

Minutes

Dodge County Board of Commissioners

June 3, 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, June 3, 2013, in Suite 101 of the Dodge County Courthouse Annex.

Chairman Dan McCranie called the meeting to order and the first order of business was to amend the agenda. He asked that Sheriff Lynn Sheffield be added to Department Heads/ Elected Officials as Item A. and Kevin Bierschenk be moved to Item B. He also asked for ACCG Group Health Insurance to be added under Old Business as Item F. Commissioner William Howell made a motion to amend the agenda as requested. Commissioner Terry Niblett seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and it passed unanimously. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Karen Cheek gave a devotional and Commissioner William Howell gave the prayer.

Elected Officials/ Department Heads

A. Sheriff Lynn Sheffield gave information to the board members from Synergistic Solutions and said he would be requesting a demonstration of their products at the new jail. Commissioner Karen Cheek asked if he had talked with Cary Reno and if he could bring information back to the Board of Commissioners within one to two weeks. The Sheriff's reply was he had not talked with Reno yet but would imagine that would be possible. County Manager Peacock asked for a jail update and the Sheriff reported there were no new leaks and the construction company was checking on the old leaks. Commissioner Cheek then asked if he had a date for the opening and was new hiring completed. The Sheriff said he had 12-13 new employees in place, not hired yet. Commissioner Cheek asked about certification for the new employees and the sheriff said they would have up to six months to complete certification after being hired.

B. Kevin Bierschenk, Dodge County Hospital CEO gave a report to the board on the hospital which is the county's largest employer based on payroll. He said the impact from the economy and the Affordable Care Act referred to as Obamacare could result in a \$9 million loss between 2013 and 2021. He gave the board members a three year analysis of revenues along with changes to Medicare and other programs directly affecting hospitals. He said the hospital would continue to need the funds from SPLOST going forward with the hospital remaining a Tier 1 project. He said appointment of hospital authority board members was a requirement. He answered questions from the commissioners concerning admissions, ER visits, and profitability of services.

Approval of Minutes:

A. Regular Meeting May 20, 2013

Chairman McCranie called for additions, corrections, or deletions to the minutes of the regular meeting held on May 20, 2013. Commissioner William Howell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented seconded by Commissioner Terry Niblett. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

B. Called Meeting May 28, 2013

Chairman McCranie called for additions, corrections, or deletions to the minutes of the called meeting held on May 28, 2013. Commissioner Brian Watkins made a motion to approve the minutes as presented seconded by Commissioner William Howell. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

Old Business:

A. Jail Update

The jail update was addressed earlier in the meeting by Sheriff Lynn Sheffield.

B. Sheriff Department Software

Commissioner Brian Watkins made a motion to table the purchase of software for the Sheriff Department. Commissioner Terry Niblett seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

C. Appointments

Chairman McCranie asked for appointments to the Dodge County Hospital Authority. Commissioner William Howell made a motion to reappoint Dr. Blake Milner. Commissioner Terry Niblett seconded the motion. Commissioners Howell, Niblett, and Watkins voted in favor of the motion, Commissioner Karen Cheek voted no. Commissioner Terry Niblett made a motion to reappoint Cecil Barden. Commissioner William Howell seconded the motion. Commissioners Howell, Niblett, and Watkins voted in favor of the motion, Commissioner Karen Cheek voted

no. Commissioner Karen Cheek nominated Jan Jones for appointment to the Dodge County Hospital Authority. Commissioner Terry Niblett seconded the motion. County Attorney Harrington added as technical matter a motion would be needed to close nominations. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to close nominations seconded by Brian Watkins. A motion was made by Commissioner Howell and seconded by Commissioner Niblett to accept the nomination by unanimous consent. Chairman McCranie then asked for nominations for the other appointments. Commissioner Cheek nominated Danny Pickett to replace Dr. Milner. Commissioner William Howell made a motion to reopen nominations seconded by Karen Cheek. Commissioner Howell nominated Dr. Milner. Commissioner Watkins seconded the nomination. Commissioner Cheek nominated Danny Pickett seconded by Commissioner Niblett. Commissioner Howell made a motion to close nominations seconded by Karen Cheek. Commissioners Howell and Watkins voted in favor of Dr. Milner and Commissioners Niblett and Cheek voted in favor of Pickett. Chairman McCranie voted in favor of Dr. Milner making him the appointee.

