

**Minutes**  
**Dodge County Board of Commissioners**  
**January 04, 2021**

**Present:** Dan McCranie, Chairman  
Sharon Cobb Flanagan, District 1 Commissioner  
Terry L. Niblett, District 2 Commissioner  
Brian Watkins, District 3 Commissioner

**Also Present:** John Harrington, County Attorney  
Conner Bearden, County Manager  
Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

**Virtual Attendance:** Karen Cheek, District 4 Commissioner

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting at the Dodge County Pearl Bates Courthouse Annex at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 04, 2021. Immediately after Chairman McCranie called the meeting to order, he addressed the Board to add an item to the Agenda under New Business with Attorney Harrington explaining the Called Meeting on December 28, 2020, needed to be ratified. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the New Business item with Commissioner Niblett seconding. All voted unanimously and the motion passed.

Chairman McCranie led the Pledge of Allegiance, after which Commissioner Cheek gave a devotion entitled *Blessings of God* from Psalm 103:1-8.

**Elected Officials/Department Heads**

**A. Tommy Barrentine – SPLOST Request for Fire Brush Truck**

Fire Chief of Crossroad Fire Department Tommy Barrentine requested SPLOST funds for bidding on a used fire brush truck from GovDeals. (A second bid had expired by the date of the meeting, and another was never formally submitted by the vendor.) Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve a bid of no more than \$13,000 providing the funds were available in Crossroad’s SPLOST account. Commissioner Niblett seconded and all voted unanimously.

**B. Shannon Weston - EMS Update**

Director Shannon Weston reported the new ambulance should arrive by Mid-February if no delays. Also, he reported the following:

- 344 calls in December
- 3,477 calls for entire year in 2020
- 12,361 miles in December
- And approximately \$450 per call.

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. December 21, 2020 - Regular Board Meeting**

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

### **B. December 28, 2020 - Called Meeting**

Attorney Harrington advised the minutes could be approved as read with the ratification taking place under New Business. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the minutes as presented with Commissioner Niblett seconding. All voted in favor.

### **Old Business**

#### **A. Purchase of Machinery for Road Department**

Manager Bearden introduced three bids for a motor grader:

- John Deere 672G Motor Grader with 6WD (new) – \$293,425.56
- 2015 John Deere 672G Motor Grader with 6WD (used) - \$155,000 – Manager Bearden amended this quote to include a blade for ditches in the amount of \$8,000. Amended Total - \$163,000
- Yancey Cat (to refurbish existing equipment) - \$\$252,047

He also introduced bids for a dozer:

- 2015 John Deere 750 K Crawler Dozer (used) - \$115,000 – Manager Bearden informed the Board the dozer had sold by the date of meeting.
- Used John Deere dozer - \$160,000

Manager Bearden recommended purchasing the used dozer for \$160,000 and the used motor grader for \$163,000 totaling \$323,000. He advised Roads and Equipment had available \$1,896,326.14 in the 2013 SPLOST account.

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to purchase the recommended grader and dozer. Commissioner Watkins seconded and all voted unanimously.

### **New Business**

#### **A. Approval of Accounts Payable - \$31,318.88**

Manager Bearden drew attention to an invoice signed by Jesse Burch to the Chauncey Volunteer Fire Department for installation of a sink, cabinet, and hot water heater totaling \$700. The work was completed without prior approval of the expense.

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the accounts payables with the exception of the invoice for the Chauncey FD (until further research into the matter). Commissioner Watkins seconded, and all voted in agreement.

#### **B. Appointments to the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission**

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to appoint Commissioner Watkins to the Regional Commission with Commissioner Flanagan seconding. All voted in favor with the exception of Commissioner Watkins who abstained.

For the second appointment in the business sector, Williams T. Howell, Jr. was nominated by Commissioner Watkins. Commissioner Flanagan motioned to close nominations with Commissioner Watkins seconding. All voted in favor.

#### **C. Elect BOC Vice-Chairman**

Commissioner Watkins nominated Commissioner Niblett as Vice-Chair. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. With no other nominations, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close the

nominations. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. The vote was unanimous to elect Commissioner Niblett as Vice-Chairman.

**D. Appoint County Attorney**

Commissioner Watkins nominated Attorney John Harrington with Commissioner Niblett seconding. With no other nominations, Commissioner Flanagan motioned to close the nominations. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All voted unanimously, and Attorney Harrington was appointed.

**E. Appoint County Manager**

Commissioner Niblett nominated Conner Bearden as County Manager. With no other nominations, Commissioner Watkins motioned to close nominations. Commissioner Niblett seconded; all voted unanimously thereby appointing Bearden as County Manager.

**F. Appoint County Clerk**

Commissioner Cheek nominated Kimberly Parkerson as County Clerk. With all in agreement, Commissioner Niblett moved to close nominations. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor and the appointment was made.

**G. Appoint Count Auditor**

Commissioner Flanagan nominated Frank Erwin as County Auditor. With no other nominations, Commissioner Watkins motioned to close nominations. Commissioner Niblett seconded and all voted unanimously. The appointment was made.

**H. Approval to Solicit 2021 Operating Line of Credit Bids**

Commission Niblett made a motion to approve the solicitation with Commissioner Watkins seconding. All voted in agreement and the motion passed.

**I. Approve 2021 Holiday Schedule**

Manager Bearden requested the addition of Columbus Day to mirror local municipality and state holiday schedules. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the holiday schedule with the addition of Columbus Day. Commissioner Flanagan seconded, and all voted in favor.

**J. Change Meeting Date to Tuesday, January 19, 2021**

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to change the second meeting in January to Tuesday since Monday would be Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. Commissioner Flanagan seconded and all voted in favor. The motion passed.

**K. Ratify December 28, 2020 Called Meeting**

Attorney Harrington addressed the Board explaining special called meetings shouldn't have an amendment to the agenda, and the Board would need to ratify the reappointment of Cindy Eckles to the Board of Assessors. The appointment was an amended item on the December 28 meeting due to Eckles' term ending Dec. 31. Attorney Harrington also noted according to Georgia law, board appointments serve until replacements are seated. Commissioner Watkins

made a motion to ratify the reappointment of Cindy Eckles to the Board of Assessors. Commissioner Niblett seconded and all voted in favor. The motion passed.

**Commissioner Reports**

None presented.

**County Manager Report**

None presented.

**Public Comments**

A request was made for a list of board appointments and virtual attendance instructions.

**Executive Session**

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to enter Executive Session at 6:38 p.m. to discuss legal and personnel. Commissioner Niblett seconded and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to end the Executive Session at 7:19 p.m. with Commissioner Watkins seconding. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Niblett seconded. The vote passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Signed:

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Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Approved:

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Dan McCranie, Chairman