

Minutes

Dodge County Board of Commissioners

February 18, 2019

Present: Dan McCranie, Chairman
William T. Howell, Vice-Chairman & District 1 Commissioner
Terry L. Niblett, District 2 Commissioner
Brian Watkins, District 3 Commissioner
Karen Cheek, District 4 Commissioner

Also Present: John Harrington, County Attorney
Spencer Barron, County Manager
Nancy Gail Rogers, County Clerk

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 18, 2019, in Suite 101 of the Dodge County Courthouse Annex. Chairman McCranie called the meeting to order and led in the pledge to the American flag. Commissioner Cheek gave a devotional and prayed.

Executive Session

Commissioner Howell made a motion to go into executive session to discuss legal matters and property acquisition. Commissioner Niblett made the second and all voted yes to the motion.

At the end of the executive session, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to return to the regular meeting with Commissioner Niblett making the second. All voted in the affirmative.

The county attorney read a motion to adopt the resolution to designate the courtroom of the Courthouse Annex and the courtroom within the Dodge County Law Enforcement Center as locations for non-jury matters during the interim period the courtroom within the Dodge County Courthouse remains unavailable. The motion to make the resolution official was made by Commissioner Howell and seconded by Commissioner Niblett. The vote was taken and the motion passed. Judge Wall stated she will amend the Declaration of Judicial Emergency with the Supreme Court of Georgia and when effective will forward to the local newspaper the amended order.

A second motion to have the county attorney draw up a temporary lease with the Dodge County Eastman Development Authority for control of the former AT&T building with approval of the court system for potential court services with security as well as housing county offices was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Howell. The vote was taken and the motion passed. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to suspend the bid process for

items over two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) for time sensitive purchases up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) to make repairs and get the building up and running. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Watkins and all voted in the affirmative.

Elected Officials/ Department Heads

There were no elected officials or department heads present who wished to address the board.

Approval of Minutes

A. February 4, 2019 Regular Meeting

Chairman McCranie asked for any additions, corrections, or deletions to the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 4, 2019. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Howell made the second. All voted yes and the motion passed.

B. February 6, 2019 Called Meeting

Chairman McCranie asked if there were any additions, corrections or deletions to the minutes of the called meeting held on Wednesday, February 6, 2019. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve as presented, Commissioner Niblett made the second and the motion passed.

C. February 11, 2019 Called Meeting

Chairman McCranie asked if there were any additions, corrections or deletions to the minutes of the called meeting held on Monday, February 11, 2019. Commissioner Niblett made the motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Howell made the second. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Old Business

A. Aging Advisory Committee Appointment

Commissioner Cheek nominated Susan Coffee to serve on the Aging Advisory Committee and Commissioner Niblett seconded her nomination. Commissioner Howell made a motion to close the nominations seconded by Commissioner Watkins. Mrs. Coffee was appointed by unanimous consent.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Chairman McCranie asked the board to review the Accounts Payable listing for any questions or comments. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve the payments and Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Road Department Equipment Purchase

County Manager Barron presented a request from Road Supervisor Richard Harrell to purchase a used backhoe with SPLOST funds from two options: 1) Caterpillar \$72,000.00 and 2) John Deere at \$55,000.00. Commissioner Howell made a motion to purchase the John Deere for \$55,000.00. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

C. EMA Generator – Stanley Stephens

The county manager also presented information from EMA director Stanley Stephens for a joint FEMA/GEMA grant application to purchase a generator for the public safety building. The cost of the generator would be approximately one hundred twenty six thousand dollars (\$126,000.00) and the grant would require a fifteen per cent (15%) match making Dodge County's share \$18,245.00. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to table the matter and Commissioner Niblett made the second. All voted yes and the matter was tabled.

Commissioner Reports

There were no reports from the board.

County Manager Report

County Manager Spencer Barron reported that the county had been put on notice that the city had proposed to annex property at the corner of Congo Lane and Griffin Avenue into the city limits. He said he had also been informed that the National Day of Prayer was May 2, 2019 and plans were being made for observances in Dodge County. He also said that Sharon Cobb Flanagan had asked that the hydrangeas bordering the courthouse be donated to the Dodge County Farmers Market so they could be thinned and put in containers to be sold at the farmer's market.

Public Comments

Debbie Mercer, President of the Eastman Garden Club told the board that her club had partnered with Litter Free Dodge and provided monies for signs placed in the county. She wanted to express the desire of the club to work with the Commissioners on the trash and litter problem.

Connie Jones asked for attention to the pot holes near the dumpsters on Airport Road and asked for extended hours at the dump transfer station that was only open on Saturday until noon.

Jackie Strickland asked the board to change their thinking and priorities when seeking solutions concerning the roads and trash problems. She said since recycling had stopped that she had more trash than ever.

Cindy Eckles of the Dodge County News asked about locations to publish for the offices in the courthouse that were relocating.

Judge Kaufold said that his phone number was rolling over to his new office in Cochran.

Adjourn

Commissioner Howell made a motion to adjourn the meeting as there was no other business.

Commissioner Watkins made the second and the vote was unanimous to adjourn.