Next the commissioners addressed appointments to the Heart of Georgia Regional Council on Aging whose terms expire June 30, 2013. Commissioner William Howell made a motion to reappoint Calvin Yawn and Printis Thomas. Commissioner Terry Niblett seconded the motion. Commissioner Howell made a motion to close nominations seconded by Commissioner Cheek. All voted in favor of closing nominations. Commissioner Howell made a motion to reappoint the nominees. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous for the reappointments.

D. SPLOST Referendum

Commissioner Cheek reported she had met with the county attorney and the SPLOST election would need to be held the second Tuesday in November of 2013. She made a motion for the county manager to notify the cities by letter of an open meeting to be held Thursday, June 13, 2013, at 6p.m. and they should be ready to present any projects to be funded by SPLOST at that meeting. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion. Chairman McCranie called for discussion and Commissioner Watkins asked if the other entities receiving SPLOST funds such as the hospital, recreation department, and rural fire departments should attend. The county attorney replied that notification is required to just qualified municipalities but they would be welcome to attend the meeting. All voted in favor of the motion and it passed unanimously.

E. Board Policy on Public Comments

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to amend the policy approved by the board May 6, 2013 regarding Public Comments by adding bullet points 8 and 9 as follows:

8. Open records requests must be made in writing and during normal business hours, not during a board meeting.

9. At the Chairman's discretion, public comments will be allowed for persons from the audience to speak once per meeting for a maximum of five (5) minutes.

Commissioner Howell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the motion.

F. Group Health Insurance

Commissioner Cheek reported to the board that solicitation of bids for the group health insurance had been advertised as well as inquiries to different companies such as Cigna, Core Management, Aetna, and Blue Cross Blue Shield through ACCG. She said due to only sixty-seven (67) employees participating in the group plan only two options were submitted from Blue Cross Blue Shield through ACCG with 3.9% & 9.5% increased cost to the county and employee. She said an employee meeting was held and only ten employees attended the meeting. She said the deductible for the plans would remain at \$1,500 with a \$500 reimbursement from the county when the deductible was met. She made a motion to accept Plan 20AP58 with an annual \$1500 deductible. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion after clarification about when reimbursement of the deductible occurs. The vote was unanimous to approve the motion.

New Business:

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Niblett asked which office check number 12638 for postage was for and the county manager replied the Registrar and Tax Assessors offices. Commissioner Cheek asked about check number 12630 to Lewis Steelworks in the amount of \$2,620 for the landfill and the response was replacement bottoms for the dumpsters to prolong the life of the dumpsters which was much cheaper than replacing an entire dumpster. Commissioner Niblett asked about check number 12626 in the amount of \$3000 for 2012 audit fee installment and the status of the audit. County Manager Peacock replied that he had begun work and had requested documents and information. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the accounts payable with Commissioner Watkins seconding the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve.

B. Wayne Cartwright – Woodmen of the World Insurance

Wayne Carwright, Woodment of the World Insurance agent, gave the commissioners a handout on a new group whole life product being offered through payroll deduction. Commissioner Cheek asked if employees could sign up individually and Cartwright replied they only needed to complete the application, no health questions were asked, and the product was portable upon termination. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to table and put on agenda at the next meeting. Commissioner Terry Niblett seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to table until the next meeting.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Terry Niblett publicly thanked Cindy Eckles and the Dodge County News for reprinting his article. He announced a Forward Dodge meeting on Thursday, June 6, 2013, from 8:30 – 10:00 am at the Chamber of Commerce building.

Commissioner Dan McCranie said he had received certification from the DNR that the old jail had been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

County Manager Report:

County Manager Peacock said he had received notification from the Ocmulgee River Water Trail Partnership asking all counties that border the river from Macon to the Altamaha River to appoint two persons who are non-elected officials to serve as voting board members and two persons who are non-elected officials to serve as alternates. Commissioner William Howell made a motion to table the appointments until the next meeting. Commissioner Terry Niblett seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to table the appointments.

Public Comments:

Cindy Eckles of the Dodge County News asked questions about open records requests submitted in February and April. The County Manager responded and there was discussion about letters written by the county attorney to Representative Jimmy Pruett concerning a sole commissioner referendum and non-partisan elections referendum. Commissioner Terry Niblett made a motion to instruct the county attorney to deliver copies requested in the interest of openness. Commissioner Karen Cheek seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

Chairman McCranie then allowed unscheduled comments from the audience.

John Clements of the HOG Regional Airport Authority stated the authority had placed two five hundred gallon tankers at the fire departments in the north and south end of the county.

William Steele thanked the commissioners for restoring the rights of the people who attend the meetings to make comments and ask questions.

Adjourn:

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