

Minutes

Dodge County Board of Commissioners

April 7, 2014

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

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

Absent: Karen Cheek, Commissioner District 4

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 7, 2014, in Suite 101 of the Dodge County Courthouse Annex.

Chairman Dan McCranie called the meeting to order and noted the absence of Commissioner Cheek. He led those assembled in the pledge of allegiance to the American flag after which Commissioner Niblett prayed.

Elected Officials/ Department Heads

Judy Madden of the Eastman Dodge Chamber of Commerce was recognized and gave an update on chamber activities. She said a group of twenty traveled to Atlanta on Tuesday, April 1st to visit the Georgia Resource Center to learn the criteria for the selection process and components for economic growth. She thanked Commissioner Niblett and County Manager Peacock for attending as well as representatives from the Board of Education, Dodge County Hospital, City of Eastman, Airport Authority and Development Authority.

She also noted the April issue of Georgia Trend magazine highlighted economic outlook for the state and showcased all 159 counties of Georgia with Dodge County receiving favorable comment.

She said that all documents were executed on Friday, April 4 with Aremac and plans were proceeding for the building and expansion.

Commissioner Niblett also commented on the trip to Atlanta and how impressed they were at the number attending from Dodge County.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman McCranie asked for any additions, corrections, or deletions to the minutes of the March 17, 2014 meeting presented in printed form to the board members. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve seconded by Commissioner Howell. All voted in favor of the motion with none opposed.

Old Business

A. Hospital Board Appointments

After clarification from the minutes of the March 17th meeting as to whether or not nominations were made at that meeting, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to open nominations seconded by Commissioner Niblett. All voted to open nominations. Chairman McCranie read a list of three nominees per position on the Hospital Board. For the position currently held by Mitchell Coffee, nominees are Mitchell Coffee, Freddie Dwozan, and Rex Blankenship. For the position currently held by Dr. Dan Harrell, nominees are Jan Jones, Mimi Dennis, and Carol P. Giddens. For the position currently held by Dr. Todd Peacock, nominees are Emory Peacock, Dr. James Tison and Danny Pickett. Commissioner Niblett seconded the nomination made by Chairman McCranie. Chairman McCranie asked if there were other nominations. Commissioner Howell made a motion to close nominations seconded by Commissioner Niblett. The vote was unanimous to close nominations. Chairman McCranie asked the county attorney to send the nominations to the hospital board using the proper format. The county attorney agreed.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Chairman McCranie asked the board members to review the list of accounts payable disbursements. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve the accounts payable checklist seconded by Commissioner Niblett. All voted in favor of approval.

B. Transit Resolution

Chairman McCranie said approval of the resolution was necessary to submit application for the 5311 Transit program application for 2015. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the resolution with the second to the motion coming from Commissioner Howell and Watkins. The vote was unanimous to approve the resolution.

C. Recreation Department

Commissioner Howell informed the board members that he had been approached by members of the Eastman city council who wanted to give the recreation department property and board appointments back to the county. The council had requested an official letter with the proposal be sent to them for approval. He said that nothing is being paid by the City of Eastman and he would like to put the proposal in the form of a motion. Chairman McCranie reiterated that the

Service Delivery Strategy says the county pays the government portion of recreation. County Attorney Harrington said there was a possibility the change may require a letter to the legislature and if the motion would be amended to include that it would prevent revisiting the matter at a later time. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion as amended. Commissioners Howell, Watkins, and McCranie voted in favor of the motion with Commissioner Niblett abstaining from the vote. The county manager said he had received a bill from Frank Erwin CPA for the recreation department audit for the years 2011 and 2012. He said Erwin had told him that previously one half was paid by the city and one half was paid by the county. Commissioner Howell made a motion to pay the audit bill from the contingency fund. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. Commissioners Howell, Watkins, and McCranie voted in favor of the motion with Commissioner Niblett abstaining from this vote as well.

D. Lydia Daniels

Lydia Daniels came before the board and read a proclamation designating April 25, 2014 through May 1, 2014 as Bible Reading Marathon Week in Dodge County Georgia. Chairman McCranie made a motion to approve the proclamation seconded by Commissioner Niblett. The vote was unanimous to approve the proclamation and all commissioners signed the proclamation. Ms. Daniels also asked that the proclamation be published in the Dodge County newspaper.

E. LMIG

County Manager Peacock referred to a list of revised roads provided to the board members stating that 1.2 miles were eliminated from the original list due to being in the city limits. Bids were taken with Laurens County and the actual cost per mile is \$8,000 per mile less than last year allowing for additional mileage to be resurfaced. The new total is 13.1 miles at a total cost of \$680,657 with \$585,000 being paid with the LMIG grant and the remaining \$95,657 to be paid from TSPLOST revenues. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the revised list. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Commissioner Reports

Nothing reported at this time.

County Manager Report

The county manager stated he had nothing to report and there were no questions for him.

Public Comments

Susan Coffee asked about the recycling program in Dodge County.

John Clements thanked Commissioner Niblett for his participation in the Red Barn Run and also expressed thanks to the Sheriff for providing a deputy on the side of the road.

David Oxley expressed his concerns about the condition of Oxley-Garrett Road and the need for speed limits on the road to be set.

Jimmy Joines of the Eastman Examiner asked about changes in property values and how they would affect tax revenues for the county. He said he received the question from a reader inquiry to his website.

Adjourn

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Watkins. All voted in favor of the motion and the meeting was adjourned.