

## **Minutes**

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

#### **Called Meeting**

**July 10, 2014**

**Present:** Dan McCranie, Chairman  
William T. Howell, Jr., Vice-Chairman, District 1 Commissioner  
Brian Watkins, District 3 Commissioner  
Karen Cheek, District 4 Commissioner

**Also Present:** Bobby Peacock, County Manager  
Nancy Gail Rogers, County Clerk

**Absent:** Terry Niblett, District 2 Commissioner

A called meeting of the Dodge County Board of Commissioners was held at 1:00 PM on Thursday, July 10, 2014, in Suite 101 of the Dodge County Courthouse Annex. Chairman McCranie called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. Commissioner Watkins gave the prayer.

#### **Business**

##### **A. Millage Rate for 2014**

Chairman McCranie stated the purpose of the meeting was to set a proposed millage rate for 2014 in order for the digest to be ready at the end of the month. Commissioner Cheek asked how much each mill would cost the property owner. The county manager replied approximately \$39 per \$100,000 value. Commissioner Cheek then asked when was the last increase. Commissioner Howell said he had served as a board member since 2004 and in that ten year period only once was it increased one half (½) mill for the hospital and it was rolled back the following year. The county manager said he had checked and every county surrounding Dodge except Laurens is at 13 mills or more. He stated the millage for last year was 10.06 mills. Commissioner Watkins stated much progress had been made in the last four years to balance the budget. He said the new jail opening expense with no boarders and projected inmate housing revenue shortfall had caused an estimated budget shortfall of \$500,000. Chairman McCranie said with the balanced budget services had been cut and now we were facing a deficit situation. The county manager said that an increase in millage would require three public hearing meetings and at those meetings the proposed rate can be lowered but could not be raised. Commissioner Cheek made a motion to set the proposed millage rate for 2014 at 12.064 with an increase of 2 mills. She said she felt there was no other option and it was needed to maintain the integrity of the budget. Commissioner Watkins said that the board had no control over this part of the budget referring to the jail

expense and he seconded the motion. Commissioners Howell, Watkins, and Cheek voted in favor of the motion. The next order of business was to set the three required hearings for a property tax increase. The county manager said the meetings would be advertised in the July 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the Dodge County News with meetings scheduled for July 23, 2014 at 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM and July 30, 2014 at 6:00 PM.

#### B. Ambulances

With regard to the proposal made at the July 7, 2014 regular meeting to purchase two new ambulances, Commissioner Howell told the board members he had spoken with Terry Cobb, EMS Director for Laurens County. He said Laurens County presently has fourteen (14) ambulances and Cobb believed the Chevrolet models to perform best. He also said that Laurens County sells their ambulances when they reach 150,000 miles and get \$.30 on the dollar in return and use that toward a new one. He also made the suggestion that we look into purchasing a used ambulance from them when they have one available. Commissioner Howell made a motion to purchase two Chevrolet model ambulances from EV Sales at a purchase price of \$125,267. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. The county manager said he would get the lease purchase in place.

#### **Adjourn**

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