

Minutes

Dodge County Board of Commissioners

December 19, 2016

Present: Dan McCranie, Chairman
William T. Howell, Jr., 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 budget work session on Monday, December 19, 2016, at 4:30 p.m. and the regular meeting followed the work session at 6:00 p.m. Chairman McCranie called the meeting to order and asked that the agenda be amended to add Item D. Dodge County Board of Health Consumer Advocate Appointment under New Business. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to amend the agenda as requested seconded by Commissioners Watkins and Howell. All board members voted in favor of the addition. Next Chairman McCranie led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag followed by the devotional by Commissioner Cheek and prayer by Commissioner Watkins.

Elected Officials/ Department Heads

Sharon Cobb Flanagan gave a yearend report for the Dodge County Farmers Market and also reported approval from Wholesome Way of Georgia partnership that doubles the EBT transactions to promote fresh foods. She said the DCFM board is looking for a market manager.

Charles Williams of the Eastman-Dodge County Chamber of Commerce wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Approval of Minutes

A. December 5, 2016 Regular Meeting

Chairman McCranie asked for any additions, corrections, or deletions to the minutes of the December 5, 2016, regular meeting available to each board member in printed form. A motion to approve the minutes came from Commissioner Howell and was seconded by Commissioner Niblett. The vote was unanimous to approve.

Old Business

A. Elvis Davis – Harrell Property

Mr. Davis addressed the board concerning the request for a variance to put a mobile home on the property adjacent to the present home. He submitted reports from Philip Cadwell of the Dodge County Health Department including a Soil Environmental Specialist report completed by Soil Scientist Allen Rigdon of Waycross. Rigdon had made recommendations on the location of a new septic system and drain fields with the new septic tank located at the front of property to meet the required distance from the well water. Commissioner Howell made a motion to allow the variance with the report made a part of the meeting record and the variance. Commissioner Cheek made the second to his motion, vote was taken and the motion passed.

B. Public Defender Contract

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the contract with the public defender's office. Commissioner Watkins seconded his motion and all voted in the affirmative.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Chairman McCranie called for any questions or comments concerning the Accounts Payable checklist presented to the board for approval. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve with the second from Commissioner Howell. All voted in favor of the motion.

B. 2016 Audit

A proposal for the 2016 audit was presented by the county manager recommending Frank Erwin, Certified Public Accountant, at the same fee and conditions as last year. Commissioner Watkins asked if bids needed to be taken and the county manager said that professional services did not require the bid process. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to accept the proposal, the second was made by Commissioner Niblett and the motion passed.

C. Tax Assessor Appointment

Chairman McCranie referred to a letter from Chief Appraiser Dale Jones asking the board to appoint a member to the Board of Assessors for the term beginning January 1, 2017 and expiring December 31, 2019. The position is currently held by Mr. George Watson and it was the recommendation of Mrs. Jones and the Board of Assessors that he be reappointed for another term. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to renew the term of Mr. Watson for three more years. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion and all voted in favor of the motion.

D. Dodge County Board of Health – Consumer Advocate Position Appointment

Chairman McCranie asked the board to consider the request for appointment of the Consumer Advocate position on the Dodge County Board of Health expiring December 31, 2016. The term of the appointment is six (6) years and is currently held by Ms. Mertha Brown. Commissioner

Howell made a motion to reappoint Ms. Mertha Brown seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The vote was taken and the motion passed.

Commissioner Reports

There were no reports from the commissioners.

County Manager Report

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

Public Comments

Alpha Fullwood told the board that he had spoken with Mr. Harrington about property his family had lost through foreclosure and that his mother had been paying taxes on the property for several years and as recent as four (4) weeks ago. He asked that a refund be made to his family. Mr. Harrington told Mr. Fullwood that he would discuss the situation with the board during the executive session and make a report to him after the meeting.

Executive Session

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to move into the executive session. Commissioner Niblett made the second and all voted in favor of the session.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to end the executive session and return to the regular meeting. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion and all voted in the affirmative.

Adjourn

With no other business to come before the board Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to adjourn.