

Minutes

Dodge County Board of Commissioners

March 2, 2015

Present: Dan McCranie, Chairman
William T. Howell, Jr., Vice-Chairman, District 1 Commissioner
Terry Niblett, District 2 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

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 2, 2015, in Suite 101 of the Dodge County Courthouse Annex.

Chairman McCranie called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. Commissioner Cheek gave a devotional based on Deuteronomy 6:4-7 and Commissioner Howell led in prayer.

Elected Officials/ Department Heads

Chairman McCranie recognized EMA Director Stanley Stephens and Interim President and CEO of the Eastman-Dodge Chamber of Commerce, Charles Williams.

Approval of Minutes

A. February 16, 2015 Regular Meeting

Chairman McCranie called for any additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes of the February 16, 2015 regular meeting presented to the board in printed form. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve as presented seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The vote was unanimous to approve as presented.

Old Business

A. Library Building Roof

The chairman asked if there was an update on the library building roof occupied by the Department of Labor. Commissioner Niblett said that the board was still working on funding and made a motion to table the matter until the next meeting. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to table.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Chairman McCranie asked if there were any questions or discussion concerning the check listing for Accounts Payable including payments for the General Fund and TSPLOST account. A motion was made by Commissioner Niblett to approve seconded by Commissioner Howell. All voted in favor of the motion.

B. Open Sealed Bids Heating/ Cooling System at National Guard Armory

The county manager presented three bids to the chairman to open. They were read as follows:

- Hap-E Enterprise Inc., Cochran, GA – 5Ton & 7.5Ton \$15,973
- Massingill Expert Services, Eastman, GA 7.5 Ton & 5 Ton \$14,514
- Pruett Air Conditioning Co., Eastman, GA 5 Ton & 7 ½ Ton \$11,100

Discussion followed with Commissioner Niblett asking if the bids included the SEER rating for the units. Upon closer inspection of the bids it was determined that the SEER rating would be useful in making an accurate comparison. Commissioner Howell made a motion to table the matter until further information could be obtained. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion and all voted in favor of the motion to table.

C. Approval of AIR EVAC Contract for landing site at National Guard Armory

County Manager Peacock stated he had given the board members a Zone Agreement to review that would indemnify the agency for any damage done and said the hospital was in agreement with this. Commissioner Cheek asked about the run lights and the county manager said they were providing the materials for solar lights to be installed. Commissioner Niblett asked if granting the request would hinder any plans for future use such as parking. EMA Director Stanley Stephens answered no. County Attorney Harrington said the contract presented was not the proper form of contract and certain things needed to be added. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to go forward with the contract approval with Attorney Harrington going over the contract. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Niblett. All voted in favor of the motion.

D. Dodge County Firefighters Association

The county manager reminded the board that the 2013 SPLOST allowed for the Dodge County Firefighters Association to receive \$390,000. He passed copies of a proposal from Fire Chief Lee Kirkland outlining their request proposal to receive seventy-five percent (75%) of the estimated amount. The county manager reminded the board members that the last SPLOST did not meet projections. Commissioner Watkins stated that the fire departments must submit requests for approval two weeks prior and must submit all bids and receipts. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the proposal seconded by Commissioner Niblett. All voted in favor of the motion.

E. Greg Farmer

Mr. Farmer was not present.

F. County Attorney-Revolving Loan Fund Committee

1a. Recommendation

The county attorney reported that the Revolving Loan Fund Committee met on Friday, February 20, 2015 to consider a loan request from Covey Resources LLC for \$100,000 at six percent (6%) interest rate for ten years with a balloon factor at rollover and possible reamortization. He said a business plan was submitted with a long term lease for a building with the City of Milan and plans to hire ten (10) employees within one year. He emphasized that the business would be located on the Dodge County side and the owners would sign a personal guaranty for the loan. Milan Mayor Jimmy Kirkland asked for special consideration for the loan request and said it was coming at a good time with the tire plant in Milan moving to Ohio and the loss of those jobs. He said the owners would be making a considerable investment. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve the request seconded by Commissioner Niblett. All voted in favor of the motion.

1b. Appointments

The county attorney addressed a second issue concerning the membership of the Revolving Loan Committee. He said the committee was comprised of representatives of the three banks and a member representing the manufacturing sector. With Butch Kirkley now employed by Citizens Bank and Trust as well as Reggie Sheffield also employed by Citizens Bank & Trust only two banks were represented. He said Reggie Sheffield had offered his resignation to allow for John Butler of Colony Bank to be appointed. Commissioner Howell nominated John Butler of Colony Bank seconded by Commissioner Niblett. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close nominations seconded by Commissioner Niblett. All voted in favor of the motion and Butler was appointed by acclamation. The county attorney also reported that John Jessup of the Bank of Eastman was resigning from the committee after twenty years of service and had suggested Allen Long of the Bank of Eastman as his replacement. Commissioner Howell nominated Allen Long as a member of the Revolving Loan Fund Committee with Commissioner Cheek seconding the nomination. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to close nominations seconded by Commissioner Watkins. Long was appointment by acclamation. Attorney Harrington told the board that Jim Greene represents the manufacturing sector and had agreed to serve on the committee for one more year.

Commissioner Reports

There were no reports from the commissioners.

County Manager Report

The county manager had nothing to report. Commissioner Niblett asked about the reflectors on the center line of the Chester Highway and that the matter be put on the agenda for the next meeting. He also asked about the housing out of prisoners and the county manager said he would find out before the next meeting.

Public Comments

Susan Coffee asked about work done on the library building occupied by the Department of Labor and was informed that the tarps on the roof were installed by the Department of Labor.

Marlon Vickers and Berrien Vickers told the board they look forward to being part of the community.

Charles Williams said he hoped to have a report at the next meeting.

Executive Session

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to move into Executive Session seconded by Commissioner Howell. All voted in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to end the Executive Session and return to the regular meeting. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion. Commissioner Watkins asked that the Firefighters Association funds agreement motion be reopened for consideration and he would like to abstain from the motion and vote as the Fire Chief is his brother-in-law. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve the agreement and Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion. Commissioners Howell, Niblett, and Cheek voted in favor of the motion.

Adjourn

Commissioner Howell made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Commissioner Niblett. The vote was unanimous to adjourn.