serve if the board so wished. Commissioner Howell made a motion to appoint Bobby Peacock to the position seconded by Commissioner Watkins. All voted in favor of the motion.

#### E. 2014 Holiday Schedule

The board considered two possible schedules for 2014 holidays to be observed by county employees. Commissioner Howell presented a holiday schedule that included the ten holidays observed by county employees for 2013 with the addition of Veterans Day, November 11, 2014. He said the schedule was the same as observed by the City of Eastman and their employees. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve the eleven (11) holidays for 2014. Commissioner Niblett asked for clarification that the schedule included eleven (11) holidays. All voted in favor of the holiday schedule.

#### F. 2014 Meeting Date Changes

Chairman McCranie announced the next meeting date was to be held on the MLK holiday. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to move the meeting date to the following day, Tuesday, January 21, 2014. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

### **Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Cheek asked the clerk to have the printed holiday schedule included in the next payroll for county employees.

There were no other reports from the commissioners.

### **County Manager Report**

The county manager asked for approval to submit requests to the local financial institutions to accept bids for the 2014 Operating Line of Credit also known as the Tax Anticipation Note for Dodge County in the amount of two million seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$2,750,000). Commissioner Watkins made a motion to accept bids for the line of credit seconded by Commissioner Niblett. All voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Watkins asked how much of the operating line of credit was actually drawn for use in 2013. County Manager Peacock replied one million one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,150,000). Commissioner Watkins commented that it was a big improvement over the previous year.

The county manager then informed the board that the high bidder for the 1997 Ford had been contacted and had failed to make payment for the vehicle. He said the next bid was a tie bid of seven hundred dollars (\$700). He asked the board how to handle the bid situation. The county attorney said the proper procedure would be to drop down to the next bid, contact both bidders and if they are still interested they should submit a sealed supplemental bid. He said both bidders should be present at the opening of the bids.

### **Adjourn**

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Watkins. All voted in favor of adjournment.