



**Regular Meeting Minutes
Dodge County Board of Commissioners
June 07, 2021**

Commissioners Present:

Dan McCranie, Chairman
Sharon Cobb Flanagan, District 1
Brian Watkins, District 3
Karen Cheek, District 4

Also Present:

John P. Harrington, County Attorney
Conner Bearden, County Manager
Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Absent:

Terry L. Niblett, Vice-Chairman, District 2

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, June 07, 2021**. Chairman McCranie called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a devotion from Commissioner Cheek entitled *God Is Shining on You* from Numbers 6:24-26. Afterward, Commissioner Watkins gave the invocation.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

A. EMS Director Shannon Weston/EMS Week Proclamation

Director Weston reported 326 calls and 14,242 miles in May. Cash per call volume was down for May, and Director Weston will meet with a representative from Elevos to see what can be done. The estimated due date of the new ambulance was pushed to the end of September due to Covid hardships.

B. Jamey Wilkinson – Fire Safety Coordinator Update

Fire Safety Coordinator Wilkinson reported 104 dispatched calls, with 26 fire calls, in May. Also, Manager Bearden reported non-response had increased from 21% in April to 24% in May.

Approval of Minutes

A. May 17, 2021 – Regular Meeting

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

Old Business

A. Aging Advisory Committee Appointments

Manager Bearden presented a bio received by email from Tammy Manus for the Aging Advisory Committee. Also, he introduced Ken Hall and Gail Smith Carr, who gave brief bios. Bearden also reminded the Board Judy Berryhill had shown an interest in serving on the committee at the meeting on May 17. Chairman McCranie affirmed two appointments were open for consideration.

Commissioner Flanagan moved to nominate Ken Hall for the Aging Advisory Committee. Commissioner Watkins seconded the nomination. Commissioner Watkins also moved to close nominations on the appointment. Commissioner Cheek seconded the closure. All voted in approval of the appointment of Ken Hall to the Aging Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Cheek made a motion to nominate Gail Smith Carr for the Aging Advisory Committee. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. Commissioner Watkins moved to close nominations on the appointment. Commissioner Cheek seconded the closure. All voted in approval, and Gail Smith Carr was appointed by acclamation.



New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable list totaling \$129,183.12 with Commissioner Cheek seconding. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. County Health Insurance Plan Selection

Manager Bearden presented Anthem's renewal rates, along with Benecon, a level-funded plan, with both providing the same benefits. Benecon credits any surplus of premiums (after paying claims) back to Dodge County Board of Commissioners to be used to lower future premiums or for wellness. Also, Benecon offered lower co-pays and deductibles when utilizing Dodge Select network.

Commissioner Cheek made a motion to select Benecon through Aetna as the County health insurance provider and to discontinue Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield through ACCG. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Road Abandonment Petition - .88 miles on Edwin Burnham Road

Manager Bearden presented the Board with a request from property owner Thomas Burnham to abandon a portion of Edwin Burnham Road. Property on both sides of the requested abandonment portion is owned by members or extended members of the Burnham family. Manager Bearden stated Edwin Burnham Road connects Highway 117 to Vilula Church Road.

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to table the road abandonment petition from Thomas Burnham. Before the motion was introduced by the Chair, she asked to withdraw the motion. With no objection, the motion was withdrawn.

No other motions were made on the item.

D. American Rescue Plan (ARP) Strategic Initiative

Manager Bearden discussed permissible uses for the American Rescue funds awarded to Dodge County. Also, Manager Bearden advised he must submit a strategic plan for use of the funds by August 30 and requested Board recommendations by the next meeting.

E. Colony Bank Signature Authorization for ARP Funds

Manager Bearden requested to open a new account at Colony Bank with signing authority by Chairman Dan McCranie, County Manager Conner Bearden, and County Clerk Kimberly Smith-Parkerson for the American Rescue Plan funds.

Commissioner Watkins approved the motion as requested, and Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Flanagan reported involvement in the Comprehensive Plan meetings.

County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

- A. Ochise Boat Landing** - The DNR will soon begin refurbishing the ramp and parking area at the Ochise Boat Landing.
- B. LMIG** – LMIG projects will begin in the next couple of weeks. Culverts have been replaced by the road department.



- C. **Litter** – Tire abatement was a tremendous success. The tire abatement crew is also picking up litter, concentrating on areas where the mowers will be.
- D. **Courthouse** – The Spriggs Group is drawing up an agreement for the Courthouse renovation project. The MOU from EPD has been executed.
- E. **Retirement** – The new retirement plan had a record enrollment of 29 employees on the first day of rollout.

Public Comments

None presented.

Adjournment

With no further business to address, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Commissioner Cheek seconded; all voted in favor, and the meeting was adjourned.

Attested:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Approved:

Dan McCranie, Chairman