

Minutes

Dodge County Board of Commissioners

August 1, 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 for a regular monthly meeting on August 1, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. in Suite 102 of the Dodge County Courthouse Annex. Chairman McCranie called the meeting to order and led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. Commissioner Cheek gave a devotional and prayed. Chairman McCranie asked for a motion to amend the agenda for addition of New Business Item B. Set Proposed Millage Rate and to add an Executive Session for Legal Matters after the Public Comments. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to amend the agenda as stated and Commissioner Watkins made the second. All voted in favor of the amended agenda.

Elected Officials/ Department Heads

A. Sharon Cobb Flanagan – Dodge County Farmers Market

Sharon Cobb Flanagan reported statistics for the past two weeks for the Dodge County Farmers Market showing there had been a decline in attendance of both vendors and customers and citing the hot weather and tax free weekend along with health issues for some of the vendors as some of the factors. Flanagan also asked the board to consider funding the market when planning for the upcoming year.

B. Charles Williams – Eastman Dodge County Chamber of Commerce

Williams reported to the board that the recent trip to Douglas and Coffee County was very successful as well as information for those attending. He told the board that a meeting for will be held at the Chamber on Wednesday at 11 a.m. with lunch following the meeting. He also said that the feasibility study had shown that the central portion of Georgia had little or no fiber optic service and with the installation of dark cable it would be available to all home in the service area. He said a contribution of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) had been received from all counties in the study except Dodge. Chairman McCranie said that when the study began over three years ago the board was told it was free. Commissioner Niblett asked “Did anyone agree to put in two

thousand dollars (\$2,000) from Dodge County?” Williams said that having fiber optic availability would be as important as having water in the next few years. Chairman McCranie asked about the GRAD site visit to Laurens County and Williams said it would be next week.

Approval of Minutes

A. July 18, 2016 Regular Meeting

Chairman McCranie asked the board members to review their printed copies of the minutes of the last regular meeting for any additions, deletions or corrections. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the minutes with Commissioner Howell making the second. The vote was unanimous to approve as presented.

Old Business

A. Board of Assessors Appointment

Chairman McCranie asked for nominations for the appointment to the Board of Assessors. Commissioner Niblett nominated Cindy Eckles with William Howell making the second. Commissioner Cheek nominated Faye Jessup with Brian Watkins making the second to her nomination. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to close nominations. A vote was called with Commissioners Niblett and Howell voting for Eckles and Commissioners Cheek and Watkins voting for Jessup resulting in a tie. Commissioner Watkins asked if the nominations were for both vacant seats and legal counsel suggested that the appointments be made one seat at a time. Chairman McCranie reopened the nominations for the unexpired term of Marvin Giddens. Commissioner Niblett nominated Cindy Eckles and Commissioner Howell seconded his nomination. Commissioner Cheek nominated Faye Jessup. Commissioner Watkins seconded the nomination of Jessup. Chairman McCranie called for a vote for Eckles and Commissioners Niblett, Howell and Watkins voted yes. Chairman McCranie asked for a vote for Jessup and Commissioner Cheek voted for Jessup. Eckles was declared the appointee. Next Chairman McCranie addressed the board vacancy for Larry Melvin. Commissioner Niblett moved to table the appointment for Melvin’s seat on the board until the next meeting. Commissioner Watkins seconded his motion and all voted affirmative.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Chairman McCranie asked for questions or comments concerning the Account Payable checklist presented to the board in printed form. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the list of payments and Commissioner Howell made the second. The vote was unanimous to approve.

B. Proposed millage rate

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to set the proposed millage rate at the current level of 11.556. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion with none opposed.

Commissioner Reports

There were no reports from the board.

County Manager Report

County Manager Peacock asked the board for permission to advertise for sealed bids for the 2007 Dodge Charger formerly used by the Magistrate Constable. Commissioner Howell made to motion to advertise for sealed bids for the sale of the vehicle. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion and all voted in favor. There were no questions for the county manager.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Executive Session

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters. Commissioner Howell made the second all voted yes.

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to return to the regular meeting at the close of the Executive Session. Commissioner Howell made the second and all voted in favor of resuming the regular meeting.

Adjourn

Commissioner Howell made a motion to adjourn with a second from Watkins and Niblett. The vote was unanimous to adjourn.