

**Regular Meeting Minutes  
Dodge County Board of Commissioners  
February 15, 2021**

**Present:** Dan McCranie, Chairman  
Sharon Cobb Flanagan, District 1 Commissioner  
Terry L. Niblett, Vice-Chairman, District 2 Commissioner  
Brian Watkins, District 3 Commissioner  
Karen Cheek, District 4 Commissioner

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

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 15, 2021. Chairman McCranie led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a devotion from Commissioner Cheek entitled “Power to Provide” from Matthew 6:31-36. Afterward, Commissioner Watkins prayed.

**Elected Officials/Department Heads**

**A. Director Shannon Weston – EMS Update**

Weston reported January call volume was down. Collection rate was also down due to a normal trend at the beginning of the year with Medicare reimbursements per the billing company. \$103,000 was billed but only \$79,000 collected.

Weston requested SPLOST funds for the items listed below. He chose Zoll and Stryker to be compatible with the current equipment on the ambulances. He had also requested refurbished quotes, but the refurbished equipment when not be upgradeable if issues were to arise.

- Zoll chest compressor - \$14,220.00
- Stryker LifePak 15 V4 Monitor/Defib - \$27,013.52
- Stryker LifePak CR2 Defibrillator, Semi-Automatic – \$2,061.49

**Grand Total - \$43,295.01**

Bearden reported \$283,248.96 available in the 2019 SPLOST. Commissioner Cheek made a motion to approve the purchase of all three items. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all voted unanimously, and the motion passed.

**B. Milan Rural Fire Department SPLOST Request**

On behalf of the Milan RFD, Manager Bearden presented an invoice from FireLine totaling \$8,275.00 for (1) Super Vac 16” PPV Fan, (1) Super Vac 18” Space Saver Battery Fan, and (1) Super Vac Spare 9 AH Dewalt Batteries. The balance left in Milan’s 2013 SPLOST was \$3,181.23, and that was the total amount of their request to use toward the purchase. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the disbursement of the remaining 2013 SPLOST with Commissioner Watkins seconding. All voted favorably, and the motion passed.

**C. Coroner Joe Smith – Morgue Improvements**

On behalf of Coroner Joe Smith, Manager Bearden presented an invoice to purchase a carport to use as cover when loading/unloading at the county morgue. His request also included extending the sidewalk six feet. Both items totaled \$3,753.00. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to table the request until other bids could be provided. Commissioner Flanagan seconded, and the motion was tabled as all voted unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes**

#### **A. February 01, 2021 – Regular Meeting**

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

### **Old Business**

#### **A. Farmer’s Market Authority Board Appointments**

Per Manager Bearden, Joan Tripp requested to step down from the Farmer’s Market Authority Board. After advertising the opening, Todd Weeks’ bio was the only one submitted for consideration. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to appoint Todd Weeks. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. With no other nominations, Commissioner Watkins motioned to close nominations with Commissioner Niblett seconding. All voted in favor other than Commissioner Flanagan who recused. Todd Weeks was appointed by acclamation.

### **New Business**

#### **A. Approval of Account Payable - \$101,584.55**

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable list totaling \$101,584.55 with Commissioner Watkins seconding. All agreed and the motion passed.

Commissioner Flanagan requested a running total by vendor report.

#### **B. Senior Center Update**

Ken Hall updated the Board regarding the Eastman/Dodge County Council on Aging (Senior Citizens Center) in order to plan for a service agreement for funding purposes. The center is a 100% volunteer organization and usually meets three times per week. However, the center has been closed since March 1, 2020, due to Covid. They also have a 30-passenger bus for activities. They’re governed by a nine-member Board of Directors, one appointed by the county and one appointed by the city. The current board members are:

Karen Fordham, Chair, appointed by City	Robin Evans
Voncille Faircloth, appointed by County	Gladys Peacock, Director
Raymond Mullis	Carolyn Martin
Marvin Scarborough	Ken Hall
Leslie Holland	

### **Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Niblett announced the college at the airport would be receiving nine new planes in April.

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

- The Sheriff's Department has received their ten new vehicles, and they're currently being striped.
- The CDC and Transportation Security Administration issued a directive for mandated masks while in conveyance. For Dodge County, the mandate impacts the transit buses. Anyone on the transit bus must wear a mask.
- The Ordinance Committee meeting is February 24, at 2:00 p.m.
- The Joint Comprehensive Plan meeting is February 22, at 6:00 p.m. for stakeholders and the Board.
- The Regional Commission will hold the county-wide Comprehensive Plan meeting at the Eastman-Dodge County Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, March 4, at 10:30 a.m.

### **Legislative Updates – Pending, not Passed**

- Senate Bill 76 proposes an increase on the E911 fee on cell phones from \$1.50 to \$2.00. The state will keep thirty-three cents of the increase for the Next Generation 9-1-1 system, and localities will keep the rest.
- House Bill 281 - Probate Court to begin sending expiration notices for concealed permits.
- House Bill 98 and Senate Bill 95 – Authorizes local governments to hold public hearings by teleconference in declared emergencies.
- Senate Bill 118 – Increases the weight restrictions of logging trucks from 84,000 to 100,000 pounds.
- House Bill 273 and Senate Bill 145 – Elimination of the 35% petition requirement for packaged liquor sales.

### **Public Comments**

A request was made to do something about the clay on Ocmulgee Church Road.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn, and Commissioner Flanagan seconded. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Attested:

---

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Approved:

---

Dan McCranie, Chairman