

**Dodge County Board of Commissioners  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, April 01, 2024**

**Commissioners Present:**

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

**Also Present:**

Conner Bearden, County Manager  
John P. Harrington, County Attorney  
Ron Daniels, 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, April 01, 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 Psalm 2, entitled *As Springs Follows Winter*. Next, she led a prayer.

**Elected Officials/Department Heads**

None present.

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. Minutes – March 18, 2024 Regular Meeting**

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

**B. Minutes – March 22, 2024 Special Called Meeting**

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the special called meeting minutes. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All voted in favor, and the minutes were approved.

**Old Business**

**A. Dodge County Hospital Authority Board Nominations**

Commissioner Belflower made a motion to table the nominations. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion to table passed.

**New Business**

**A. Approval of Accounts Payable**

A motion was made by Commissioner Flanagan and seconded by Commissioner Watkins to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$97,947.72. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

**B. City of Eastman Notification of Property Annexation**

The City of Eastman sent the county notification of property annexation request by Arthur (Reggie) Sheffield and Ellen Sheffield for 1.25 acres. All paperwork was in order. Commissioner Flanagan noted the City of Eastman hadn't had two public hearings. Attorney Harrington confirmed state regulations require two public hearings by the City, but he stated the planning and zoning public hearings may be sufficient

according to city policy. Mr. Harrington noted regulations for objecting to annexation according to OCGA § 36-36-113, as detailed below:

- Proposed change in zoning or land use
- Proposed increase in density
- Infrastructure demands related to the proposed change in zoning or land use

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to table the property annexation line item. Commissioner Belflower seconded. Commissioners Flanagan, Belflower, and Cheek voted in favor of tabling, and Commissioner Watkins voted against. Motion passed by majority vote.

### **C. Library Board Appointment**

Manager Bearden announced that a library board appointment will be expiring June 30, and he will be advertising for applications.

### **D. DFCS Board Appointment**

Manager Bearden announced that a DFCS board appointment will be expiring June 30, and he will be advertising for applications.

### **E. Regional Commission Council on Aging Board Appointment**

Manager Bearden announced there is an open appointment on the Regional Commission Council on Aging Board. He will be advertising for applications.

### **F. Board Appointment Policy**

The board appointment policy was reviewed, but no changes were made.

### **Commissioner Reports**

Nothing presented.

### **County Manager Report: Conner Bearden**

- County Manager Bearden gave a legislative update.
- The Road Committee's next meeting is scheduled May 8 at 10 a.m.
- The county will have a CPR/Narcan class for the Pearl Bates Annex May 14 at 10 a.m.
- The Farmer's Market will be opened Saturday, April 6 from 8 a.m. till noon.
- The Chamber Banquet is April 25.
- ACCG Conference is April 25 – April 27.
- The CDBG project is ongoing.
- Rec Board will offering Frisbee golf.
- The county agent has retired.
- The EEO Utilization Report was completed and submitted 3/27/2024. The information was distributed to the board and made available to the public.

**Public Comments**

Tyler Smith spoke on behalf of Sure Waste Management and asked for a landfill disposal fee for household garbage. He stated his business dumps household garbage and is being charged \$50 per ton, which is the price set forth for non-household garbage.

Wallace Mullis spoke to the board about the planning of a 3000-acre solar farm in Pulaski County. He stated the solar farm had a 200-foot buffer for landowners. He requested Dodge increase their buffer distance (which is 100 feet) on the current solar ordinance. Sasha Mullis also asked that everyone work together in the matter of solar farm planning.

**Executive Session**

**A. Legal**

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to enter executive session at 6:54 p.m. Commissioner Belflower seconded. All voted in agreement, and the board went into executive session.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to return to regular session at 7:44 p.m. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to address, a motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Flanagan to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan McCranie, Chairman