



**Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
Dodge County Board of Commissioners  
Monday, September 20, 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:**

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, September 20, 2021**. Chairman McCranie called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, Commissioner Cheek gave a devotion entitled *Facing Change* from Jeremiah 29:11. Afterward, she gave the invocation.

**Elected Officials/Department Head**

None present.

**Approval of Minutes**

**September 07, 2021 – Regular Meeting**

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on September 07, 2021, with no additions, corrections, or deletions. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

**Old Business**

**A. Package Sales Referendum**

Commissioner Flanagan stated her and Commissioner Cheek's districts intersect the City of Eastman, and she'd been receiving pressure to move forward on the package sales referendum. Commissioner Flanagan said she thoroughly researched the issue and had also spoken with Sheriff Brian Robinson who pointed out driving under the influence of alcohol wasn't a key factor contributing to vehicular accidents in Dodge County; cell phones, drugs, and other issues were. Commissioner Flanagan said she felt the correct thing to do was to give the people an opportunity to vote on package sales. Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to move forward on the package sales referendum. Commissioner Cheek seconded her motion.

Chairman McCranie opened the floor for discussion. Commissioner Watkins stated he had also given the issue considerable thought and had heard the same justifications regarding gambling, marijuana, and even prostitution. He felt these things should not be encouraged or used as a source of income in Dodge County.

Commissioner Flanagan stated the City of Eastman had the package sales referendum on their next agenda, and she felt the County should set precedent on the matter. Commissioner Cheek stated her district wanted an opportunity to vote on a referendum, and while she didn't feel package sales would pass, she did want constituents to have an opportunity to vote.

Chairman McCranie asked all those in favor of the package sales referendum to raise their right hand. Commissioner Cheek and Flanagan raised their hands. He then asked all opposed to raise their right hand. Commissioner Niblett and Watkins raised their hands. With two in favor and two opposed, Chairman McCranie broke the tie by voting against. The motion died.

### **B. 2021 LMIG Safety Action Plan**

County Manager Bearden informed the Board of a shortage of glass beads which are an ingredient in the thermoplastic that provides road striping retroreflectivity, hence the reason the LMIG SAP was still on hold.

### **C. Jail Air Conditioning**

Manager Bearden asked to table replacing the jail air conditioning units until he meets with Jesse Pruett of Pruett Air Conditioning to determine why the units need to be replaced. Bearden did know one of the units requires a new compressor and one a new condenser. He also reported repairs for the air conditioning for the past two years have totaled \$45,175.25.

Two bids had been received to replace the units. Pruett Air Conditioning's bid was for \$165,150.00. and Massingill's was for \$168,740.00.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to table replacing the jail air conditioning. Commissioner Niblett seconded. All voted favorably, and the motion passed.

### **New Business**

#### **A. Approval of Accounts Payable**

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable list totaling \$58,392.18 with Commissioner Cheek making the second. All voted in agreement, and the motion passed.

#### **B. Courthouse Renovation Project – Phase I**

Manager Bearden explained the fee of \$98,848 for the first phase of renovation was an addition to the initial bid amount presented by Spriggs. After discussion, Commissioner Watkins asked Manager Bearden to contact Spriggs for clarification of the HVAC demolition item.

#### **C. 2023 Transit 5311 Grant Resolution**

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the 2023 Transit 5311 Grant resolution. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

#### **D. Road Department SPLOST Request**

On behalf of Road Department Superintendent Richard Harrell, County Manager Bearden presented two bids for a 10' grass mower. Harrell would like to order two mowers.

- Eastman Equipment Company – galvanized mower with chains, one at \$10,894.00 or two at \$21,288
- Perfect Equipment Company – painted steel mower with chains, one at \$8,000 or two at \$16,000

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to accept the bid from Perfect Equipment Company. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

### **Commissioner Reports**

Chairman McCranie notified the Board about Constitution Week during September 17 through September 23.

### **County Manager Report: Conner Bearden**

Manager Bearden stated the Covid vaccination rate for Dodge County was 36% at 7,507 people having received the first dose.



**Public Comments**

None presented.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to address, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. Commissioner Niblett seconded; all voted in favor, and the meeting was adjourned.

Attested:

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Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Approved:

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Dan McCranie, Chairman