

**Regular Meeting Minutes  
Dodge County Board of Commissioners  
February 1, 2021**

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

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

**Absent:** 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, February 1, 2021. Chairman McCranie led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by prayer from Commissioner Watkins.

**Elected Officials/Department Heads**

**A. Shannon Weston – EMS Update**

The EMS department answered 285 calls and traveled approximately 11,600 miles in January. Weston is planning a community CPR/trauma class.

**B. James Atkins – Chauncey RFD SPLOST Request**

Atkins requested five sets of turnout gear totaling \$8,785.50 and had provided an invoice from NAFECO. Manager Bearden reported \$9,341.23 available in SPLOST funds. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the request with Commissioner Watkins providing the second. All agreed, and the motion passed.

**C. Michael Johnson – Plainfield RFD SPLOST Request**

Johnson wasn't present, but Manager Bearden discussed a quote from Vitco Fire & Safety totaling \$9,460.00 for 22 carbon fiber cylinders. Bearden confirmed \$10,738.23 was available in SPLOST funds. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Flanagan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**D. Manager Conner Bearden – Milan RFD SPLOST Request**

Bearden discussed an invoice from Two-Way Communication for the Milan Rural Fire Department, as detailed:

- 7 LED spotlights - \$875
- 1 LED Streamlight Stinger - \$139
- 4 Motorola Fire Pagers – \$1556

Manager Bearden confirmed \$5,751.23 was available in SPLOST. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the full request totaling \$2,570.00, and Commissioner Niblett seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

**E. Manager Conner Bearden – Recreation Department Playground Equipment**

Bearden spoke on behalf of Rec Director Randy Spivey who had requested new recreation playground equipment. The quote for the equipment and turn-key installation was \$30,078. Bearden had contacted the City of Eastman to split the cost. Also, he had contacted Sheriff Brian Robinson about using Drug Seizure money, if allowable. Commissioner Flanagan moved to table the matter until further information could be provided. Commissioner Watkins seconded and all voted in agreement to table.

### **Approval of Minutes**

#### **A. January 19, 2021 – Work Session**

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

#### **B. January 19, 2021 – Regular Meeting**

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the minutes with Commissioner Watkins seconding. All voted unanimously, and the motion passed.

### **Old Business**

#### **A. Recreation Department Board Appointments**

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to reappoint Kori Peterson to the Recreation Board, with Commissioner Watkins seconding. All voted in favor for Peterson's reappointment. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to appoint Tony Goodman to the Recreation Board. Commissioner Flanagan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **B. Farmer's Market Board Appointments**

With three terms expiring on the Farmer's Market Authority Board, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to reappoint Sharon Cobb Flanagan and Jesse Bearden. Commissioner Niblett seconded. Commissioner Flanagan recused. With no further discussion regarding the reappointments, the motion passed with no objections.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to appoint Lee Lancaster to the Farmer's Market Authority Board. Commissioner Niblett seconded. Commissioner Flanagan recused. With no further discussion, the motion passed with no objections.

### **New Business**

#### **A. Approval of Account Payable - \$232,546.79**

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable list totaling \$232,546.79 with Commissioner Watkins seconding. All agreed and the motion passed.

#### **B. Comprehensive Plan/Service Delivery Strategy (SDS)**

The proposed breakdown of payment for the Regional Commission to update the Comprehensive Plan and Service Delivery Strategy was presented as below:

- Dodge County - \$10,000
- City of Eastman - \$5,000
- City of Chauncey - \$500
- City of Rhine - \$500
- City of Milan - \$500
- City of Chester - \$500

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the payment plan as presented. Commissioner Flanagan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously for payment.

The Board agreed to meet with the stakeholders February 22, 2021, at 6 p.m. before the Regional Commission's meeting the first week in March. Stakeholder considerations were to be given to the County Manager to coordinate the meeting.

### **C. Establish Ordinance Committee**

The Board discussed the nominees of the Ordinance Committee, as below, to review the County's ordinances for codification.

- Commissioner Brian Watkins
- Commissioner Sharon Flanagan
- Magistrate Judge Tom Cranford
- Attorney John P. Harrington
- Manager Conner Bearden
- Code Enforcement Officer Allen Mills
- County Clerk Kimberly Smith-Parkerson

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the nominees; Commissioner Niblett seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **D. Establish Courthouse Architect Selection Committee**

The Board discussed the following nominees for selecting the County Courthouse architect:

- Commissioner Sharon Cobb Flanagan
- Commissioner Terry Niblett
- County Manager Conner Bearden
- City Engineer Jesse Bearden
- Building Inspector Rob Stanley

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the nominees with Commissioner Niblett seconding. All voted unanimously, and the nominees were selected.

### **E. LMIG Designation of Roads Approval**

The LMIG projects for 2021 were presented, as below:

- County Line Road for patching totaling \$53,510.63 in District 3.
- Jaybird/Helena Drive for patching totaling \$25,906.13 in District 3.
- Hightower Road for patching totaling \$10,817.63 in District 3.
- Jay Bird Road for striping totaling \$26,165.83 in District 3.
- Jim Pruet Road for striping totaling \$3,457.95 in District 1.
- Northlake Drive for resurfacing totaling \$88,046.76 in District 1.
- Blackberry Drive for resurfacing totaling \$74,632.41 in District 1.
- Plum Drive for resurfacing totaling \$147,663.30 in District 1.
- Harry Hargrove Road for resurfacing totaling \$243,175.90 in District 4.
- Old Bethel Road for resurfacing totaling \$390,565.17 in District 2.

2021 LMIG Grand Total - \$1,063,941.71

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the LMIG project as presented with Commissioner Watkins seconding. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

### **F. Sheriff's Department Vehicles**

On behalf of Sheriff Brian Robinson, Manager Bearden requested ten 2021 Ford Explorers (AWD) for the Sheriff's Department. The warranty included was a three-year, 36K bumper-to-bumper and five-year, 100K powertrain. No regular maintenance was included. The options for procuring the vehicles was to pay outright or lease for three or five years. The three-year lease totaled \$129,450.43 annually, and the five-year lease totaled \$80,802.48 annually. Manager Bearden indicated the 2021 Sheriff's department budget had an allocation of \$90,000 for automobiles and felt confident with the five-year lease option. For striping and equipment, Bearden suggested using SPLOST funds for the total price of \$11,500.

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the 5-year lease for the 2021 Ford Explorers offsetting the striping and equipment installation with SPLOST funds. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion and requested fire extinguishers be in each vehicle. All voted in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Commissioner Reports**

None were presented.

### **County Manager Report: Conner Bearden**

Manager Bearden announced the unemployment rate was 5.2% for Dodge County, slightly under the State of Georgia which was 5.4%. Resumes for the Fire Safety Coordinator position are being accepted till March 12. School Resource Officer negotiations are still in process with the BOE. A CDBG Public Hearing will be February 3 at 9:00 a.m.

### **Public Comments**

A request was made to pave the WPA Road between Highway 165 to Jay Bird.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m. with Commissioner Flanagan bringing in a second. The vote passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

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Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Approved:

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Dan McCranie, Chairman