

**Regular Meeting Minutes
Dodge County Board of Commissioners
March 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**

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, March 15, 2021**. Chairman McCranie led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a devotion from Commissioner Cheek entitled "Extravagant Generosity" from Mark 14:3. Afterward, Commissioner Niblett prayed.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

A. Director Shannon Weston – EMS Update

EMS Director Weston reported 260 calls in the month of February with 9,726 miles driven. Approximately, \$67,000 was received in EMS revenues. The new ambulance is expected by the end of May.

B. Roddy Rural Fire Department 2013 SPLOST Request

On behalf of Roddy Fire Department, John Smith requested \$17,939.90 for the following:

- 1990 International 4900 \$13,500.00
- Specialized Transportation from Ohio \$ 2,400.00*
- Radio \$ 2,039.90

(*There was a lower bid by Florida Transnational for transporting at \$1845, but they were unable to fulfill the request at the present time.)

Manager Bearden confirmed \$19, 625.23 available in the 2013 SPLOST for Roddy RFD. It was also noted the truck passed its annual ISO pump test in 2020.

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

C. Dodge County Health Department

Manager Bearden presented three bids for replacing the flooring at the health department as follows:

- The Flooring Gallery \$48,585.00 (\$49,185.80 - \$1,750.80 taxes) 20 MIL
- DCO Commercial Floors \$23,255.39 12 MIL

- DCO Commercial Floors \$32,081.89 20 MIL

There is \$67,378.70 in the 2013 SPLOST allocated for building maintenance.

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to accept the bid from DCO commercial floors for \$32,081.89 for the 20 MIL flooring. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

D. Recreation Department Updates

On behalf of the Recreation Department, Manager Bearden submitted bids from KorKat (totaling \$28,311.30) and Miracle Recreation Equipment (totaling \$30,078.00) for new playground equipment. The Rec Department has \$24,753.14 in the 2013 SPLOST. (Originally, the funds were being held as matching funds for an LCWF grant, but the grant was not awarded.) Also, in the 2019 SPLOST, \$8,307.76 is available.

Commissioner Cheek made a motion to accept the low bid from KorKat for \$28,311.30. The Board inquired as to the Rec's preference regarding the bids, and when the information was not available, Commissioner Cheek withdrew her motion. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to table the item until Rec Director Randy Spivey would be available to answer questions. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted unanimously to table.

Approval of Minutes

A. March 01, 2021 – Regular Meeting

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

Old Business

None presented.

New Business

A. Approval of Account Payable - \$78,335.21

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable list totaling \$78,335.21 with Commissioner Niblett seconding. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. Behavioral Health Contract

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the annual renewal of the Behavioral Health Contract. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

C. Timber Ordinance

Manager Bearden updated the Board regarding the key changes to the Timber Ordinance as discussed by the Ordinance Committee. When the Georgia Forestry Commission implements a mandatory state-wide notification website, that site shall be the sole means of providing notice as required by the County. Also, the surety bond was increased from \$1,500 to \$5,000, and the

penalty for violations increased from \$500 to \$1,500. Commissioner Flanagan made note that Stuckey Timber was in support of this Ordinance.

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

Commissioner Reports

None reported.

County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

A. American Rescue Plan

The American Rescue Plan passed through Congress and was signed into law on March 11. This is a \$1.9 trillion relief plan. \$362 billion is reserved for state and local governments.

B. Legislative Update

- The House passed House Bill 531, a compilation for election legislation.
- The Senate Ethics Committee passed Senate Bill 241, which is the Senate's version of election legislation. Like HB 531, this legislation includes numerous provisions impacting counties' conduct of elections. It would also revamp the State Board of Elections.
- Both House Bill 98 and Senate Bill 95 were not passed due to unknown concerns by Governor Kemp's Office. An ACCG agenda item, these bills authorize counties and cities to hold public hearings via teleconference in emergency situations.
- Senate passed Senate Bill 145 which allows county and city voters to authorize package liquor sales without having to get a petition signed by 35% of registered voters. Now it's in the House awaiting approval there.
- House Bill 272, which increases the jurisdiction of Juvenile Court from age 17 to 18, has passed the House and is now in the Senate Judiciary Committee. This proposed legislation will increase the caseload for juvenile courts but has no additional funding for the increased workload.
- The Bill concerning logging truck weight increase failed to cross over.

C. Committee Updates

- The Ordinance Committee has reviewed all current ordinances. Three ordinances are to be updated and two to be drafted - litter, animal control, beer and wine, broadband ready, and roads.
- Two architect firms, Jericho and Hussey Gay Bell, were given tours of the Courthouse for the purpose of developing costs estimates for hazardous material abatement and structural integrity.

D. Other Updates

- Tire abatement is scheduled for May 19- June 1. Alternate dates are May 26 - June 8. EPD has included up to \$49,438 for reimbursement.

- One of the transit shuttle buses is scheduled to be taken out of rotation on March 31. The County can purchase the bus for \$5,500. And must respond by April 15.
- A letter of resignation, effective immediately, was received by Farmer's Market Chair Sharon Cobb Flanagan. Flanagan noted the bylaws require a minimum of three and maximum of five on the Board. And the Board is currently being served in that capacity.
- Operating Line of Credit bids have been received by Great Oaks, the Bank of Eastman, and Colony Bank. They will be opened in the Board Room on March 17 at 12:00 p.m.

Public Comments

None presented.

Executive Session

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 6:43 p.m. to discuss legal and personnel matters. Commissioner Watkins seconded and all voted unanimously. The motion passed.

Commissioner Cheek made a motion to end the Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. and Commissioner Watkins seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

Adjournment

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

Attested:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Approved:

Dan McCranie, Chairman