



**Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Tuesday, September 07, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.**

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:

Conner Bearden, County Manager
Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Absent:

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 **Tuesday, September 07, 2021**. Chairman McCranie called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, Commissioner Cheek gave a devotion entitled, Don't Fear Trouble, from Job 5:7 and Isaiah 52. Afterward, she gave the invocation.

Elected Officials/Department Head

Fire Safety Coordinator Jamey Wilkinson updated the Board regarding dispatched calls for August. Total dispatched calls were 98. Nineteen were fire calls, and 79 were rescue calls. The rural fire departments didn't respond to 33 of those calls.

Interim Manager Bob Braswell reported 386 calls in August. Revenue for August was \$88,767.61.

Approval of Minutes

August 16, 2021 – Regular Meeting

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on August 16 with no additions, corrections, or deletions. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

September 2, 2021 – Called Meeting

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 2nd called meeting with no additions, corrections, or deletions. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Old Business

Nothing presented.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable list totaling \$134,683.13 with Commissioner Flanagan making the second. All voted in agreement, and the motion passed.

B. Adopt Dodge Transit Title VI Plan

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to adopt the Dodge Transit System Title VI plan. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted agreeably, and the motion passed.

C. Wood Environmental Work Order Approval

Manager Bearden presented a work order from Wood Environmental for an authorization of funding in the amount of \$53,100.00. Dodge County will be billed for actual hours worked and not necessarily the



entire budgeted amount. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the work order. Commissioner Cheek seconded, and all voted in favor with no further discussion. Motion passed.

D. 2021 TSPLOST Road Projects Selection

Manager Bearden presented a list of roads for the 2021 TSPLOST, as follows.

Road	Estimate	Work Required	District
Wood Valley	\$75,270.00	Resurface	1
Bedsole	\$43,230.00	Aggregate Surface	3
Bill Hambrick	\$41,250.00	Aggregate Surface	1
Ben Giddens	\$83,037.00	Resurface	1
Eagle Ridge Dr	\$4,634.00	Patch Only	1
Fred Bohannon	\$108,787.00	Pavement	4
Ridley Rd	\$88,770.00	Aggregate Surface	3
Friendship Baptist Road	\$152,735.00	Pavement	3
WPA	\$279,631.00	Pavement	3

Bearden’s recommendation was to proceed with all but WPA and Fred Bohannon. Bearden suggested WPA and Fred Bohannon could be in next year’s TSPLOST or either LMIG. Total estimate for the recommended roads was \$488,926.00.

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve Wood Valley, Bedsole, Bill Hambrick, Ben Giddens, Eagle Ridge Drive, Ridley Road, and Friendship Baptist Road for the 2021 TSPLOST repairs. Commissioner Cheek seconded, and all voted in favor. The motion passed.

E. Census Reapportionment

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to use the State Reapportionment Office to redraw the district lines as passed by Senate Bill 177. Commissioner Flanagan seconded that motion, and all voted in favor to proceed. Motion passed.

F. Package Sales Referendum

County Manager reminded the Board that Senate Bill 145 authorized them to initiate a referendum for package sales. He also presented a spreadsheet with predicted revenues from package sales by utilizing data from surrounding counties. The Commissioners discussed limiting the number of package sale establishments within the county and setting a mandated time for package stores to close.

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to table the package sales referendum item. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All voted in favor, and the item was tabled.

G. Jail Air Conditioning

Manager Bearden discussed the necessity of replacing the air conditioning in the jail cells. Bearden said the current system is over engineered, and repairs are costly – up to \$20,000 per year. Pruett was the only bidder on the project at \$165,150. Commissioner Niblett asked the tonnage of the unit referenced in the quote since tonnage wasn’t specified. Bearden wasn’t certain. Chairman McCranie moved to the next item until more information could be made available.



H. Nominate EMA Director of Dodge County

Manager Bearden asked the Board to consider selecting Jamey Wilkinson as the Dodge County EMA Director. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to nominate Jamey Wilkinson as the Dodge County EMA Director. Commissioner Watkins seconded the nomination. With no other nominations, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion to close. All voted in favor to close nominations and Jamey Wilkinson was nominated by acclamation.

I. 2021 LMIG Safety Action Plan

County Manager Bearden requested to table this item. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to table the LMIG Safety Action Plan until the next meeting. Commissioner Niblett seconded. All voted affirmatively, and the SAP was tabled.

J. Joint Comprehensive Plan Draft Approval

Commissioner Cheek made a motion to approve the draft of the Joint Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the nomination. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

K. American Rescue Plan Act – Strategic Plan

County Manager Bearden presented the Board with the Strategic Plan for the American Rescue Plan funds and gave a brief overview of intended projects, such as establishing a mass covid vaccination/testing site at the Recreation Department, updating the E911 radio/phone console, extending broadband services, and tackling some mental health deficiencies within the community.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Cheek commended the Dodge County Hospital on its treatment of Covid patients. She also recommended the Covid vaccine and encouraged everyone to get the flu vaccine, which research has shown helps reduce the severity of Covid.
- Commissioner Flanagan reported working with H. Peacock at the Ocmulgee EMC to support acquisition of federal funding for broadband expansion. Also, Commissioner Flanagan was appointed to the Telecommunications and Technology Committee with NACo.
- Chairman McCranie reported attending a Dodge Historical Society meeting. Noelle Hollis, of Stowe, OH, was the guest speaker, and she spoke about the Missler settlement near Chauncey.

County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

- County Manager Bearden reported the Dodge County Sheriff's Golf Tournament is scheduled October 6. Proceeds will benefit the Georgia Sheriff's Youth Homes.
- Also, the courthouse architect Ken Spriggs is preparing the proposal for the abatement project.

Public Comments

Interim EMS Director Bob Braswell informed the Board of a Cadaver Lab on October 4 for students and hospital personnel.

Adjournment

With no further business to address, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. Commissioner Niblett seconded; all voted in favor, and the meeting was adjourned.



Attested:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Approved:

Dan McCranie, Chairman