



**Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 6 p.m.**

Commissioners Present:

Dan McCranie, Chairman
Sharon Cobb Flanagan, District 1
Terry L. Niblett, Vice-Chairman, District 2
Brian Watkins, District 3

Also Present:

John P. Harrington, County Attorney
Brian Robinson, Sheriff of Dodge County
Conner Bearden, County Manager
Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Absent:

Karen Cheek, District 4

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting at the Dodge County Pearl Bates Courthouse Annex on **January 18, 2022**. Chairman McCranie presided and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by prayer from Commissioner Brian Watkins.

Elected Officials/Department Head

A. Sheriff's Update

Sheriff Brian Robinson delivered the 2021 yearly stats, as follows:

- 260,131 miles patrolled
- 3,102 buildings checked
- 141 child support papers served
- 1,640 civil papers served
- 35 protective orders served
- 84 property retrievals
- 64 traffic stop arrests
- 376 road side arrests
- 36 drug arrests
- 1,836 written warnings
- 1,302 citations issued

B. EMS Update

EMS Director Michael Johnson reported receivables of \$83,394 for December. Also, an EMT class will begin in April.

C. Fire Safety Update

Fire Safety Coordinator Jamey Wilkinson reported 70 dispatched calls for December, with 13 fire and 57 rescue. Non-response calls were 18. Fire class will begin January 24, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the public safety building. In February, there will be a vehicle extrication class.

Approval of Minutes

January 03, 2022 – Regular Meeting

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on January 03, 2022, with no additions, corrections, or deletions. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Old Business

A. Appointment - Board of Tax Assessors



County Manager Bearden presented applications from Mark Doss, business owner and real estate agent, and Doris S. Mullis, retired financial manager. Commissioner Niblett nominated Doris S. Mullis for the Board of Tax Assessors. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the nomination. With no other nominations forthcoming, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Niblett seconded. All voted unanimously to close nominations. Doris S. Mullis was appointed to the Board of Tax Assessors by acclamation.

B. Redistricting Map Update

Manager Bearden gave an update regarding the bill introduced to the General Assembly by State Representative Robert Pruitt on behalf of Dodge County for the redistricting map. Bearden expects the bill to be passed soon.

C. FM Braswell Road

➤ *Name Change*

Manager Bearden requested to change the name of FM Braswell/Sunset Road to Dunlap Road. (The proposed name change was advertised in December in the *Dodge County News*.) Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to change FM Braswell/Sunset Road to Dunlap Road after the elimination of the FM Braswell Road railroad crossing. Commissioner Niblett seconded. All voted unanimously, and the motion passed.

➤ *Resolution for Elimination of Railroad Crossing*

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the resolution for the elimination of the FM Braswell Road railroad crossing. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$420,775.32. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. American Rescue Plan Funds Request – E911 Director Ronnie Sheffield

On behalf of E911 Director Ronnie Sheffield, Manager Bearden requested ARPA funds to purchase equipment for Next Generation 911 (NG911). NG911 is a digital system that will replace the existing analog 911 and is an allowable expense under ARPA grant guidelines. The following quotes were presented (with preferred recommendations highlighted):

Quotes for Phone System

EZ911 \$173,300

Motorola Vesta \$165,680 recurring \$80,000

AT&T Viper \$201,486

CAD

EZ911 for EZ 1 year \$21,975/**5 years \$55,575**

EZ911 for Vesta – 1 year \$36,337.12

Radio

Georgia 2 Way - \$145,860

Recorder

Eventide - \$25,764

GCIC – not mandatory

eAgent 1st year \$7,500, then \$5,000 annually



Total requested ARPA funds were \$407,999.16. Commissioner Watkins asked if bidding guidelines had been followed with the exception of proprietary issues. Bearden answered in the affirmative and reported \$973,160.55 was available in the ARPA account after earmarked expenditures.

Commissioner Niblett inquired if the Sheriff's Office and Fire were on board, and Sheriff Brian Robinson, who was present, gave his support.

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the ARPA funds request for Next Gen 911, specifically, the EZ911 phone system and CAD, Georgia 2 Way radio, Eventide recorder, and eAgent GCIC totaling \$407,999.16. Commissioner Niblett seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

C. 2022 LMIG

Manager Bearden asked the commissioners to review the 2022 LMIG recommendations. He advised Dodge County was applying for an LMIG grant in the amount of \$875,578.95 (with a 10% match). The estimate total for the 2022 LMIG was \$1,122,289.19, which was a 28.18% overage, but Bearden stated 2013 SPLOST funds were still available to go toward the project. Bearden also stated that resurfacing the roads in Peabody Heights would help gain leverage when applying for this year's CDBG.

Commissioner Flanagan inquired about Fish Road, which wasn't on the LMIG list, and Manager Bearden advised Fish Road would be addressed in another project, potentially a TSPLOST one.

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the 2022 LMIG project, and Commissioner Watkins seconded. All voted favorably, and the motion passed.

D. Joint Development Authority of Bleckley County and Dodge County

Manager Bearden reported the Dodge County appointees' terms had expired on December 06, 2021, on the aforementioned authority. According to Allen Long, member of the Joint Development Authority Board of Bleckley County and Dodge County, and Attorney Harrington, the authority was created when the Middle Georgia College Bond Resolution was adopted. The bonds were 15 year bonds and still active.

Dodge County representatives on the board are Chuck Eckles, Kennon Graham, Mac Harrington, and Allen Long. Commissioner Watkins asked the county manager to contact the board members in regard to reappointment.

E. SPLOST Request – Sheriff's Office

Manager Bearden presented a request from the Sheriff's Office for four (4) Dodge Durango Pursuits totaling \$42,000 each, which would become available in April according to Sheriff Robinson. The total request was \$168,000, and Bearden reported \$225,000 available in the 2013 SPLOST.



Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the 2013 SPLOST request for four vehicles for the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

F. FTA Procurement Policy

Manager Bearden asked the board to approve the procurement policy for transit. Changes in the policy dealt with distinctions between micro, small, and large purchases. However, in Dodge County's policy, all purchases must be approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Commission Niblett made a motion to approve the FTA Procurement Policy. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted agreeably, and the motion passed.

G. Resolution to Create Dodge County Fire Department

Attorney Harrington addressed the board regarding the resolution to create Dodge County Fire Department. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to table the resolution until the board had time to review. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion to table. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Reports

None presented.

County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

Manager Bearden reported the following:

- Annual work session date needs to be set at the board's pleasure.
- Great Oaks Bank removed maintenance fees on all the county's bank accounts, except the general fund.
- The state's alcohol licensing portal has gone live. All alcohol licenses must go through the portal.
- LOST negotiations begin next month.
- Chicken Road request is under review.
- The Spriggs Group will be in the courthouse performing asbestos testing and inspecting HVAC. Drone scans will also be available.
- The timber notification portal is live. Georgia Forestry is giving 19 months before complete transition to the portal is expected.

Public Comments

Eugene Brandon and Ken Sheffield petitioned the board to pave Fish Road.

Executive Session

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to enter executive session to discuss legal and personnel at 7:07 p.m. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to return to regular session at 8:25 p.m. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion; all voted in favor and the motion passed.



Adjournment

With no further business to address, Commissioner Niblett made a motion to adjourn at 8:26 p.m. Commissioner Watkins seconded; all voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Approved:

Dan McCranie, Chairman