



**Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Monday, February 07, 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
Karen Cheek, District 4

Also Present:

John P. Harrington, County Attorney
Conner Bearden, County Manager

Virtual Attendance:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting at the Dodge County Pearl Bates Courthouse Annex on **February 07, 2022**. Chairman McCranie presided and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add Bobby Danforth under new business and to add an executive session for legal matters after public comments.

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to amend the agenda to add Bobby Danforth under new business. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted favorably, and the agenda was amended.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to amend the agenda to add an executive session for legal matters after public comments. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion. All voted unanimously, and the motion passed.

Chairman McCranie led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a devotion from Commissioner Cheek entitled *Success and Sacrifice* from 1 John 3:11-18. Afterward, she prayed.

Elected Officials/Department Head

A. Michael Johnson – EMS Update

EMS Director Michael Johnson reported receivables of \$76,687.52 for January and cash-per-call at \$298.

B. Jamey Wilkinson – Fire Safety Coordinator Update

Fire Safety Coordinator Jamey Wilkinson reported 98 dispatched calls for January, with 40 fire and 58 rescue. Non-response calls were 17.

Approval of Minutes

January 18, 2022 – Regular Meeting

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on January 18, 2022, with no additions, corrections, or deletions. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Old Business

A. Dodge County Fire Department Resolution



County Manager Bearden presented the Dodge County Fire Department Resolution and indicated the Fire Chief would be appointed by the County Manager. After discussion, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to pass the Dodge County Fire Department Resolution. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. Eastman-Dodge County Recreation Board Appointment

Manager Bearden stated Paula McCain had emailed a resignation letter for her Recreation Board appointment. He also presented Cody Sheffield's resume for the open position. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to nominate Cody Sheffield to the Eastman-Dodge Recreation Board. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. With no other nominations, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Niblett seconded. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to appoint Cody Sheffield by acclamation. Commissioner Niblett seconded. All voted in favor, and Cody Sheffield was appointed to the Eastman-Dodge County Recreation Board.

C. Joint Development Authority of Bleckley County and Dodge County

Manager Bearden reported consulting with Chuck Eckles, Kennon Graham, Mac Harrington, and Allen Long about continuing to serve on the Joint Development Authority of Bleckley and Dodge County. Long, Harrington, and Eckles expressed willingness for reappointment. Graham requested information about the future vision of the authority.

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to nominate Allen Long, Chuck Eckles, and Mac Harrington to the Joint Development Authority of Bleckley and Dodge County. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion for the nominations. With no other nominations forthcoming, Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to accept the nominations by acclamation. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All voted unanimously, and the appointments of Chuck Eckles, Mac Harrington, and Allen Long to the Joint Development Authority of Bleckley County and Dodge County passed.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$224,802.79. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. Henry Whitfield

Chairman McCranie granted the floor to Henry Whitfield, Community Director of Middle Georgia State University, for a general update on the university.

C. Rowland Chapel Church Road – Emergency Repair

Manager Bearden presented a proposal of \$6,500 from Graham and Studstill to repair the asphalt on Rowland Chapel Church Road from the washout back in October 2021.

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to proceed with the proposal from Graham and Studstill. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

D. English Crossing Road – Road Abandonment

On behalf of Patrick O’Conner, Manager Bearden requested to abandon 1.7 miles on English Crossing Road beginning at the intersection of Garrison Drive and terminating at the dead end. Manager Bearden estimated the road had not been maintained by the county in over 15 years.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to proceed with the process of abandoning the portion of English Crossing Road. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. Manager Bearden indicated he would schedule the public hearings as required by state law.

E. Pearl Bates Annex Courtroom HVAC

Manager Bearden presented three bids to replace the 15-ton split unit in the main courtroom due to a bad compressor. Because the compressor was replaced in 2018, the technicians believed there is acid in the system, which was the reason for replacing the entire unit.

- Massingill - \$22,166.00
- Pruettt – \$24,902.00
- Hays - \$33,990.00

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to accept the low bid of \$22,166.00 from Massingill. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

F. SPLOST Request – Sheriff’s Office

Manager Bearden presented a SPLOST request from the Sheriff’s Office requesting tactical gear for the Special Response Team in the amount of \$65,150.00. If approved, Bearden indicated the 2013 SPLOST for the Sherriff’s office would have a zero balance.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the request for \$65,150.00 from the 2013 SPLOST for the Sheriff’s Office. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

G. SPLOST Request – Road Department

Manager Bearden presented a request from the road department for a single-axle dump truck. Currently, the county has two, but one has been in the shop for an engine rebuild for 12 months due to the supply chain issue. The proposed quotes were, as follows. (Road Department’s recommendation was the 1996 Ford.)

- 1996 Ford Single Axle Dump Truck with 49,332 miles in Soperton, GA - \$22,900.00
- 2013 Freightliner Single Axle Dump Truck with 67,066 miles in Cartersville, GA - \$59,995.00

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to proceed with the purchase of the 1996 Ford dump truck with Commissioner Flanagan making the second. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Manager Bearden also presented a request for a front end loader for the landfill. The county’s front end loader has been in the shop repeatedly and has tire erosion. Quotes were, as follows. (Road Department’s recommendation was the 2017 544K-II.)

- 2017 544K-II High Lift with 8400 hours - \$55,000.00

- 2019 Deere 544K with 2374 hours - \$187,500
- 2014 Deere 544K with 6152 hours - \$109,000

The quote of the preferred front-end loader did include the cost of delivery. Manager Bearden reported \$1,006,312 in the 2013 SPLOST for equipment purchases.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2017 544K High Lift for \$55,000. Commissioner Niblett seconded. All voted agreeably, and the motion passed.

H. BOC Work Session

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to hold the yearly work session before the next meeting on Monday, February 21 at 5:00 p.m. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion. All voted yay, and the motion passed.

I. Bobby Danforth

Bobby Danforth presented information to the board regarding outstanding taxes and penalties from his 2020 ad valorem taxes in the amount of \$508.39. He indicated he was not aware of owing any outstanding taxes and was not informed of additional fees from 2020 when he paid his taxes in 2021. Danforth received a foreclosure letter in February 2022 due to the outstanding taxes and penalties.

The board asked Attorney Harrington to research the matter.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Flanagan updated the board regarding broadband and the Rural Development Committee.

County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

Manager Bearden gave an update regarding House Bill 975 (not yet passed), which will allow probate judges who serve as election superintendents to terminate their responsibilities.

Public Comments

Citizens addressed the board regarding animal control issues.

Mark Johnson addressed the board regarding accessing his property on John B. McCranie Road.

Executive Session

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss legal matters at 7:04 p.m. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to return to the regular session at 7:25 p.m. Commissioner Niblett seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Chairman McCranie gave opportunity for motions to come before the board. Commissioner Watkins made a motion for Attorney Harrington to ascertain John B. McCranie Road had an easement. 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 7:28 p.m. Commissioner Flanagan seconded; all voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Approved:

Dan McCranie, Chairman