

Minutes

Dodge County Board of Commissioners

January 07, 2013

Present: Dan McCranie, Chairman
William T. Howell, Jr., Vice-Chairman, Comm. Dist. 1
Terry Niblett, Comm. Dist. 2
Brian Watkins, Comm. Dist. 3
Karen Cheek, Comm. Dist. 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 7, 2013, in Suite 101 of the Dodge County Courthouse Annex.

Chairman Dan McCranie called the meeting to order and led those in attendance in the pledge to the American flag. Commissioner Karen Cheek gave a devotional based on Philippians 3:13. Commissioner Brian Watkins led the group in prayer.

Elected Officials and Department Heads:

None noted as present.

Approval of Minutes:

A. Regular Meeting December 17, 2012

A motion was made by Commissioner William Howell to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 17, 2012. Commissioner Terry Niblett seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and minutes were approved.

B. Special Called Meeting December 28, 2012

A motion was made by Commissioner Terry Niblett to approve the minutes of the special called meeting held on December 28, 2012. Commissioner Brian Watkins seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and minutes were approved.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Karen Cheek asked if check number 11578 to Mediacom was for two months. County Manager Bobby Peacock replied that was correct. She also asked if the check to Wright Express for fuel was for one month and the County Manager replied yes. She then asked about the check payable to Satellite Tracking of People, LLC and was told it was for ankle bracelets and was a state requirement. Commissioner Terry Niblett asked about check number 11584 to BFE and was told it was for the equipment and installation at the Registrar office plus repairs. Commissioner Karen Cheek asked about check number 11583 to Bearden Oil Co. and was told it was for fuel for the Road Department, Landfill, and Trash Pickup. Commissioner William Howell made a motion to approve the Account Payable checklist. Commissioner Terry Niblett seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion was approved.

B. Carolyn Burt

Carolyn Burt gave a presentation to the Board of Commissioners on her research of recycling plastics and metal in Dodge County. She said that seventy to seventy-five percent (70 – 75%) of what goes into the landfill is plastics and metals that are recyclable. She said she had spoken with Michael Snipes, manager of the Laurens County Landfill, and Laurens County will accept all metals and plastics free of charge. She said the county would first have to establish Recycle Centers and a pattern of pickup and secondly inform and educate the citizenry about the benefits of recycling. She said the county could save a good portion of the fees currently being paid to the Houston County Landfill. She said Chester has a collection point for paper and could easily designate dumpsters but collection sites would probably be needed in Eastman and Rhine. She anticipates it would take six months to set up a recycling program in Dodge County. She said Laurens County currently accepts plastic and metal recyclables from Vidalia and Wrightsville and that Dodge County should get on board while there is no charge or fees because that may not continue. She also requested that the Eastman-Chester Highway be marked because it is a well traveled road seventeen (17) miles long and dangerous in places with curves and because of the lack of markings. The commissioners thanked her for coming and her presentation.

C. Recreation Board Appointment

County Manager Bobby Peacock informed the board members that John Jones has resigned from the Dodge County Recreation Board effective December 31, 2012. He has accepted the County Manager position in Toombs County and will be relocating. The Recreation Board has recommended Chris Lowery as a replacement for the term to expire December 31, 2013. A motion to table was made by Commissioner William Howell and seconded by Brian Watkins. The vote was unanimous to table the appointment.

D. CDBG Grant

County Manager Bobby Peacock informed the board that he had received a list from the Regional Commission of approved engineers who meet their qualifications and they would need to make their selection. Carl Hofstadter and Kelvin Seagraves representing Hofstadter & Associates was recognized and allowed to speak to the board. Mr. Hofstadter stated he had worked over thirty (30) years on various projects in Dodge County. His company was started in 1982 and is approved by the Georgia DOT to build all roads. Commissioner Karen Cheek asked what the grant was for and he replied for grading and drainage on WPA Road and his company would write the application. Commissioner Brian Watkins asked if there was a time frame established and the response was that the application was due April 1, 2013 and it usually takes two to three months to write the application. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to make the selection and vote at the next meeting. Commissioner William Howell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

E. Budget Amendments

County Manager Peacock made a recommendation that the following amendments be made to the 2013 budget:

- Probate Judge budget be reduced by \$10,000
- Tax Commissioner budget be reduced by \$7,000
- E911 Health Insurance coverage be increased by \$17,000

He said salaries were computed for the Probate Judge and Tax Commissioner for full time positions when in fact those positions are part time. He said the proposed amendments will not change the overall budget or affect the bottom line. Commissioner Brian Watkins made a motion to approve the amendments to the 2013 budget. Commissioner Terry Niblett seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion was approved.

F. Personnel Policy

Commissioner Terry Niblett made a motion to change the scheduled holidays for 2013 as follows: 1) Delete Columbus Day observed on October 14, 2013 and 2) Add Good Friday to be observed on March 29, 2013. He said he had received requests from employees for this change and the amendment would apply to Chapter 9, Section 2 Legal Holidays of the Dodge County Personnel Policy. Commissioner Brian Watkins seconded the motion, vote was unanimous and policy was amended.

County Manager Report:

County Manager Peacock asked commissioners to complete personnel forms handed out to them in order to comply with IRS guidelines and the CPA's recommendation for income reporting. Commissioner Terry Niblett asked if Frank Erwin accepted the conditions with his approval as

auditor for Dodge County. County Manager Peacock replied that he did accept the conditions and had already begun work on the audit.

Public Comments:

Junior Bellflower asked if the board would contact Mr. Pruett about non-partisan elections in Dodge County. County Attorney Harrington replied that would need to be addressed on the state level with special local legislation and could only affect offices for Dodge County and not those that span more than one county. Chairman McCranie said that he knew the Georgia Sheriff's Association had tried to make the change to non-partisan elections statewide but were unsuccessful. County Attorney Harrington agreed to research the matter and report to the board.

Adjourn:

Commissioner William Howell made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Terry Niblett seconded the motion. All voted in favor, vote was unanimous and meeting was adjourned.