

Minutes

Dodge County Board of Commissioners

March 16, 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 16, 2015, in Suite 101 of the Dodge County Courthouse Annex.

Chairman McCranie called the meeting to order and announced the first order of business would be to amend the agenda by adding Item E. Airport Equipment and Item F. Redistricting under New Business and Executive Session after the Public Comments. The purpose of the Executive Session would be to discuss Personnel and Legal Matters. Commissioner Howell made a motion to amend the agenda as requested seconded by Commissioner Niblett. All voted in favor of the changes to the agenda. After the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag, Commissioner Cheek gave the devotional and prayer.

Elected Officials/ Department Heads

Raymond Mullis representing City of Eastman as Council Chair asked the board members to consider a donation of \$2,500 to fund the July 4th fireworks this year. Commissioner Cheek made a motion to contribute the \$2,500 seconded by Commissioner Niblett. Commissioner Watkins asked what the total cost for the fireworks would be and Mullis replied \$10,200 with the City of Eastman contributing \$2,500 again this year and he was soliciting the balance from other businesses and individuals. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

EMA Director Stanley Stephens was recognized as present.

Approval of Minutes

A. March 2, 2015 Regular Meeting

Chairman McCranie asked for any additions, corrections, or deletions to the minutes of the March 2, 2015 regular meeting presented to the board in printed form. Commissioner Howell

made a motion to approve as presented seconded by Commissioner Niblett. All voted in favor of approval.

Old Business

A. Library Building Roof

Chairman McCranie asked if there was an update on the status of the roof repair of the former library building currently occupied by the Department of Labor. Commissioner Niblett stated they were still waiting on the funding request and made a motion to table the matter again. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion and the motion passed.

B. Heating/ Cooling System National Guard Armory Building

Chairman McCranie asked if the SEER rating information had been received from the three bids and County Manager Peacock said that he had been informed by Pruett that there was no SEER rating on the largest unit he had quoted in his bid but that the smaller units were all comparable with a SEER rating of 13. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to accept the low bid from Pruett. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion and all voted in favor of the motion.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Chairman McCranie asked for any questions or comments concerning the Accounts Payable checklist submitted for approval. Commissioner Cheek asked about the payments to WEX Bank and Fuel South for fuel. The county manager replied that the payment to WEX Bank was for fuel purchases made by departments using the fuel cards such as the Sheriff, Transit, and EMS. The payment to Fuel South was for fuel used at the Road and Sanitation departments. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable checklist with Commissioner Watkins making the second. The vote was unanimous to approve.

B. Approve 5311 Transit Application for 2016

The county manager asked for approval of the resolution by the Board of Commissioners to apply to the Georgia Department of Transportation for a grant for public transportation assistance. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve the resolution seconded by Commissioner Niblett. All voted in favor of the motion.

C. Approve Section 125 Premium Only Plan (Cafeteria Insurance Plan)

County Manager Peacock explained that the 2015 Certificate of Resolution for Dodge County's Section 125 Premium Only Plan needed approval to allow employees pre-tax savings for certain insurance premiums. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The vote was unanimous to approve the motion.

D. John Battle – County Road/ Flag

Mr. Battle stated the first concern he wanted to bring before the board was the Edna Moore Road in District 4. He said the City of Eastman had done what was asked by supplying water but when repairs were done on the city lines it had messed up the road. He said he was asking for a county city partnership to repair the road. He also asked for a speed limit change from 45 mph to 35 mph and a speed bump to be installed to slow traffic in the area.

He then delivered a request from Attorney Francis Johnson of the NAACP to move the monument at the courthouse to its original location or to Highway 46 where it could be set up with a park.

E. Airport Equipment

Commissioner Niblett who also serves on the Airport Authority informed the board that the Glide Scope at the airport needed replacing at a cost of \$15,000. He said the need was immediate because the college uses it for approaches and if ordered now would still take one month to replace. His request was for the county to pay \$7,500 and asked the county attorney if the expense would qualify for TSPLOST funds. The county attorney said he had not fully researched the request but if not TSPLOST then the 2013 SPLOST funds allocated to transportation should qualify. Councilman Mullis of the City of Eastman said their next meeting would be held a week from next Monday. Commissioner Niblett made a motion for the county to approve payment of \$7,500 seconded by Commissioner Cheek. The vote was unanimous to approve the payment.

F. Redistricting

Commissioners Howell and Niblett reported on their recent trip to Atlanta to meet with the Reapportionment Committee. Commissioner Howell showed a colored map of the districts as they are presently with the changes recommended by the committee. Commissioner Niblett said they were not allowed much input and there was less than one percent (1%) deviation. Cindy Eckles of the Dodge County News asked if she could obtain a color copy of the map for publication and Howell and Niblett replied yes. The county attorney reiterated that the legislature is doing this not the local Board of Commissioners. When asked when it would pass he responded when the Governor signs it. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the changes recommended by the Reapportionment Committee seconded by Commissioner Niblett. All voted in favor of the motion and the changes.

Commissioner Reports

There were no reports from the Commissioners.

County Manager Report

The county manager asked the county attorney if the Air Evac contract had been redrafted and he replied that he had redrafted and the language changed and it was approved with the changes.

County Manager Peacock also reported that he had been in contact with the DOT regarding the adding of reflectors on the center line of the Chester Highway and had been informed that the DOT will include the reflectors in their bid. He said the DOT project called for resurfacing of four miles on the Bell Line Road and fourteen miles on the Chester Highway at a cost of \$1,200,000 using TSPLOST funds for Dodge County.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Executive Session

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to move into Executive Session for personnel and legal matters. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion and all voted in favor of the motion.

Regular Session

Commissioner Cheek made a motion to end the Executive Session and return to the regular meeting. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion and all voted in favor of the move.

Adjourn

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Howell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to adjourn.