

Minutes

Dodge County Board of Commissioners

November 7, 2016

Present: Dan McCranie, Chairman
William T. Howell, Jr., Vice-Chairman & District 1 Commissioner
Terry Niblett, District 2 Commissioner
Brian Watkins, District 3 Commissioner

Also Present: John Harrington, County Attorney
Bobby Peacock, County Manager
Nancy Gail Rogers, County Clerk

Absent: Karen Cheek, District 4 Commissioner

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 7, 2016, 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 followed by a prayer from Commissioner Niblett.

Elected Officials/ Department Heads

A. Joe Smith – Dodge County Coroner

Coroner Smith informed the board that Twiggs and Laurens Counties were currently storing bodies for him in their coolers when there was a delay in taking bodies to the crime lab. He said that starting in January 2017 each will charge one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per day. He gave the following statistics for bodies sent to the crime lab:

- 2013 – 10 bodies
- 2014 – 16 bodies
- 2015 – 8 bodies
- 2016 – 15 bodies to date

Commissioner Niblett asked the average wait time and Smith replied it varies from two to five (2-5) days depending on the backlog. He said he had a homicide last Tuesday and was still waiting to take the body. Commissioner Watkins asked where the cooler would be located and Smith replied it would require a cement floor and need to be insulated. Commissioner Watkins also asked if the three (3) drawer would be adequate and Smith said yes. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to purchase the three (3) drawer cooler and also to bypass the policy for bids and use the quote obtained by the coroner. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion and all voted yes.

B. Sharon Cobb Flanagan – DCFM Board Membership

Flanagan told the board that the Eastman City Council had approved the DCFM in their 2017 budget. She said the past Saturday's numbers showed one hundred twenty one (121) people visited the market with thirteen (13) vendors attending and that Christmas trees would be available at the market. She reminded the board that budget information for the market had been provided to them and a decision to hire a market manager in January 2017 would require support from the county. Commissioner Niblett asked if the City of Eastman had agreed to support of \$2,000 and Flanagan replied correct.

C. Charles Williams of the Eastman-Dodge Chamber of Commerce spoke briefly about the Airport VIP last Friday night and the success of the air show and car show.

Approval of Minutes

A. October 17, 2016 Regular Meeting

Chairman McCranie called for any addition, corrections, or deletions to the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 17, 2016. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve and Commissioner Howell made the second. All voted in favor of approving the minutes.

Old Business

A. Mr. Elvin Davis – Roxie Harrell Property

County Attorney Harrington told the board he had received a copy of a letter from Phillip Cadwell of the local health department stating there was a problem with the amount of sewage flow on the land the Davis family was requesting a variance to move an additional mobile home. He said the letter indicates an issue of public health and the Davis' would need additional square footage.

B. Tax Assessor – Appraiser Compensation

Cindy Eckles of the Dodge County News and newly appointed member of the Board of Assessors said the compensation matter was promised by a prior board. Commissioner Howell made a motion to table the matter until the next meeting. Commissioner Niblett seconded his motion and all voted in favor of the motion.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Chairman McCranie asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the checklist of Accounts Payable. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve seconded by Commissioner Niblett and the vote was unanimous to approve.

B. Patrick Sapp

Patrick Sapp addressed the board on the issue of solid waste management for the county. He asked the board to move forward on the matter and Commissioner Niblett offered to share the paper work of proposals submitted and researched previously by the board.

C. Quit Claim Deed – Stuckey Timberland

County Attorney Harrington said the proper procedure would be to abandon the right of way for legal purposes which would require it to be run a legal ad in the newspaper and have a public hearing on the matter. Commissioner McCranie said the road had not been used as a road in any of the board's lifetime. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to use the proper procedure by running the legal ad and setting a meeting. Commissioner Niblett made the second and the vote was passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Niblett reported he had attended an aviation meeting on Jekyll Island and made some good contacts.

County Manager Report

County Manager Peacock said he had received a request from the mayor of Chester to use SPLOST funds to buy turn out gear for the Chester Fire Department. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to grant the request with Commissioner Howell making the second. All voted in favor of the motion.

Peacock also informed the board that EMS Director Rickie Coleman had resigned his position. He said Coleman had done a good job and Jeff Creech had been named the new director.

The county manager also said the culverts on the Chauncey – Milan Road were being repaired and the road would remain closed for approximately two (2) months.

County Manager Peacock presented a request from Travis Niblett of the Recreation Department to replace a pump for one of the irrigation wells at a cost of \$5,000.00 from SPLOST funds. It was determined that the replacement was an emergency and bids would not be required. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve the expenditure with Commissioner Watkins making the second. Commissioner Niblett abstained from the vote with the other board members voting affirmative.

Public Comments

Commissioner Niblett asked that making the Recreation Department an Alcohol Free Zone be put on the next agenda. Commissioner Watkins seconded his request and all voted in favor of the request.

Adjourn

Commissioner Howell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Niblett made the second and the vote was unanimous to adjourn.