

**Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 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
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 20, 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, entitled "A Thanksgiving Blessing," and led a prayer.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

- Fire Chief Jamey Wilkinson presented the incident response report noting 66 calls for the month of October.
- EMS Director updated total revenues of \$91,996.85 for the month of October. Through October, the EMS responded to 4,170 calls. Also, two new ambulances should be arriving in December.

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes – November 06, 2023 Regular Meeting

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

B. Minutes – November 13, 2023 Work Session

Commissioner Belflower made a motion to approve the work session minutes with no amendments. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Old Business

A. Hobbs Road

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to proceed with public hearings, coinciding with the next two board meetings on December 4th and 18th, for the purpose of abandoning Hobbs Road. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted agreeably, and the motion passed.

B. Approval of FY 2022 Audit

A motion was made by Commissioner Belflower and seconded by Commissioner Watkins to approve the FY 2022 County Audit. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

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 \$191,086.90. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

B. E911 Restricted Fund Bank Account (continued after line item L)

Commissioner Watkins requested Attorney Harrington draft a resolution to open the E911 Restricted Fund Bank and to readdress this item later in the agenda.

C. 2024 LMIG Approval

A motion was made by Commissioner Belflower and seconded by Commissioner Flanagan to approve the 2024 LMIG list of roads, as below. All voted in favor, and the motion passed. LMIG Grant funds total \$955,104.12 with a required match of \$95,510.41. Total cost of the 2024 LMIG project is \$1,149,627.11.

- Lennie Lane
- Lantie Drive
- Grace Drive
- Garrett Oxley Part 1
- Garrett Oxley Part 2
- Ragan Avenue
- Spivey Road
- Sycamore Drive
- Ag Best
- Bedsole Road
- Paul Milner Road
- Jaybird Helena Drive

D. 2024 Qualifying Fees

A motion was made by Commissioner Flanagan and seconded by Commissioner Belflower to approve the qualifying fees for the 2024 elections, as follows. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

- Clerk of Superior Court - \$1,778.88
- Probate Judge - \$1,778.88
- Sheriff - \$2,122.59
- Tax Commissioner - \$1,778.88
- Magistrate Judge - \$1,798.04
- Coroner - \$108.00
- Board of Commissioners Chairperson - \$396
- Board of Commissioners District Member - \$162

E. Limb/Leaf Debris Guidelines and Fees

The board discussed limb/leaf debris guidelines and made a recommendation not to accept anything over 4" in diameter, and that no fees would be assessed for natural yard debris.

F. 2023 3rd Quarter Financials

The board discussed 3rd quarter financials. Commissioner Flanagan requested to change the titled item, "Recreation and Culture" to "Recreation and Library." Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve 3rd quarter financials and "Recreation and Library" amendment. Commissioner Watkins made a second. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

G. 2023 3rd Quarter Road Report

The board reviewed the 3rd quarter road report.

H. Golden Isles Greenway Resolution

Commissioner Belflower made a motion to approve the Golden Isles Greenway Resolution, as recorded below. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

November 13, 2023

A RESOLUTION;

Designating the Golden Isle Greenway as an official corridor in Georgia and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, Bibb, Twiggs, Bleckley, and Dodge Counties' economies would greatly benefit from further growth in the green industry arena and;



WHEREAS, Secure funding and approval for the completion of a four-lane highway between the intersection on Highway 96 and Highway 87 /23 and Interstate 16 (Exit 6) will benefit future development and increase in the transportation of goods, strengthen tourism on the Golden Isle Parkway, and support the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historic Park;

WHEREAS, it would be advantageous for official corridors to be established for the pursuit of state and federal grants, and;

WHEREAS, the Golden Isle Greenway Corridor shall be composed of the following two contiguous parcels:

All that territory hereinafter described, including all parcels abutting either, said of every named road, street, or other vehicular right of way:

Beginning at Interstate 16 and going south to the Golden Isle Parkway in Dodge County /Eastman.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the members of this body designate the Golden Isle Greenway Corridor as an official greenway corridor in the State of Georgia.

By: _____, Dan McCranie, Chairman Board of Commissioners

Attested by: _____, Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

I. Traffic Flow Amendment

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to proceed with the traffic flow amendment making Yearty Cemetery and Grant Road a one-way road from November 25 to December 25 during a set time for the purpose of accommodating Green Acres Farm, who must also have signage placed to the county manager's requirements. Commissioner Flanagan seconded, and all voted in favor.

J. Regional Council 3rd Member Appointment

The Regional Council Third-member noted by the board for appointment at the next scheduled meeting.

K. 2024 Proposed Budgets

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to set the public hearings to discuss the proposed 2024 county budgets, along with the fiduciary accounts, on December 4th and December 18th to coincide with the next regularly scheduled board meetings. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

L. Tax Assessor Board Appointment

After confirming this was the 2nd meeting this appointment has been on the agenda, thereby following the board's policy for board appointments, Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to nominate Cindy Eckles to the Board of Tax Assessors. (Eckles was the only application submitted after advertising for one month.) Commissioner Cheek seconded the nomination. No other nominations were forthcoming.

Commissioner Cheek made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the nominations were closed.

Chairman McCranie announced Cindy Eckles was appointed by acclamation.



B. E911 Restricted Fund Bank Account (continuation from above)

Attorney Harrington read aloud the following resolution to set the E911 Restricted Fund Bank Account:

A RESOLUTION

TO CREATE A SEPARATE RESTRICTED BANK ACCOUNT FOR THE COLLECTION AND DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS FOR MONIES RECEIVED BY VIRTUE OF 911 FEES REQUIRED BY THE STATE

WHEREAS, it is resolved by the Dodge County Board of Commissioners that a bank account be established for the purpose of collecting and disbursing fees received from 911 assessments; and

WHEREAS, it is resolved that all checks issued on said accounts shall require two of the following persons signature on the face of the check: William Dan McCranie – Chairman, Conner Bearden – County Manager, and Kimberly Smith-Parkerson – County Clerk or their successors over time as they appear and are elected or appointed.

The County Manager is therefore directed to create said account at the Colony Bank in Eastman, GA, and to have signature cards set up on said account.

SO RESOLVED, this 20th day of November, 2023

By: _____, Dan McCranie, Chairman Board of Commissioners
Attested by: _____, Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the resolution, as described above, to create an E911 bank account at Colony Bank. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Watkins reported that some from the courthouse committee visited four courthouses to gather ideas for renovating the old courthouse or building new.
- Commissioner Flanagan reported meeting with the school superintendent to discuss trades and pathways.

County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

Manager Bearden reported the waste recycling truck’s arrival. Also, the recreation department’s board meeting is scheduled next Monday at 5:30 p.m. Next, he reported an upcoming solar meeting was scheduled to discuss a 1200 acre solar farm.

Public Comments

None presented

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