

**Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 06, 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
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, November 06, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman McCranie presiding. He called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Cheek gave a devotion from Galatians, entitled "We Reap What We Sow," and led a prayer.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

Nothing presented.

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes – October 16, 2023 Regular Meeting

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

Old Business

A. Hobbs Road

Manager Bearden reported that Assistant Attorney Daniels filed a petition for clarification of the consent order in the Hobbs Road matter, Case No. 23V-9899.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

A motion was made by Commissioner Flanagan and seconded by Commissioner Belflower to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$410,917.80. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

B. FY 2022 Audit

County Auditor Frank Erwin reviewed the FY 2022 county audit with the Board.

C. Proposed Road Ordinance Revision

A motion was made by Commissioner Belflower and seconded by Commissioner Cheek, to revise the road ordinance, as detailed below. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Revision to Road Ordinance Sec. 18-55 Private driveways, as follows:

- a) No landowner shall connect a private driveway, drive, road or other private way which connects two or more residences or multiple parcels of land (hereinafter in this section collectively "private driveway") to a county roadway without first obtaining the written permission of the board of commissioners or their designee.

- b) Any private driveway that adjoins a county roadway shall meet the minimum conditions provided for under section 18-51 to the extent the board of commissioners or their designee determines such conditions are applicable.
- c) Any private driveway that adjoins a county roadway shall have a culvert so as not to disturb the flow of water or cause erosion to the roadbed.
- d) The pipe size will be determined by the county road superintendent or their designee based on the dimensions of the drainage ditch, watershed volume, and the width and angle of the driveway.
- e) The county is not responsible for the expense of the culvert.
- f) The county is not responsible for maintaining a private driveway.
- g) The county shall not be obligated to permit a private driveway to adjoin or connect to a county roadway unless the board of commissioners or their designee determines the private driveway shall not adversely impact the county roadway.

(Ord. of 4-19-2020(3), § 4)

D. 2024 Dodge County DFCS Budget

A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Belflower to approve the Dodge County 2024 DFCS Budget for January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024, in the amount of \$6,255.00. All voted unanimously, and the motion passed.

E. 2022 TSPLOST Part 3 – Final Inspection Punch List

Per County Manager Bearden, of the FY 2022 TSPLOST Part 3 Project, McQueen Drive and Holder Place are completed to satisfaction.

Ben Giddens Road has potholes, and Warehouse Drive has asphalt breaking away. Scruggs and the engineers have been informed of the issues. Final bill and retainage will not be paid until the roads are repaired.

F. 2022 LMIG – Final Inspection Punch List

Per County Manager Bearden, of the 2022 LMIG Projects, Gum Swamp Road, Jake Road, Liberty Street, Congo Lane Extension, Legacy Woods, South Carolina Road, Washington Avenue, Philadelphia Avenue, Evergreen Road, Free Gift Road, and Orphans Cemetery have been completed to satisfaction.

Coleman Holt Road and Carolina Street both have issues. Scruggs and the engineers have been informed.

Final payment has been released but retainage fees will not be released until issues are corrected.

G. Courthouse Committee Recommendations

County Manager Bearden presented three recommendations from the courthouse committee in reference to the county courthouse:

1. Employ the Spriggs Group to design a valid approximate estimate using programming surveys for the layout of the Dodge County Courthouse. This recommendation is for the full expansion concept that would allow for all county and judicial offices to be located in one building.



2. Also, employ the Spriggs Group to use the same programming data to design a valid approximate estimate for the Dodge County Courthouse solely as a judicial facility with additions/modifications as needed. For example: 1 large courtroom for jury trials, 2 smaller courtrooms for bench trials, grand jury room, jury assembly room, sally port features and functions, and offices.
3. Utilize a contractor to design a separate judicial building based off blueprints from the Tattnall County Judicial Annex, which Judge Johnson and County Manager Bearden will attempt to acquire.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to empower the county manager to engage The Spriggs Group for items 1 and 2 and to reach out to Tattnall County for information and blueprints on item 3. Commissioner Cheek seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

H. FY 2024 Budget Work Session

The board set a budget work session for Monday, November 13 at 6:00 pm.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Flanagan reported attending an ACCG Regional meeting where county property and liability insurance was discussed. Also, she reported from a national meeting which discussed airport improvement and bridges.

Chairman McCranie reported Commissioner Mike Davis from Bleckley County would like to change the Golden Isles Road's name to the Golden Isles Greenway. Commissioner Davis hopes the name change will help when applying for federal funds and would like to have Dodge County's support.

County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

Manager Bearden reported two new ambulances should be here by the end of the month.

Public Comments

Susan Coffee asked about the cardboard recycling project.

Adjournment

With no further business to address, a motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Belflower to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Approved:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Dan McCranie, Chairman