

## **Minutes**

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

**February 4, 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, February 4, 2013, in Suite 101 of the Dodge County Courthouse Annex.

Chairman Dan McCranie called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. Commissioner Karen Cheek gave the devotional followed by prayer by Commissioner Brian Watkins.

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

None noted as present.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

A. Regular Meeting of January 22, 2013  
Commissioner William Howell made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2013, regular meeting. Commissioner Brian Watkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

#### **Old Business:**

There was no old business brought before the board.

#### **New Business:**

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Terry Niblett made a motion to approve the accounts payable checklist. The motion was seconded by Commissioner William Howell. Vote was unanimous and motion was approved.

#### B. Lydia Daniels

Ms. Lydia Daniels was present to request approval for Dodge County to hold a Bible reading marathon on the steps of the Dodge County Courthouse. She introduced Ms. Jeri Tuck who spoke to the board about the success of the annual Bible reading marathon in Bleckley County which begins one week prior to the National Day of Prayer and has 350 participants and involves approximately 30 area churches. Chairman McCranie said to comply with the ordinance governing the use of county property an application would have to be completed. Commissioner Karen Cheek asked if there was a deadline for having the marathon and Ms. Tuck replied that approval was needed as soon as possible in order to publicize the event and solicit readers through the ministerial alliances and civic clubs and organizations. Ms. Daniels was asked to complete the application for the approval process.

#### C. Fluellen/ Noah Road Name

County Manager Peacock presented a petition to the board members asking that a road off the Abbeville Highway that is not presently named to be named Fluellen Noah Lane. He said the road is approximately one quarter (1/4) mile in length with approximately fifteen (15) families living on the road. Commissioner Brian Watkins asked if the county was maintaining the road and Mr. Peacock replied yes. Commissioner Karen Cheek stated that the road was located in her district and had been deeded to the county and made a motion for the naming of the road as requested. Commissioner Brian Watkins seconded the motion. Commissioner Terry Niblett asked if there would be any cost to the county involved with the naming and County Manager Peacock said the only cost would be a road sign. He said that all mailboxes for the residents of the road were located on the Abbeville Highway and mailing addresses should not change. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

#### D. Recreation Department

County Manager Peacock told the board that Sue Noles from the Recreation Department had brought a bill from Graham & Studstill in the amount of \$3,870 for work on the gym including new doors and remodeling and asked that it be paid from the SPLOST funds. He said he asked her if they had bids on the job and she said no that it started as a \$500 expense and expanded into a remodeling project. Commissioner Terry Niblett asked when the work was done and Mr. Peacock replied December 28, 2012. Commissioner Karen Cheek asked about the policy on such expenditures and Commissioner Brian Watkins asked the legal counsel if the payment could be denied due to the bid process requirements. County Attorney Harrington replied that the board had a policy on the bid process but that it was not a law and they were not obligated. He did elaborate that SPLOST funds were more carefully monitored than general funds of the county.

He said that the board could make an exception to the bid policy but it was not a good practice. Commissioner Karen Cheek made a motion to table the request until someone with authority from the recreation department could attend the next meeting to answer the board's questions. Commissioner William Howell seconded the motion. Commissioners Howell, Watkins, and Cheek voted in favor of the motion with Commissioner Terry Niblett abstaining. Commissioner Niblett stated he would be abstaining from all future votes concerning the recreation department with an abundance of caution because his son is now employed with the recreation department.

### **Commissioner Reports:**

Chairman McCranie asked the commissioners if anyone would like to report on committees or other boards with which they may be involved. Commissioner Terry Niblett stated he was the County's appointee to the Airport Authority and they had received a notification from the FAA that there were trees not located on airport property that were in the line of sight for planes landing at the airport. He said three bids were received to remove the trees and the low bid was \$6,810. He said the City of Eastman had agreed to pay one half of the removal and he made a motion for the county to pay one half totaling \$3,405. Commissioner Watkins asked how many trees were to be removed and Commissioner Niblett replied approximately one and one half (1 ½) acres. He said they have the owner's permission to remove the trees and they would be moved and dumped on the back side of the airport property. Commissioner Karen Cheek seconded the motion and stated it was a show of support for the college and the anticipated growth associated with it over the next ten years. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

Chairman McCranie informed the attendees a prayer meeting for our county and nation was being held at 7:00 p.m. at Liberty Baptist Church on the Chester Highway. He also said there would be a meeting on Saturday morning at 8:30 am at the Chamber of Commerce with a discussion format on community improvement.

### **County Manager Report:**

County Manager Peacock informed the board that he received a call from the sheriff on Friday, January 25 that the new jail was leaking. He contacted the architect of the jail project who in turn contacted the general contractor. The roof is under warranty and repairs will be made by the general contractor.

### **Public Comments:**

Charles Dennis asked for the dollar amount spent on housing inmates since the new jail was completed. Chairman McCranie asked if he meant since the installation of the grinder which was

required by the city before hooking to city water and sewage. Mr. Dennis said he was requesting the amount paid since the contractor completion. He asked if the information could be available at the next meeting and County Manager Peacock replied yes.

**Adjourn:**

Commissioner William Howell made a motion to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Brian Watkins. The vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned.

Signed:

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Nancy Gail Rogers, County Clerk

Approved:

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Dan McCranie, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners