

Minutes

Dodge County Board of Commissioners

June 6, 2016

Present: Dan McCranie, Chairman
William T. Howell, Vice-Chairman and 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, June 6, 2016, in Suite 101 of the Dodge County Courthouse Annex. Chairman McCranie called the meeting to order and asked for the agenda to be amended to include an Executive Session to discuss legal matters after the Public Comments section of the meeting. Commissioner Howell made a motion to make the change to the agenda seconded by Commissioners Niblett and Cheek. All voted in favor of the motion. After the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag, both the devotional and prayer were given by Commissioner Cheek.

Elected Officials/ Department Heads

Charles Williams representing the Eastman Dodge Chamber of Commerce presented a check to County Manager Peacock for two months rent on the spec building. He then made a request for the board to consider a name change for the National Guard Armory building now owned by the county. He said the building was being repurposed for public safety and asked it bear the name of an outstanding individual who was the county agent as well as a member of the National Guard. He asked the board to vote that the building be changed to the Carter Martin Public Safety Building. Commissioner Howell made a motion to rename the building as such with Commissioner Niblett seconding his motion. The vote was unanimous for the name change.

Next Williams asked the board to consider funding a tax millage increase for the local development authority. He cited other counties in our area such as Laurens, Toombs and Coffee who fund their development authorities in this manner. County Attorney Harrington added that any changes to the millage rate would require the three (3) public meetings.

EMA Director Stanley Stephens was recognized as present but had no comment.

Approval of Minutes

A. May 16, 2016 Regular Meeting

Chairman McCranie asked for any additions, corrections, or deletions to minutes of the regular meeting held on May 16, 2016 prepared in printed form for review by the board members.

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve with the second coming from Commissioners Howell and Watkins. All voted in favor of approval.

B. May 31, 2016 Called Meeting

Next Chairman McCranie asked the board to review the printed copies of the called meeting held on May 31, 2016 for any additions, corrections, or deletions. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve and Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve.

Old Business

A. Policy on County Roads

The county attorney questioned the board on their previous discussion regarding third parties and roads. He said it was his understanding that the board wanted a more fluid policy and not a hard and set policy that would detract from the authority of the road manager and the county manager with regard to the management of day to day events. Chairman McCranie asked him to continue with that in mind.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

The chairman asked if there were any questions from the board with regard to the Accounts Payable checklist. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve the checklist. Commissioner Niblett seconded his motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.

B. Allen Mazza – Faithful Hearts Animal Shelter

Mr. Mazza gave handouts to the board with information on the non-profit agency, background on their progress and projected costs for operation of the facility along with comparison from other counties. Commissioner Cheek asked if there were any grants available and Mazza replied no but monies were being raised through fundraisers and memberships. Commissioner Watkins added that animal control was too expensive for the county. Commissioner Cheek asked if the City of Eastman would help and County Manager Peacock asked how much funding they were asking for. Commissioner Cheek made a motion to have the county manager look into what might be available. Commissioner Howell made the second and all voted in the affirmative.

C. Revolving Loan Fund Report

County Manager Peacock told the board that County Auditor Frank Erwin had asked for the past due loans with the Revolving Loan Fund to be charged off and he would like the matter referred to John Harrington to look into the issues with bankruptcy of the businesses. Harrington replied that it was an accounting function to charge off the loans. He said the loans could be charged off and if there was any recovery made it could be accepted and accounting adjusted accordingly.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Watkins reported for Sharon Flanagan that the Dodge County Farmer's Market continued to be well attended by vendors and customers and that the EBT machines were in with good sales.

Commissioner Niblett reported he attended the Memorial Day Service and asked that everyone make it a priority to attend next year.

County Manager Report

The county manager had nothing to report and there were no questions.

Public Comments

Susan Coffee said she did not understand the policy on county roads and commented on the Faithful Hearts Animal Shelter.

Billy Steele said he was a member of the Faithful Hearts Animal Shelter and asked the board to seriously consider appropriating money for its operation. He also commended the board on their vote to change the name of the National Guard Armory to the Carter Martin Public Safety Building.

Executive Session

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to move into Executive Session. Commissioner Cheek made the second and all voted in favor of the motion.

Return to Regular Meeting

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to end the Executive Session and return to the regular meeting. Commissioner Cheek made the second and the motion was approved.

Adjourn

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner Howell making the second. The vote was unanimous to adjourn.