



**Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
Dodge County Board of Commissioners  
Monday, November 1, 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, November 1, 2021**. Chairman McCranie called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, Commissioner Cheek gave a devotion entitled *Cancel Culture* from Revelation, and then, she led the invocation.

**Elected Officials/Department Head**

**A. Michael Johnson – EMS Update**

EMS Director Michael Johnson reported 202 calls with total cash collected at \$59,759.16 for October. Cash collection was only at 33%, and Johnson advised he would be communicating with the billing company to improve revenues.

**B. Jamey Wilkinson – Fire Coordinator Update**

Jamey Wilkinson was not present as monthly stats were not ready from E911. Wilkinson will report at the next meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

**October 18, 2021 – Regular Meeting**

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on October 18, 2021, with no additions, corrections, or deletions. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

**Old Business**

**A. Sandy Adams – 2020/2021 Ad Valorem Tax**

Ms. Adams was present to ask the board to waive the late fees on her 2020 Ad Valorem tax bill after not receiving the notice in 2020 due to an address change. County Attorney Harrington reported the oversight wasn't on Ms. Adams part nor could he find fault with the tax office. He advised the board the decision to waive fines, penalties, and interest would be at their discretion.

Commissioner Cheek made a motion to waive the late fees totaling \$436.79. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

After the motion, the Board briefly stepped to the parking lot to inspect the new county ambulance.

**Amendment to Agenda**

Upon returning to the boardroom, Chairman McCranie asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add the following:

**E. Approve FY '22 Drug Task Force Agreement**

**F. Approval of Wood Environmental Project**



Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the amendments, as stated. Commissioner Niblett seconded. All voted yes, and the motion passed.

**B. 2021 TSPLOST Bids**

Manager Bearden reminded the board only one bid was received for the 2021 TSPLOST in the amount of \$256,042. The engineer's estimate was \$177,884. Due to the large discrepancy, the board tabled the 2021 TSPLOST at the last meeting until more information could be provided.

Manager Bearden reported the engineering group recommended rejecting the bids and re-bidding the project without Eagle Ridge Drive, which required patching that could be done locally.

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to reject the bid from Scruggs Company. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

**C. Redistricting**

Manager Bearden notified the board that a public hearing for the new districts has to be held within 60 days of the next legislative session in January 2022.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to hold the public hearing an hour before the board meeting on December 6. Commissioner Niblett made a second. All voted unanimously, and the motion passed.

**D. Jail Air Conditioning**

Manager Bearden presented a proposal for the jail air conditioning replacement from Hays Service with one 12-ton unit and one 15-ton unit and an ionization unit totaling \$68,490. The two other bids presented previously were Massingill Expert Services totaling \$168,740 and Pruett Air Conditioning at \$165,150.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to accept the low bid from Hays Service. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted unanimously, and the motion passed.

**New Business**

**A. Approval of Accounts Payable**

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the accounts payable list totaling \$83,714.28, and Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted favorably, and the motion passed to approve the accounts payable list.

**B. Move Next Meeting to November 16, 2021**

Chairman McCranie asked for a motion to move the next regular meeting to Tuesday night due to a scheduling overlap on Monday with the ACCG Reconnect Conference. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to move the meeting to Tuesday, November 16. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion, and all voted agreeably. The motion passed.

**C. EMS SPLOST Request**

EMS Director Michael Johnson requested four binder lifts to help with lifting for the EMS department. The total amount requested from SPLOST was \$5,864.00. Manager Bearden reported \$964,949.19 available in 2019 SPLOST funds.

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the purchase of the binder lifts. Commissioner Cheek seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

#### **D. Norfolk Southern Request for Permanent Closure of FM Braswell Road**

County Manager Bearden reported Norfolk Southern requested to pursue permanent closure of the railroad crossing at FM Braswell Road due to safety concerns. Two public hearings must be held to abandon anything within the county, and Manager Bearden promised to visit the residents who would be affected by the railroad crossing closure.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to hold the public hearings for the railroad crossing closure and for possible road name change. Commissioner Flanagan made the second. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

#### **E. Approve FY '22 Drug Task Force Agreement**

Manager Bearden presented the Drug Task Force Agreement, which had no changes from the prior year. Bearden also reported Sheriff Robinson requested to utilize the Drug Task Force for the next year. County Attorney Harrington made note that the County needs to have information regarding any forfeiture funds, which Manager Bearden was unable to provide at the present meeting.

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the Drug Task Force agreement for FY '22. Commissioner Watkins made a second. All voted agreeably, and the motion passed.

#### **F. Approval of Wood Environmental Project**

Manager Bearden requested Wood Environmental evaluate the large washout on West Chicken Road and a work order was presented for services rendered in the amount of \$2,500.

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the work order for \$2,500 from Wood Environmental. Commissioner Watkins made a second. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

#### **Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Watkins commended the volunteer firemen, EMS, Sheriff, Deputies and everyone who participated the missing persons search for Zack Hilliard from Rhine.

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

- The Board of Assessors, Recreation Board, Public Health Board, and Regional Commission will all have board appointments expiring on 12/31.
- The prelim codification is ready for Manager Bearden to review.
- The employee handbook has been updated and will be presented to the Board for review in January.

#### **Public Comments**

None presented.

#### **Adjournment**

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



Attested:

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Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Approved:

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Dan McCranie, Chairman