

**Board Meeting Minutes
Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Tuesday, July 5, 2022, 6:00 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
Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting at the Dodge County Pearl Bates Courthouse Annex Tuesday, July 5, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman McCranie presiding. He called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to amend the agenda to move the executive session below public comments. A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Niblett for the amendment. All voted favorably, and the agenda was amended.

Chairman McCranie led the Pledge of Allegiance. Afterward, Commissioner Cheek read a devotion from Psalm 103:1-12 entitled *God Celebrates Us* and led a prayer.

Elected Officials/Department Head

None present.

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes – June 20, 2022 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Cheek to approve the regular meeting minutes as published. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Old Business

A. SPLOST Request – Sheriff’s Radio Upgrade

County Manager Bearden updated the board regarding FirstNet with AT&T, which is an option the Sheriff’s Office is exploring to help with radio issues in the far-end of the county. Manager Bearden added the expense would be less costly than a repeater and the county has thirty days to test. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to table the SPLOST request for a repeater. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion. All voted unanimously, and the SPLOST request was tabled.

B. Surplus Road Equipment List

Manager Bearden presented a surplus road equipment list and requested to hold an auction July 30. After discussion, Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the list for auction with the exception of line item 11 – CAT Model 613-C Self-Propelled Dirt Pan. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion. All voted agreeably, and the motion passed.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Flanagan to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$521,378.66. With all voting in favor, the motion passed.



B. Resolution for Workers' Comp

Manager Bearden explained the resolution authorized volunteer firefighters to be covered by the county's workers' comp. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the resolution with Commissioner Niblett seconding. All voted favorably, and the motion passed.

C. Authorization of Funding for Road Engineer

County Manager Bearden requested approval for Work Order #3 between Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions and Dodge County Board of Commissioners, which authorizes funding in the amount of \$53,000 for assisting with administration of transportation funding, etc.

A motion was made by Commissioner Niblett and seconded by Commissioner Cheek to approve the work order for funding. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

D. Proclamation for National Senior Citizens Day On August 21

A motion was made by Commissioner Niblett and seconded by Commissioner Flanagan to approve the proclamation for Senior Citizens Day on August 21 for Eastman/Dodge County Council on Aging. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

E. Joint Development Authority of Bleckley County and Dodge County

Manager Bearden reported receiving a resignation letter on June 28 from Chuck Eckles for the JDA of Bleckley County and Dodge County.

Chairman McCranie asked for a motion to open nominations to the Joint Development Authority of Bleckley County and Dodge County.

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to open nominations. Commissioner Cheek made a second.

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to table nominations. Commissioner Watkins made a second.

Chairman McCranie asked for a show of hands for those in favor of tabling. Commissioners Watkins and Niblett voted in favor; Chairman McCranie and Commissioners Cheek and Flanagan opposed. The motion to table did not pass.

Chairman McCranie, Commissioners Cheek and Flanagan voted in favor of opening nominations. Commissioners Watkins and Niblett opposed. By majority vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Flanagan nominated Terry Coleman. Commissioner Cheek seconded the nomination. Chairman McCranie opened the floor for any other nominations. None were given.



Commissioner Cheek made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. Chairman McCranie and Commissioners Flanagan, Cheek, and Watkins voted in favor of closing nominations. Commissioner Niblett opposed. By majority vote, nominations were closed. Terry Coleman was appointed to the Joint Development Authority of Bleckley County and Dodge County by acclamation.

Commissioner Reports:

- Commissioner Flanagan reported attending a WIOA meeting.
- Chairman McCranie reported attending a meeting at the Ocmulgee EMC where plans for rural high speed through partnership with Conexon Connect will be offered to OEMC customers as early as 2023.

County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

The County Manager reported on the Chester Town Hall Work Session. Also, he reported a called meeting for the recreation board was scheduled for August 4 at 6:30 p.m.

Public Comments

Samuel J. Rollins expressed concern about the consolidation of Clarks Voting Precinct and Jaybirds Voting Precinct into the Chauncey Voting Precinct.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Niblett to enter executive session at 6:35 p.m. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to return to regular session at 7:02 p.m. Commissioner Watkins seconded. With all voting in favor, the motion carried.

Adjournment

With no further business to address, Commissioner Cheek made a motion to adjourn at 7:03 p.m. Commissioner Niblett seconded; all voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Approved:

Dan McCranie, Chairman

