

Minutes

Dodge County Board of Commissioners

May 06, 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, May 06, 2013, in Suite 101 of the Dodge County Courthouse Annex.

Chairman Dan McCranie called the meeting to order and said he had a request to change the agenda as the first order of business. He said Commissioner Watkins had an awards banquet at 7:00 and asked to move the Executive Session to Old Business. Frank Walthall had requested to address the board before the executive session and the board would hear him as A. under Old business. The board would continue with B. Recycle Program and forward after the executive session. A motion was made by Commissioner Terry Niblett to make the changes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Karen Cheek. The vote was unanimous to amend the agenda. Chairman McCranie led those in attendance in the pledge to the American flag. Commissioner Karen Cheek gave a devotional based on Titus 3: 3-7 entitled "Pure Grace" followed by prayer.

Elected Officials/ Department Heads:

Sheriff Lynn Sheffield was recognized and reported that roof repairs were being addressed at the new jail and he was ready to move forward with the hiring of additional jailers. He said the leak was extensive and in several different areas of the jail including the booking area, sally port, and around the sky light. Commissioner Karen Cheek asked for a time line for the opening of the new jail and he replied the middle of June.

Approval of Minutes:

A. Regular Meeting April 15, 2013

Chairman McCranie called for any additions, corrections or deletions to the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 15, 2013 presented in printed form. Commissioner Terry Niblett

made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner William Howell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

B. Called Meeting April 30, 2013

Chairman McCranie asked if there were any deletions, corrections, or additions to the minutes of the April 30, 2013 called meeting. Commissioner Terry Niblett made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Karen Cheek seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

Old Business;

A. Frank Walthall

Frank Walthall stated he owned property on Lower River Road in Dodge County and his contact number is 478-781-3740. He said he appreciated the opportunity to address the board with information to take into executive session. He said he attended the bid opening at the Airport Authority meeting earlier in the day and he was the only bidder and he had given them a deposit check and contract on the purchase of the property. He said it was an interesting scenario since the property was in the flood plain and he asked the county's intentions if they decided to purchase the property. Chairman McCranie replied that the county was interested in developing the property for wet land credits. Mr. Walthall asked if there were any other projects the county was considering to which Chairman McCranie replied that would be up to the Board of Commissioners and they were trying to think ahead for the future.

Mr. Walthall said it wasn't the purpose of government to make speculative purchases. He said the purchase price of his contract was above the appraisal per acre price. He said it is adjacent to property he already owns, is land locked and not readily accessible. He said the property is currently off the county tax role and will go back to the tax role if he buys it and will increase tax revenue for the county. He then asked about how the county was going to budget the purchase price of the property. County Attorney Harrington cautioned the board members not to comment on what may have been discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Walthall reiterated that the parcel completes property he already owns and there were no other bids for the property. He said I'm paying way over market value and sometime you pay more for a smaller tract than a larger tract. He said he was an adjoining property owner and in his eyes anyone would be crazy to pay what he is paying.

Chairman McCranie then announced the meeting was suspended for Executive Session to discuss land acquisition and legal matters. Commissioner Terry Niblett made a motion to move into Executive Session seconded by Commissioner Brian Watkins. The vote was unanimous to move into Executive Session.

Return from executive session, Brian Watkins left the meeting.

B. Recycle Program

Commissioner Terry Niblett said there would be some low expenses for education and containers for implementation of the single stream recycling in Dodge County. He made a motion to set a start date of August 19, 2013, for the recycling program enabling the school system to apply for grants and time to paint and decal existing dumpsters. Commissioner William Howell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the motion.

C. Appointment to Regional Planning Board DBHDD

Commissioner Karen Cheek nominated Dana T. Brown, counselor at South Dodge Elementary School to the Regional Planning Board DBHDD. Commissioner Terry Niblett made a motion to close nominations seconded by William Howell. The vote was unanimous to close the nominations. The motion to appoint Dana Brown was made by William Howell and seconded by Terry Niblett. All voted in favor and motion passed unanimously.

D. ACCG Worker Comp Elected Officials

County Manager Bobby Peacock informed the board the premium to add elected officials to the county's worker compensation policy would be approximately \$13,000 to \$14,000 annually. They are presently not covered. Commissioner Karen Cheek asked if the premium would come from the general fund. Commissioner Terry Niblett made a motion to table. Commissioner William Howell seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

E. Public Comments policy

Commissioner Terry Niblett made a motion to adopt the Public Comments policy presented to the board in printed form. Commissioner William Howell seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

F. Jail Update

The jail update was addressed by the Sheriff under Elected Officials/ Department Heads.

New Business:

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Karen Cheek asked if check #12490 to WEX Bank for \$6,526.97 was a new fuel vendor. The answer was no, the Wright Express changed to WEX Bank. Commissioner Terry Niblett asked if check 12453 & check 12450 was a duplicate. The county manager answered no. Commissioner William Howell asked if check 12467 to Oconee Drug Task Force was a pass through and the county manager answered yes it was for confiscated property in Laurens County. Commissioner Terry Niblett commented that check 12414 for \$8,534.60 to maintain and monitor

the landfill was very expensive even though it was no longer open. He then made a motion to approve the accounts payable list. Commissioner William Howell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the list.

B. Jimmy Lowery

It was determined that Mr. Lowery was not present.

C. SPLOST Referendum

Commissioner Karen Cheek said she had nothing to present at this time.

D. DFACS Appointment

Chairman McCranie asked the board to refer to their copy of a letter from DFACS asking to reappoint Danny Warren as a DFACS board member. Commissioner Terry Niblett made a motion to table seconded by Commissioner William Howell. The vote was unanimous to table the appointment.

Commissioner Reports:

None

County Manager Report:

Bobby Peacock said Mr. Hickman came to his office last Friday with a warranty deed from the Board of Commissioners to the Development Authority and from the Development Authority to the Animal Shelter. He asked the county to take action on the matter. County Attorney Harrington said they were allowed 1 ½ years to get something going and if not it would go back to the county. Peacock said the original deed was dated March 2011. Attorney Harrington said they had wanted to change the location because it was too wet. Chairman McCranie said those problems could be addressed through water and sewage and donation of equipment to fill a hole. Chairman McCranie asked if the board needed to approve another deed and the response was yes. Chairman McCranie made a motion to approve the deed with the original conditions. Commissioner Terry Niblett seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous and the motion was approved.

Public Comments:

A representative of the Airport Authority said they were anxious to hear the county's response on the Right of First Refusal to purchase the river property.

Faye Jessup asked about the procedure to come out of executive session.

Adjourn:

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

Signed:

Nancy Gail Rogers, Clerk

Approved:

Dan McCranie, Chairman
Dodge County Board of Commissioners