

**Dodge County Board of Commissioners  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, April 15, 2024**

**Commissioners Present:**

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

**Remotely**

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, April 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman McCranie presiding. He called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to amend the agenda to move the Executive Session after “Elected Officials/Department Heads.” Commissioner Flanagan made the motion; Commissioner Cheek seconded. All voted in favor, and the agenda was amended. Chairman McCranie led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Cheek gave a devotion from 1 John 3:16-18, entitled “Love in Action.” Next, she led a prayer.

**Elected Officials/Department Heads**

**A. Fire Chief Jamey Wilkinson**

Fire Chief Wilkinson reported March’s stats for the fire department. Year-to-date calls were at 219, with March having 74.

**B. EMS Director Michael Johnson**

EMS Director Johnson reported 323 calls in the month of March, with receivables of \$79,868.70.

**Executive Session**

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to go into executive session to discuss legal and property. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All voted in favor, and the board entered an executive session at 6:09 pm.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to go back into regular session, and Commissioner Flanagan seconded. The board returned to regular session at 6:48 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. Minutes – April 01, 2024 Regular Meeting**

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

**Old Business**

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

Manager Bearden informed the board a new hospital authority board application had been received from Buddy Pittman. Also, he stated two positions need to be filled. For position two, standing nominations from the prior meeting were Dr. Jim Rahn and Terry Niblett. Attorney Harrington referenced state regulations and

noted there should be three nominations for each open position. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to open nominations with Buddy Pittman. Commissioner Cheek seconded. With no other nominations forthcoming, Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to close nominations for position two. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

For the next open position, Manager Bearden notified the board they had nominated Jerry Bland and Terry Niblett at the prior meeting. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to open nominations with Mandell Mullis. Commissioner Cheek seconded. With no other nominations forthcoming, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

### **B. Growing Forward Together**

Commissioner Flanagan discussed a framework for Growing Forward Together, which she and Commissioner Cheek were working to implement. Growing Forward Together would be created to bring key entities to work collaboratively for the purpose of growing Dodge and its cities.

Chairman McCranie asked if there were any objections to moving forward. None were expressed.

### **New Business**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Flanagan and seconded by Commissioner Cheek to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$822,414.97. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

#### **B. Road Committee Requests**

The road committee requested right-of-way mulching on the Roddy Highway, as a pilot road. Utilicon submitted a bid of \$18,750. Commissioner Cheek made a motion to accept the only bid submitted from Utilicon. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Also, Utilicon had submitted a quote for trimming oak trees around the courthouse in the amount of \$2,900. The board requested the county manager advertise locally for more bids.

#### **C. Transit Drug and Alcohol Policy**

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to accept the updated transit drug and alcohol policy. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

#### **D. Road Department SPLOST Request**

Manager Bearden received a SPLOST request from Road Department Superintendent Richard Harrell. Two local vehicles were submitted for approval, as below, from Goodman Auto Sales:

- 2014 Silverado 1500 V8 with 205,000 miles – 4 door - \$12,417
- 2014 Silverado 1500 V6 with 175,602 miles – 4 door - \$10,317

Manager Bearden reported that the road department had \$1,509,459.67 available in SPLOST funds. Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

### **Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Flanagan noted the farmer's market had a grand opening. She also reported from the regional meeting where she learned the unemployment rate for Dodge County was 3.6, with Georgia's rate at 3.1. There's a construction manager program open at Oconee Fall Line College. Also, regionally 9 of 17 counties participated in the electric charging grant.

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

County Manager Bearden reported that next week was the Chamber's banquet. Also, ACCG's Conference would be April 25-27. The county needs to begin planning SPLOST negotiations. And working on the board of elections.

### **Public Comments**

Eugene Brannen discussed the Farmer's Market grand opening and noted the cake competition was a success.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to address, a motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Flanagan to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Approved:

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Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

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Dan McCranie, Chairman