

**Regular Meeting Minutes
Dodge County Board of Commissioners
May 17, 2021**

Commissioners Present:

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

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, May 17, 2021**. Chairman McCranie called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a devotion from Commissioner Cheek. Afterward, she gave the invocation.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

A. EMS Director Shannon Weston/EMS Week Proclamation

Director Weston presented a report listing calls received by district.

Also, Chairman McCranie presented Director Weston with a Proclamation designating May 16-22, 2021, as Emergency Medical Services Week. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to pass the proclamation with Commissioner Niblett seconding. All voted favorably, and the proclamation was passed, as follows:

To designate the Week of May 16 - 22, 2021, as Emergency Medical Services Week

WHEREAS, Emergency Medical Services is a vital public service; and

WHEREAS, the members of Emergency Medical Services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, Emergency Medical Services has grown to fill a gap by providing important, out of hospital care, including preventative medicine, follow-up care, and access to telemedicine; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Medical Services system consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other out of hospital medical care providers; and

WHEREAS, the members of Emergency Medical Services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of Emergency Medical Services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week; now

THEREFORE, I, Dan McCranie, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners in Dodge County, in recognition of this event do hereby proclaim the week of May 16-22, 2021, as Emergency Medical Services Week.

Approval of Minutes

A. May 03, 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

A. Aging Advisory Committee Appointments

Manager Bearden reported speaking to Lisa Livingston, Director of the Area Agency on Aging, and confirming two representatives are selected from each county. Next, he introduced Judy Berryhill as an interested applicant for serving on the Aging Advisory Committee. She gave a brief bio. Manager Bearden indicated several others were interested.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to table the selection until further review. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion and all voted yay. Committee selection was tabled.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable list totaling \$60,102.51 with Commissioner Flanagan seconding. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. Dodge County Board of Family and Children Services Appointment

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to reappoint Manager Bearden to the Dodge County Board of Family and Children Services Board. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted in the affirmative, and the motion passed.

C. Bank Signature Authorization for Jail Bailbuddy Account

Manager Bearden explained the Jail Bailbuddy account is for individuals to post bail electronically. Funds automatically draft to the Piedmont Bank in Atlanta, and Piedmont Bank requested minutes for bank signature authorizations. Attorney Harrington advised the Board of Commissioners not to move on the item as they would have no control over the account. He also stated he would contact Piedmont Bank explaining the matter.

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to table until further information could be provided. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All voted affirmatively, and the motion was tabled.

D. Courthouse Architect Selection

Manager Bearden updated the Board regarding the Courthouse Committee's work session on Thursday, May 06, 2021, where recommendations were made to select The Spriggs Group as the architect for the Courthouse abatement and renovation. After selection of an architect, negotiations can begin for the specifics of the project (beginning with the abatement, which is time sensitive). Commissioner Watkins made a motion to select The Spriggs Group as the architect for the Courthouse with Commissioner Cheek seconding. All voted in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

E. EPD Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Courthouse Abatement

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division for the Courthouse abatement project. Commissioner Niblett made a second. After no further discussion, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Reports

None submitted.

County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

- Manager Bearden reported the tire abatement event is scheduled for May 19 through June 1 at the Transfer Station. Hours will be Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- Manager Bearden reported January through March of 2021 was the most successful quarter in Georgia lottery's 27-year history. \$1,865,345 has been received for education in Dodge County.
- Manager Bearden reported the Sheriff's Department stats as follows:
 - a. 19,630 miles patrolled
 - b. 581 civilian contacts
 - c. 210 warnings issued
 - d. 56 citations issued

Public Comments

Kelly Belflower reported several issues, as follows:

- The speed limit signs from 257 to the county line were 55 miles per hour but should be only 45 mph.
- Also, trees are hanging across Chicken Road on the Roddy Highway.
- The pavement at the entrance to the Tax Commissioner's Office needs to be repaired.
- Mr. Belflower suggested dumpster sites in Chester (Parcel 054A 035A) or Roddy on Kirk Patrick Rd (Parcel 055104). Although, he noted he preferred none be located in that area.

Adjournment

With no further business to address, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn at 6:42 p.m. Commissioner Niblett seconded; all voted in favor, and the meeting was adjourned.

Attested:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Approved:

Dan McCranie, Chairman