



**Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**

Commissioners Present:

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

Remote Attendance:

Kelly Belflower, District 2

Also Present:

Conner Bearden, County Manager
John P. Harrington, County Attorney
Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting at the Dodge County Pearl Bates Courthouse Annex Monday, March 18, 2024, 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 John 12:12-15 in honor of Holy Week. Next, she led a prayer.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

A. EMS Director Michael Johnson

EMS Director Michael Johnson reported 304 calls and \$74,503.10 in revenue for February.

B. Fire Chief Jamey Wilkinson

Fire Chief Wilkinson noted 76 calls for February. He also reported the official results of the 2023 ISO Review, which will go into effect June 1. The PPC rating decreased from a 9 to a 5/5X.

Executive Session

A. Legal

B. Land Acquisition

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to enter an executive session to discuss legal and land acquisition matters. Commissioners Cheek and Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the board entered an executive session at 6:12 p.m.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to return to regular session at 6:48 p.m. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes – March 04, 2024

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Old Business

A. RYDC Property Transfer Resolution

Chairman skipped this line item.

B. Dodge County Courthouse RFP

Manager Bearden stated he had updated the RFP, as advised by the board, by removing the point system, changing verbiage from hospital to courthouse, and adding insurance qualifications. The board recommended posting the RFP for 60 days and allowing the courthouse committee to select 3-5 for final consideration.

C. Farmer's Market Board Appointment

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to open nominations with Eugene Brannon. Commissioner Watkins made a second. With no other nominations forthcoming, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All voted in favor. Eugene Brannon was appointed by acclamation.

D. Dodge County Hospital Authority Board Nominations

On the first nomination, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to open nominations with incumbent John Paul Jones. Commissioner Cheek seconded.

Commissioner Belflower made a motion to nominate Terry Niblett. Commissioner Flanagan seconded.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to nominate Jeffrey Underwood. Commissioner Flanagan seconded.

On the second nomination, Commissioner Flanagan nominated Jim Rahn. Commissioner Cheek seconded.

Commissioner Watkins nominated Terry Niblett. Commissioner Flanagan seconded.

On the third nomination, Commissioner Flanagan nominated Jerry Bland. Commissioner Watkins seconded.

Commissioner Watkins nominated Terry Niblett. Commissioner Cheek seconded.

Commissioner Watkins nominated Mandel Mullis. Nomination died for lack of a second.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Cheek to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$179,033.27. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. City of Eastman Property Annex Request

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to table until a subsequent meeting. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion to table passed.

C. Wallace Mullis – Potential Solar Project

Wallace Mullis discussed the potential solar project in the Gresston area and supplied information for the board to review.

D. Fire Protection Bids

Manager Bearden presented the fire protection bids, as follows, and recommended the board reject all bids due to the amount of bids in comparison to what the county currently pays:

- Cintas \$1,190 plus schedule
- Southern Safety \$19,660

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to reject all bids. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in agreement. Motion passed.

E. Mulching Bids

Manager Bearden presented the mulching bids, as below:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| • Utilicon Service | \$23,960 | • MW Collins | \$60,000 |
| • AKA Tree Service | \$28,764 | • Navy Strong | \$70,000 |
| • LRS Land Service | \$33,000 | | |

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to accept the low bid from Utilicon Service in the amount of \$23,960. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

F. Bank Accounts

Chairman McCranie stated the county manager would take care of this item.

B. City of Eastman Property Annexation – revisited this line item

Commissioner Flanagan noted her reason for tabling this line item was due to missing information in the packet.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Flanagan recommended changing the board appointment policy so that the appointment doesn't have to appear on two consecutive meetings. But on a "subsequent" meeting (after the initial one).

Commissioner Flanagan also noted some board members might be staying on boards simply because they're nominated and feel an obligation. She asked for thoughts on how to address this situation.

County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

- County Manager Bearden gave a legislative update.
- Dodge County received \$1,182,000 in additional LMIG funding, which requires no match.
- Cardboard recycling bins have been placed.

Public Comments

Nothing commented.

Adjournment

With no further business to address, a motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Cheek to adjourn at 7:53 p.m. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Approved:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Dan McCranie, Chairman