

Regular Meeting Minutes
Dodge County Board of Commissioners
April 19, 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: Conner Bearden, County Manager
Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Absent: Karen Cheek, District 4 Commissioner
John P. Harrington, County Attorney

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, April 19, 2021**. Chairman McCranie led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by an invocation from Commissioner Brian Watkins.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

A. Director Shannon Weston – EMS Update

Director Weston was unable to be present, but Manager Bearden updated the Board as to \$66,333.27 received in revenues from the EMS for the month of March.

B. Mitchell Fire Department SPLOST Request

On behalf of Mitchell Fire Department, Manager Bearden presented two bids to repair the concrete floor. One was from Johnson Concrete for \$4,030.30, and the other from Graham and Studstill for \$5,310.00. Also, Mitchell had received a grant for new turnout gear and needed a ten percent match of \$2,036.88. The total requested SPLOST amount was \$6,067.18 (when including the low concrete bid). Manager Bearden reported Mitchell had \$18,989.48 in the 2013 SPLOST account.

Commissioner Watkins made the motion to approve the SPLOST request with Commissioner Niblett seconding. All voted in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Major Tony Riddle, Sheriff Department

On behalf of the Sheriff's Department, Major Tony Riddle presented a request for four (4) 2021 Dodge Chargers from Jimmy Britt in the amount of \$26,312.00 each, which was the state contract price. His total requested amount was \$105,248.00. Manager Bearden reported the funds were available in the 2013 SPLOST for capital outlay.

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Niblett seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

A. April 05, 2021 – Regular Meeting

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

Old Business

A. Road Abandonment – Fall Drive, Cadwell Lane

Chairman McCranie announced the intention of the County to abandon a portion of Fall Drive extending from its intersection at Golf Course Road on one end and Indigo Lane at the other. Also, the County will abandon Cadwell Lane from State Highway 117 to its intersection at Cadwell Road. No private driveways are on either road.

Chairman McCranie opened the floor for public comments. None were rendered.

B. LMIG Bids

Manager Bearden presented information regarding the LMIG bids. The county's engineering firm, Wood TLC, had given Manager Bearden an estimate of \$1,152,201.64 based on GDOT's itemized summary as a benchmark.

Two bids were submitted by the deadline on April 01, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. and opened by Manager Bearden in the Dodge County BOC Boardroom with County Clerk Smith-Parkerson and Jared Darsey from Everett Dykes Grassing Company in attendance. Submittals were from East Coast Asphalt totaling \$1,093,023.48 and Everett Dykes totaling \$1,220,936.77.

Both bids were evaluated by the County Manager for accuracy. He discovered a calculation error made by Everett Dykes, which brought the actual bid amount to \$1,114,157.53.

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to accept the low bid from East Coast. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. Commissioner Flanagan asked if East Coast had ever been used by the County. Manager Bearden indicated they had not since Everett Dykes was the only bidder for the last two LMIG projects. However, East Coast had completed the City of Eastman's LMIG project. All voted agreeably, and the motion passed to accept East Coast's bid of \$1,093,023.48.

C. Independence Day Celebration Fireworks

On behalf of the City of Eastman, City Council Vice-Chair Raymond Mullis requested funding for fireworks for the Independence Day Celebration in July.

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to give the City of Eastman \$3,000 for fireworks. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable list totaling \$130,752.81 with Commissioner Watkins seconding. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. Approval of Ordinances

- **Road Ordinance** – Manager Bearden highlighted the changes to the County Road Ordinance. Dodge County will not accept unpaved roads in the network. Requirements for the road base and pavement surface are detailed. Abandonment of a road may be considered if a road is no longer used, and a petition must be made by hearing before the BOC. Two public hearings must be held. Underground utilities must be placed at least three feet deep. Private driveways adjoining a county road must have a culvert when ditches are present.

Commissioner Niblett approved the changes to the County Road Ordinance, and Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted agreeably, and the motion passed.

- **Litter Control** – This ordinance was updated in regard to definitions, penalties, and enforcing officer(s). All updates were in compliance with Georgia Code. Commissioner Watkins made the motion to accept the changes to the Litter Ordinance. Commissioner Flanagan seconded, and all voted in favor.
- **Broadband Ready** – Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the inclusion of a Broadband Ready Ordinance for Dodge County, which stipulates a single point of contact for all matters related to a broadband network project. Commissioner Flanagan seconded, and the motion passed without any opposition.

Commissioner Reports

None submitted.

County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

A. Fire Coordinator

- Manager Bearden introduced Jamey Wilkinson as the new Fire Coordinator.

B. Courthouse Committee Update

- Manager Bearden reported Jericho’s estimated abatement was around \$1 million, and The Spriggs Group estimated around \$250,000 to \$1 million.

Public Comments

Norm Bower, representing twelve individuals from the Eagle Ridge Subdivision who were also present, petitioned the County to accept Eagle Ridge Drive into the county road network.

Manager Bearden agreed to look into the matter.

Executive Session

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 6:40 p.m. to discuss legal matters. Commissioner Watkins seconded and all voted unanimously. The motion passed.

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to end the Executive Session at 7:06 p.m. and Commissioner Watkins seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

Adjournment

Once in the public session, the Chairman opened the floor for any further business. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Niblett seconded; all voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Attested:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Approved:

Dan McCranie, Chairman