

**Board Meeting Minutes
Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Monday, February 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**



Commissioners Present:

Chairman Dan McCranie
Sharon Cobb Flanagan, District 1
Kelly Belflower, District 2
Brian Watkins, District 3
Vice-Chair Karen Cheek, District 4

Also Present:

John P. Harrington, County Attorney
Brian Robinson, Sheriff
Conner Bearden, County Manager
Michael Johnson, EMS Director
Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting at the Dodge County Pearl Bates Courthouse Annex Monday, February 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman McCranie presiding. He called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Afterward, Commissioner Cheek read a devotion from verses in Matthew entitled *Love Conquers All*. Then, she led a prayer.

Elected Officials/Department Head

A. Sheriff Brian Robinson

Sheriff Brian Robinson updated the board regarding stats from 2022 and thanked the board for continued support.

B. EMS Director Michael Johnson

EMS Director Michael Johnson reported approximately \$95,000 in revenues for January and 350 calls.

C. Fire Chief Jamey Wilkinson

County Manager Bearden updated the board as Fire Chief Wilkinson was unable to attend due to a fire call. In January, Dodge County Fire Department responded to 20 medical calls, 11 brush fires, 11 downed trees, 8 vehicle accidents, 1 structure fire, and 1 vehicle fire.

Next, County Manager Bearden and the board presented EMC managers, H. Peacock and Jeffrey Underwood, with ARPA funds for broadband expansion.

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes – February 06, 2023 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. Dodge County Hospital Authority Board Appointment Discussion

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to open nominations for the hospital board appointment vacated by Mr. Wilbur Garrett, which ends in 2024. Commissioner Watkins seconded. With no objections, nominations were opened.

- Commissioner Watkins nominated Jim Rahn.
- Commissioner Flanagan nominated Karen Cheek.



- Commissioner Belflower nominated Jerry Bland.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Belflower seconded. Commissioners Watkins, Belflower and Flanagan voted in favor, and the nominations were closed.

Note: Commissioner Cheek abstained from any motions in these nominations.

B. Council on Aging Request – Intergovernmental Agreement

Commissioner Belflower made a motion to approve the intergovernmental agreement with grammatical edits, which indicated the Council on Aging’s contribution consist of payment for utilities. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, 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 \$179,133.82. With all voting in favor, the motion passed.

B. 2019 SPLOST Request – Courthouse Circle Annex

Manager Bearden requested 2019 SPLOST funds to replace the screws and pipe boots on the metal roof at the courthouse annex on the courthouse circle. Total repair by Moore’s Roofing was estimated at \$6,153.58 with a five-year labor warranty. Bearden also reported 2019 SPLOST account has \$1,256,207.83 in the building fund. A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Belflower to approve the SPLOST request. All voted favorably, and the motion passed.

C. Workforce Development

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to establish a workforce development authority. Motion died for lack of a second.

D. Updated Permit Schedule

Manager Bearden presented an updated building permit schedule, which was effective February 1.

Commissioner Reports

None presented.

County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

Manager Bearden reported, as follows:

- Updated regarding the state legislature.
- Reported the yearly audit was approved by the Georgia Department of Audits & Accounts.
- Presented a model solar ordinance for the board to review for future approval. Commissioner Watkins and Commissioner Belflower agreed at the request of Chairman McCranie to assist Manager Bearden with the solar model ordinance.



- Presented a request from American Engineering Testing, who'd been contracted by EDP Renewables, to perform ground penetrating radar testing and other tests. The board, as a whole, was not agreeable with the dates presented.

Public Comments

None presented.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Flanagan to enter an executive session to discuss legal matters at 7:25 p.m. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cheek and seconded by Commissioner Watkins to reenter regular session at 7:36 p.m. All voted favorably, and the motion passed.

Adjournment

With no further business to address, a motion was made by Commissioner Cheek and seconded by Commissioner Watkins to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Approved:

Dan McCranie, Chairman