

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Monday, October 18, 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:

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 **Monday, October 18, 2021**. Chairman McCranie called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, Commissioner Cheek gave a devotion entitled *Peace of Jerusalem* from Psalm 122:6-7. Afterward, she gave the invocation.

Elected Officials/Department Head

A. Jamey Wilkinson – Fire Coordinator Update

Fire Coordinator Wilkinson reported 80 calls in September with 18 fire calls and 62 rescue calls. Non-response was reported at 19. Wilkinson also asked for the board's blessing to proceed with a county fire department to consolidate resources and manpower.

Approval of Minutes

October 4, 2021 – Regular Meeting

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on October 4, 2021, with no additions, corrections, or deletions. Commissioner Niblett seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Old Business

A. Sandy Adams – 2020/2021 Ad Valorem Tax

Chairman McCranie requested a motion to table this item since the county attorney was unable to attend the meeting. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to table the ad valorem tax issue. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All voted agreeably, and the motion passed.

B. Mobile Home Decal Resolution

Manager Bearden reported contacting Tax Commissioner Kay Graham and Building Inspector Rob Stanley and inviting them to the meeting for further discussion of the mobile home decal resolution, which was tabled at the last meeting. Neither individual was present. No motion was made.

C. Service Delivery Strategy Draft/Joint Comprehensive Plan

• **Heart of Georgia Regional Commission Assistant Executive Director James Pope**

Chairman McCranie suggested discussing the Dodge County Joint Comprehensive Plan (under **New Business**) since the Heart of Georgia Regional Commission Assistant Executive Director James Pope would be presenting both items. Pope and the Board were agreeable. (See notes in **New Business**.)

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to adopt the Service Delivery Strategy as presented. Commissioner Watkins made a second. Commissioner Niblett, Watkins, and Cheek voted in agreement, and Commissioner Flanagan voted in opposition. The motion passed by majority vote.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the accounts payable list totaling \$99,625.15, and Commissioners Niblett and Cheek seconded. All voted favorably, and the motion passed to approve the accounts payable.

B. Adopt Dodge County Joint Comprehensive Plan

Commissioner Flanagan suggested the following edits to the Comprehensive Plan:

- Population statistics should be edited to reflect the 2020 census data.
- The *Magnolia Music and Medicine Show*, which is referenced in the document, should be changed to *Magnolia Theater events* since the Magnolia Music and Medicine Show is no longer active.
- In the Broadband section, 25 megabits per second (Mbps) should be changed to reflect the anticipated standards.
- *Very low crime rate* should be changed to *low crime rate*.

Commissioner Cheek made a motion to accept all of the suggestions as submitted. Manager Bearden pointed out the Comprehensive Plan already addressed the broadband issue in this remark: "...it is much desired by the community to achieve broadband capabilities reaching speeds of 1 gigabit per second (1000 Mbps) across the entire county." Commissioner Cheek amended her motion to include edits regarding crime rate, the Magnolia Theater, and 2020 census data. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed to make the edits to the Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the amended Dodge County Joint Comprehensive Plan, and Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion. All voted agreeably and the motion passed.

C. Redistricting

Manager Bearden presented two maps generated by the Redistricting Committee. Of the two, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to proceed with the one with minimal district changes as the draft map for public hearings. Commissioner Cheek seconded the motion. All voted in agreement, and the motion passed.

D. 2021 County Voting Delegate for ACCG

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to designate Commissioner Flanagan as the county's voting delegate for ACCG. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. Commissioners Watkins, Cheek, and Niblett voted in favor. Commissioner Flanagan did not vote. The motion passed.

E. Dodge County DFCS Budget Approval for 2022

Commissioner Watkins voted to approve the 2022 budget for DFCS in the amount of \$6,255.00. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion. All voted yes, and the motion passed.

F. 2021 TSPLOST Bid Approval

Manager Bearden presented a bid from the Scruggs Company for \$256,042.00 for the 2021 TSPLOST road repairs. Because the engineering estimate was \$177,884.00, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to

table the item until further options could be explored. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.



Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Flanagan reported attending the Telecommunications and Technology Steering Committee meeting on Oct. 15. She informed the board of broadband benefits for persons with low income.

County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

- Courthouse mitigation items as presented to EPD were approved with the exception of fumigation and retesting of viruses.
- The 2021 CDBG application was not awarded due to the 2014 CDBG project not being officially closed. After the public hearing on Oct. 14, the 2014 CDBG was closed.
- The City of Eastman agreed to match the BOE’s reimbursement for school resource officers.

Public Comments

Susan Coffee expressed dissatisfaction with the Heart of Georgia Regional Commission’s communications with the public.

Adjournment

With no further business to address, Commissioner Niblett made a motion to adjourn at 7:08 p.m. Commissioner Watkins seconded; all voted in favor, and the meeting was adjourned.

Attested:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Approved:

Dan McCranie, Chairman