

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Tuesday, November 16, 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 **Tuesday, November 16, 2021**. Chairman McCranie called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, Commissioner Cheek gave a devotion entitled *A Balanced Life* from Psalm 16, and then, Commissioner Watkins gave the invocation.

Elected Officials/Department Head

A. Michael Johnson – EMS Update

EMS Director Michael Johnson reported October's cash-per-call at \$290.09; however, the latest report showed an increased cash-per-call at \$471.52.

Johnson also requested a three-year service agreement with Cardiotronix totaling \$8,943.00 to service medical equipment. County Manager Bearden reported having \$1,856,545.43 in the 2013 SPLOST for capital expenditures.

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to use the 2013 SPLOST for the three-year service agreement with Cardiotronix providing EMS Director Johnson inquired about a discount for paying in full. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. Jamey Wilkinson – Fire Coordinator Update

Jamey Wilkinson reported the following:

- Total dispatched calls for October were 91, with 12 fire calls, 79 rescue calls, and 26 non-responses.
- All volunteer fire departments were in compliance with the state after getting non-compliance issues corrected.
- The Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment audit is in the final stages and is required for Dodge County to be eligible for Homeland Security grants and the Emergency Management Performance Grant, which supplements the EMA director's salary.

Approval of Minutes

November 1, 2021 – Regular Meeting

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on November 1, 2021, with no additions, corrections, or deletions. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Old Business

A. Title VI Adoption

Manager Bearden requested the Board adopt the Title VI plan with concurrence letter in cooperation and compliance of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Civil Rights Program. Commissioner Watkins made

a motion to adopt the Title VI plan and concurrence letter. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion. All voted favorably, and the motion passed.



New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the accounts payable list totaling \$56,459.89, and Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in agreement, and the motion passed to approve the accounts payable list.

B. Spriggs Group Master Architect Agreement

Manager Bearden requested approval of the Spriggs Group Master Architect Agreement. Attorney Harrington requested a strike through of item marked void on page three. Commissioner Niblett requested clarification of the HVAC Systems Demolition on page three totaling \$44,498. Attorney Harrington also requested to see Exhibit 1.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to table the Spriggs Group Master Architect Agreement until further clarification. Commissioner Niblett seconded. All voted in favor, and the item was tabled.

C. Drug and Alcohol Policy for Transit

Manager Bearden reported Transit had an option for a second-chance drug and alcohol policy, but he recommended Dodge County keep its zero-tolerance policy. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the zero-tolerance Drug and Alcohol Policy for Transit. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted yes, and the motion passed.

D. Speed Limit on Sweet Home Church Road

Manager Bearden presented a request on behalf of Teresa Jones to reduce the speed limit to 45 mph from Milan-Chauncey Road to the curve before Sweet Home Baptist Church. Bearden confirmed he'd consulted with Sheriff Brian Robinson. After discussion among the Board, Commissioner Watkins suggested placing caution signs at the curves rather than reducing the speed limit. No motions were made.

E. Courthouse Clean-Out

Manager Bearden requested to close business offices for a day to clean out the courthouse at Courthouse Circle. Bearden indicated he would confer with the departments before setting the date. No motion was made at the present meeting.

F. FY 2022 County Budget

Manager Bearden presented the Board with a proposed budget for fiscal year 2022. A public hearing for the budget is to be scheduled December 6 at 5:30 p.m.

G. Bailiff Per Diem

Manager Bearden reported the Grand Jury convened on November 4, and at that meeting, they recommended increasing the bailiffs' per diem to \$55 to compensate for payroll taxes. (Currently, the per diem is \$45.) Keith Mullis was re-appointed to the Tax Equalization Board. (Amy Taylor was re-appointed as alternate).

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to increase bailiff per diem to \$55. Commissioner Cheek seconded the motion. All voted agreeably, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Reports



Chairman McCranie and Commissioner Flanagan reported attending the ACCG Reconnect Conference. Commissioner Flanagan summarized the top four priorities, as follows:

- Expansion of sales tax to include digital goods
- Continuation of single-county TSPLOST until maximum time period is reached
- Mental health reform
- Increase tag and title fees to fund county administrative costs

County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

Manager Bearden reported Qualified Local Government (QLG) requirements had been completed as affirmed by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

Manager Bearden and EMS Director Johnson discussed Dodge County Hospital’s new policy for covid-19 vaccinations, which had been implemented to comply with CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) guidelines. Although CMS guidelines do not apply to employers with less than 50 employees, Manager Bearden reported the County’s EMS department will need to follow the same guidelines in order to receive transfers from the hospital.

Manager Bearden announced a ribbon cutting for the Ochise Bubbling Waters boat landing.

Public Comments

None presented.

Adjournment

With no further business to address, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn at 6:54 p.m. Commissioner Niblett seconded; all voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Approved:

Dan McCranie, Chairman