

## **Minutes**

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

**May 18, 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, May 18, 2015, in Suite 101 of the Dodge County Courthouse Annex.

Chairman McCranie called the meeting to order and asked that the agenda be amended to include an Executive Session at the request of the county attorney to discuss legal matters. He noted the Executive Session would follow the Public Comments on the agenda. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve the change in agenda seconded by Commissioner Watkins. All voted in favor of the addition. Chairman McCranie then led those assembled in the pledge to the American flag. Commissioner Cheek gave a devotional and Commissioner Watkins led in prayer.

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

Mrs. Anne Bowen, director of the local library was recognized as being present by Chairman McCranie and Commissioner Niblett asked her to give an update on the building owned by the library and occupied by the Department of Labor. She said she had been told that possibly within thirty to forty-five days a new roof would be put on the building. She said the Georgia Public Libraries would pay \$15,000 toward the roof. She also informed the board that the building occupied by Mercer University will soon be vacant as the university has decided to close the Eastman campus on July 31, 2015. She said the loss of rent totaling \$27,000 annually would add to the budget deficit of the library. When asked the reason for closing the Eastman campus, she said it was attendance.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

A. May 4, 2015 Regular Meeting

Chairman McCranie asked for any additions, corrections, or deletions to the minutes of the regular meeting held on May 4, 2015, and presented to the board in printed form. Commissioner

Howell made a motion to approve seconded by Commissioner Niblett. All voted in favor of the motion to approve.

### **Old Business**

#### A. Air Evac Contract

County Attorney Harrington said the contract was approved previously but he wanted clarification and was put in contact with the direct legal counsel for the hospital. He had spoken with the General Counsel and he agreed to add Dodge County as loss payee. He said the county would be responsible for keeping the grass cut and County Manager Peacock agreed.

### **New Business**

#### A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Chairman McCranie asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the Accounts Payable checklist also presented to board members in printed form. Chairman Howell made a motion to approve seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The vote was unanimous to approve. County Manager Peacock commented on the new format for the checklist and said the totals were correct.

#### B. Hospital Board Appointments

Attorney Harrington once again explained the procedure for nominations to reappoint three seated members of the Dodge County Hospital Authority as well as the vacancy of the seat held by Dr. Milner. He said Georgia Law allows them to stay until replaced. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to reappoint the three sitting members of the authority. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cheek and the vote was in favor of the motion. Commissioner Niblett then asked counsel if the Board of Commissioners could request a list of nominees from the hospital board and the response was to ask before their meeting on the last Tuesday of May. Commissioner Niblett said he would make the request in the form of a motion and Commissioner Howell seconded the motion. All voted in favor of making the request.

#### C. E & O Coverage

County Manager Peacock said he had been asked by various boards and authorities to be covered under the county's E & O policy. He said he had requested an opinion from ACCG and would like for the county attorney to comment on the response. Attorney Harrington said the opinion from ACCG suggests that anyone appointed on a voluntary basis would be covered in Excess Coverage unless insured by the authority. If the authority has insurance coverage, that would be first. Commissioner Watkins made a motion for the attorney to draft a letter to the insurance carrier for clarification seconded by Commissioner Niblett. All voted in favor of the motion.

#### D. Sequita Whitehead

Sequita Whitehead was not present.

### **Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Niblett thanked Mrs. Anne Bowen of the local library for her hard work to get funding for the roof of the building owned by the library and occupied by the Department of Labor. He also thanked Representative Jimmy Pruett for his diligent work to secure the funding. Commissioner Watkins asked if any action was needed from the board for the remaining balance. Mrs. Bowen said there would be no cost for the labor and the cost of materials would require a fifty percent (50%) local match with a limit of \$15,000 max.

Chairman McCranie encouraged attendance at the Memorial Day Service to be held on Monday, May 25 at 11:00 a.m. General James Livingston will be the speaker for the ceremony. He said General Livingston is a Purple Heart recipient and native of neighboring Telfair County.

### **County Manager Report**

The county manager asked that two members of the board be appointed to a committee to renew the medical insurance coverage for employees. Commissioners Howell and Cheek agreed to serve on the committee. There were no questions for the county manager.

### **Public Comments**

Carolyn Hilburn of 408 Troy Road asked for help with problem dogs in her area and for signs to slow traffic for children playing.

Mrs. Anne Bowen reminded the board that the local library had already cut sixteen (16) hours from their open schedule and there was a state stipulation that if they were not open enough hours their status would change from a library to a service outlet.

### **Executive Session**

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

### **Return to Regular Session**

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

### **Adjourn**

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