

**Board Meeting Minutes  
Dodge County Board of Commissioners  
Monday, June 05, 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:**

Conner Bearden, County Manager  
Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

**Absent:**

John P. Harrington, County Attorney

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting at the Dodge County Pearl Bates Courthouse Annex Monday, June 05, 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 John 10 and Romans 8, entitled *Powerful Love*. Next, she prayed.

**Elected Officials/Department Heads**

- EMS Director Michael Johnson reported \$109,200.17 in revenues for the month of May.
- Johnson discussed "New Business: Line Item D – SPLOST Request." He requested SPLOST funds to purchase a Hamilton T1 Ventilator from The EMS Superstore in the amount of \$12,565.00, thereby allowing the EMS department to provide a higher level of care for more critically ill patients. Manager Bearden affirmed SPLOST funds were available. A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Flanagan to proceed with the purchase of the ventilator for \$12,565.00. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. Minutes – May 15, 2023 Regular Meeting**

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes with no amendments. Commissioners Watkins seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

**Old Business**

**A. City of Eastman Fireworks Request**

Commissioner Cheek made a motion to approve \$4,000 for the City of Eastman's July 4 fireworks event. Commissioner Belflower made a second. Commissioner Flanagan discussed concerns regarding the amount of the donation and possible duplication of services.

Commissioners Belflower, Cheek, and Watkins voted yes. Commissioner Flanagan voted no. Motion passed with a majority vote.

**B. County Board Application Process**

Commissioner Belflower made a motion to put a policy in place for selecting board members. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. After discussion by the board, they decided the policy should be that current or new applicants must complete a board application before being considered for any board. Commissioners Belflower, Flanagan, and Cheek voted in favor of the motion and policy. Commissioner Watkins voted no. Motion passed with majority vote.

### **C. Dodge County Hospital Appointees**

Manager Bearden stated Mr. Paul Jones and Mr. Mandel Mullis were the two hospital authority board members to be re-nominated to complete terms expiring in 2024. Commission Watkins made a motion to re-nominate Jones and Mullis. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

### **D. Mt. Ararat Fire Station Update**

Manager Bearden stated he would release a bid packet for turn-key construction of the Mt. Ararat Fire Station with a 90-day completion stipulation. Bids would be open for 30 days.

### **New Business**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Belflower and seconded by Commissioner Watkins to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$379,682.74. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

#### **B. Heart of Georgia Altamaha RC Appointments for the Aging Advisory Committee**

Manager Bearden stated two appointments were open for the Aging Advisory Committee, and the positions would be advertised.

#### **C. Proposed Road Ordinance Addendum**

Commissioner Belflower made a motion for the road committee to discuss a possible addendum to the road ordinance at its next meeting. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

#### **D. SPLOST Request - EMS**

This item was discussed in the *Elected Officials/Department Heads* section, as detailed:

- Johnson discussed “New Business: Line Item D – SPLOST Request.” He requested SPLOST funds to purchase a Hamilton T1 Ventilator from The EMS Superstore in the amount of \$12,565.00, thereby allowing the EMS department to provide a higher level of care for more critically ill patients. Manager Bearden affirmed SPLOST funds were available. A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Flanagan to proceed with the purchase of the ventilator for \$12,565.00. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

#### **E. Courthouse Committee**

Manager Bearden reported the Courthouse Committee will consist of Stephen Whigham, Commissioner Brian Watkins, Commissioner Sharon Cobb Flanagan, Martin Kehayes, and Judge Michael Johnson, and an initial meeting will be scheduled.

#### **F. Gresston Dump Site Discussion**

At the request of Commissioner Belflower, County Manager Bearden detailed the expense of adding a building at the Gresston Dump Site, which totaled between \$5,000 and \$7,000. Commissioner Watkins suggested pricing cameras for the sites, as well. Chairman McCranie asked the county manager to report his findings at the next meeting.

**Public Hearing:**

**A. Road Name Change – Old Dodge High Road**

John Battle discussed changing Old Dodge High Road to Barden Battle Road to commemorate the history of residents on the road. Chairman McCranie said there would be one more public hearing, and then the board could make a motion in the matter.

**Commissioner Reports**

- Commissioner Flanagan reported the first Farmer’s Market had taken place at the Club on Saturday, June 3 and was a success.
- Commissioner Flanagan reported that recycling discussions were scheduled to take place at the middle and high schools.

**County Manager Report: Conner Bearden**

- Manager Bearden updated, as follows:
  - Recreation banquet is scheduled for August 3.
  - The Telfair landfill will not be accepting trash, and the county will be dumping in Houston County.
  - LMIG 2022 – Paving is complete; striping and shoulder work pending.
  - TSPLOST Part 3 – 66% of the paving is complete; striping and shoulder work pending.
  - Limb/leaf debris bid has been posted in the newspaper and on the Georgia procurement website.

**Public Comments**

Nothing presented.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to address, a motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioners Cheek and Flanagan to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

---

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Approved:

---

Dan McCranie, Chairman