

## **Minutes**

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

**September 4, 2012**

**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 Tuesday, September 4, 2012, in Suite 101 of the Dodge County Courthouse Annex.

Chairman Dan McCranie called the meeting to order. He stated the agenda would need to be amended to add an executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel and legal matters. He made a motion to add the executive session to the agenda following public comments. Terry Niblett seconded the motion, vote was unanimous and motion carried. The meeting then began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a devotional by Commissioner Karen Cheek and prayer by Commissioner Terry Niblett.

#### **Elected Officials & Department Heads:**

Recreation Director Bodie Gray was recognized. He reported that work on the recreation complex had begun with laying block for the building and bathrooms.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Terry Niblett to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2012, regular meeting as presented. William Howell seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous and the minutes were approved.

#### **Old Business:**

A. Council on Aging Appointment

Commissioner William Howell nominated Calvin Yawn be appointed by the Board of Commissioners to the Council on Aging. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Terry Niblett. There were no other nominations, vote was unanimous and motion carried.

#### B. MPI Fiber Networks

Chairman Dan McCranie reported an update is expected within the next week or two.

#### C. Audit Report

Commissioner Terry Niblett made a motion to approve the amended audit with corrections. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Karen Cheek. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

### **New Business:**

#### A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Karen Cheek commented on the expense of housing inmates during July. She said that monies paid out to other facilities during June and July would have been enough to hire six people at a salary of \$1,800 per month and she believed opening the new jail needs to be top priority and create jobs for Dodge County. Terry Niblett made a motion to approve the accounts payable check list. Brian Watkins seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and motion carried.

#### B. Stanley Stephens – EMA

EMA Director Stanley Stephens informed the board members that a grant awarded to the county for a Mass Alert System was about to expire. The Mass Alert System would cover the entire county and is a software driven program for land line and cell phones. The total cost is \$16,824 with FEMA funding 75%, State funding 10%, and the local (county) portion at 15%. Currently 134 counties are participating in the program. The county will be reimbursed after installation of the system usually 45 to 90 days after completion. The grant has a three year waiver and after one year can opt out with thirty (30) days notice. Terry Niblett made a motion to approve the request conditional on the opt out clause being added. Karen Cheek seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous and motion carried.

#### C. Wilcox E-911

County Manager Bobby Peacock reported on a meeting with the County Manager and two members of the Wilcox County Board of Commissioners. They have proposed for the Dodge County E-911 to handle all calls and they will pay for the trunk line and all local expenses. They have paid \$30,000 but are still two quarters behind. Bobby Peacock stated that the revenue helps Dodge County and this was a good deal for all. County Attorney, John Harrington, agreed to modify the contract.

### **County Manager Report:**

Bobby Peacock reported that he had talked with Mark Studstill and the grinder will be shipped September 14, 2012, and he should have it installed by October 1, 2012 if nothing happens.

### **Public Comments:**

Faye Jessup commented on the EMA request and made the suggestion that the City of Eastman and surrounding towns contribute toward the weather alert system. She said she thought it was worthwhile and the expense should be divided among all the participants.

Susan Coffee asked if any of the phone numbers would be sold from the EMA listing.

Glenn Harrell asked if there had been an inventory done on county equipment and county property. Terry Niblett responded that an inventory had not been assigned to any commissioner. He said the county manager had checked on all county vehicles for the ACCG insurance policy. Bobby Peacock replied that an inventory could be done on major equipment and purchases by the county.

Charles Dennis stated that he agreed with Commissioner Karen Cheek's comments about the jail opening. He suggested that with the grinder installation projected for October 1, 2012, that training should start for the new positions.

Kenneth Williamson asked if there had been any reaction by the Airport Authority Board to the letter from the Board of Commissioners and if there had been any progress on the PA system. Bobby Peacock replied that he had received a second bid on the PA system and would be circulating the bids to the Board of Commissioners.

Billy Steele asked about the ability to work harmoniously with the personnel and council members of the City of Eastman during the LOST negotiations process. Chairman Dan McCranie replied that the Board of Commissioners is doing the best they can for Dodge County.

Robert Rooks thanked Karen Cheek for her comments on the costs of housing inmates.

### **Executive Session:**

Dan McCranie made a motion to go into executive session. Terry Niblett seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous and motion carried. Cindy Eckles of the Dodge County News stated she would like to go on record as protesting the executive session for legal matters because there were no law suits pending and LOST negotiations could be discussed in open session. County

attorney John Harrington said he would like to rebutt her comments because the executive session involves trial strategy.

**Return to Open Session:**

Terry Niblett made a motion to return to open session to conclude the regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Brian Watkins. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

**Adjourn:**

With no further business to discuss, Terry Niblett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Karen Cheek. Vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned.