

**Board Meeting Minutes  
Dodge County Board of Commissioners  
Monday, July 18, 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

**Also Present:**

John P. Harrington, County Attorney  
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 Monday, July 18, 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, as follows:

- Move Executive Session after Approval of Minutes
- Add two lines items to New Business:
  - H. SPLOST Request - Eastman-Dodge County Development Authority
  - I. Land Acquisition

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 Niblett led a prayer.

**Elected Officials/Department Head**

**A. Jamey Wilkinson – Fire Department Update**

Fire Chief Jamey Wilkinson reported Dodge County Fire Department calls totaled 50 dispatched calls, with 15 fire, 35 rescue, and 1 non-response. Also, Wilkinson reported recruiting for a certified firefighter for Dodge County.

**B. Michael Johnson – EMS Update**

EMS Director Michael Johnson reported revenues of \$108,259.54 for the month of June. Also, Cindy McCranie was hired as a coder for the department.

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. Minutes – July 5, 2022 Regular Meeting**

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

**Executive Session**

A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Niblett to enter executive session at 6:13 p.m. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to return to regular session at 7:09 p.m. Commissioner Watkins seconded. With all voting in favor, the motion carried.



## **Old Business**

None presented.

## **New Business**

### **A. Approval of Accounts Payable**

A motion was made by Commissioner Flanagan and seconded by Commissioner Niblett to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$307,458.26. With all voting in favor, the motion passed.

### **B. Voting Delegate – ACCG Legislative Conference**

A motion was made by Commissioner Niblett and seconded by Commissioner Watkins to select Commissioner Flanagan as the voting delegate for the ACCG Legislative Conference.

### **C. Airport Authority Representative**

On behalf of the Heart of Georgia Regional Airport Authority, Dennis Giddens reported receiving a grant for runway and apron construction. He requested a portion of the 5% match for the grant from the county's TSPLOST funds in the amount of \$130,000. A motion was made by Commissioner Niblett to approve up to \$130,000 from TSPLOST for the airport runway and apron. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

### **D. Department of Human Resources (DHS) Region 9 Contract**

Manager Bearden discussed a contract opportunity to partner with Middle Georgia Community Action Agency to provide non-emergent transport by utilizing the county's transit buses. After discussion, no motion was made on this matter.

### **E. Dodge County Board of Family and Children Services – Board Appointment**

A motion was made by Commissioner Niblett and seconded by Commissioner Flanagan to open nominations for the Dodge County Board of Family and Children Services with the reappointment of Mrs. Margo Watson. All voted in favor, and the motion passed. With no other nominations forthcoming, a motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Niblett to close nominations. All voted in favor, and the motion passed. Mrs. Margo Watson was reappointed by acclamation.

### **F. JDA of Bleckley County and Dodge County – Non-member Contact Appointment**

A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Niblett to appoint County Manager Conner Bearden as the non-member contact for the JDA of Bleckley County and Dodge County. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

### **G. SPLOST Request – EMS Department**

EMS Director Michael Johnson presented two bids for a Manitowoc ice machine and bin for the Carter Martin Public Safety Building, as follows. He recommended the low bid.

- ACityDiscount.com - \$5,339
- Walker Appliance Repair - \$7,000

A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Niblett to purchase the Manitowoc ice machine and bin from ACityDiscount utilizing the 2019 SPLOST for payment. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.



## **H. SPLOST Request – Dodge County-Eastman Development Authority**

On behalf of the Dodge County-Eastman Development Authority, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to request the remainder of the 2013 SPLOST allocated for economic development be sent to the Dodge-County Eastman Development Authority for development projects. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion. Commissioner Watkins amended the motion to include an amount of \$306,921 and some cents. Commissioner Niblett seconded the amendment. All voted in favor, and the amended motion passed unanimously.

## **I. Land Acquisition**

Attorney Harrington reported availability of 1.52 acres with a deep well around the Mitchell Fire Department for \$15,000. Attorney Harrington stated the title was clear. A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Flanagan to purchase the available property. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

### **Commissioner Reports:**

- Commissioner Flanagan inquired about serving on the Dodge County Farmer’s Market Development Authority Board since her past appointment on the board had never been filled. Attorney Harrington stated her request was essentially a nomination and would need a second. No second was made. No action was taken.

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

County Manager Bearden discussed the Town Hall sessions for the courthouse renovation project. He also updated the board about a water leak on the courthouse grounds.

### **Public Comments**

Kelly Belflower requested a Town Hall meeting in Gresston at the fire department to discuss the courthouse abatement and renovations.

Belflower also discussed an issue regarding Hobbs Road. At the board’s request, Attorney Harrington will consult with Assistant Attorney Daniels regarding Hobbs Road. Belflower discussed other road issues, as well.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to address, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. Commissioner Niblett 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