

**Board Meeting Minutes  
Dodge County Board of Commissioners  
Monday, August 15, 2022 at 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 Monday, August 15, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman McCranie presiding. He called the meeting to order and recognized Commissioner Flanagan who made a motion to amend the agenda to add a line item under new business to “Discuss Appointment to the Development Authority of Dodge County.” Commissioner Cheek seconded the motion. Commissioner Watkins voted nay. Commissioner Niblett abstained. Motion passed with a majority vote.

Chairman McCranie led the Pledge of Allegiance. Afterward, Commissioner Cheek read a devotion from Psalm 103:1-5. Then, she led a prayer.

**Elected Officials/Department Head**

**A. Fire Chief Jamey Wilkinson**

Fire Chief Jamey Wilkinson reported 72 total dispatched calls of which 47 were for the county fire department. The county had no non-response calls. Chester, Chauncey, and Milan had 4 non-response calls.

**B. EMS Director Michael Johnson**

EMS Director Michael Johnson reported \$81,000 in revenues for July. He also reported nine high school students enrolled in the EMS program and expected a few more.

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. Minutes – August 01, 2022 Regular Meeting**

A motion was made by Commissioner Niblett 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 Office**

Manager Bearden reminded the board of the Sheriff’s request in June for repeaters to help with bad reception in some parts of the county. At that time, Manager Bearden began researching other options. He reported AT&T with FirstNet could provide encrypted priority service for government entities, and the Sheriff’s Office had verified reliability. Manager Bearden requested \$10,898.51 for initial charges with \$1,600 of that refunded over a 90-day period. The monthly fee for the service totaled \$554.74.

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the SPLOST request by the Sheriff's Office for FirstNet. 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 Niblett to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$308,927.61. With all voting in favor, the motion passed.

### **B. Change First Meeting in September – Labor Day Holiday**

A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Niblett to move the first meeting in September to Tuesday, September 6, due to the Labor Day holiday on Monday. All voted in agreement, and the motion passed.

### **C. Called Meeting for Wednesday, August 31 at 6:30 p.m.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Niblett and seconded by Commissioner Watkins to set a called meeting on August 31 at 6:30 p.m. to set the millage rate due to the school board's meeting at 5:30 p.m. on the same day. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

### **D. Courthouse Phase I Update**

Manager Bearden requested permission to bid job to remove debris at the courthouse with the intent to present bids to the board. The debris must be removed before encapsulation can begin. The board agreed. Also, Bearden updated that HAZMAT bids were posted on GA Procurement, due September 8 and September 15.

### **E. City of Eastman Annexation Request**

Manager Bearden reported receiving a letter from the City of Eastman requesting annexation of 71.93 acres, more or less, Land Lot No. 217, 16<sup>th</sup> Land District, Dodge County Map/Parcel 060-013A (on Airport Road). A motion was made by Commissioner Sharon Cobb Flanagan to approve the annexation. Commissioner Niblett seconded; all voted yes, and the motion passed.

### **F. TSPLOST**

- **Project Part 3**

Manager Bearden requested permission to bid TSPLOST Project Part 3, which includes:

- Ben Giddens for patching with engineer estimate of \$83,547.50.
- Holder Place for resurfacing with engineer estimate of \$55,613.81.
- McQueen Drive for resurfacing with engineer estimate of \$84,598.91.
- Warehouse Drive for resurfacing with engineer estimate of \$79,919.85.

A motion was made by Commissioner Niblett and seconded by Commissioner Watkins to approve the roads as listed. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

- **In-House Roads**

Manager Bearden reported the road department manager does not have the manpower to tackle the roads in-house.



### **G. 2022 Millage Rate Discussion**

Commissioner Watkins made a motion of intent to proceed with the rollback rate of 11.74. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted agreeably and the motion passed.

### **H. Dodge County Recreation Board Appointment**

Manager Bearden reported a resignation on the recreation board from Cody Sheffield. The appointment has been advertised and applications are being received.

### **I. Fire Fee Committee Appointments**

Manager Bearden requested a committee to discuss possible fire fees for Dodge County. Commissioner Watkins and Commissioner Niblett volunteered. Chairman McCranie appointed Watkins and Niblett to the Fire Fee Committee.

### **J. Susan Coffee – Food Insecurities**

Susan Coffee discussed food insecurities within Dodge County.

### **K. Discuss Appointment to the Development Authority of Dodge County**

Chairman McCranie presented his resignation as board member from the Development Authority of Dodge County Board due to the bylaws which state that the Board of Directors be comprised of “a taxpayer of Dodge County and none of whom is an officer or employee of said County.”

### **Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Flanagan discussed someone from the authorities making the request for SPLOST funds.

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

Manager Bearden reported the following:

- LMIG EEE Project should be completed by the end of the month.
- An RV park is opening on Pine Bluff Road.

### **Public Comments**

Justin Haley thanked the commissioners who visited the food bank for information.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to address, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn at 6:52 p.m. Commissioner Flanagan 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