

Dodge County Board of Commissioners

Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 06, 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, May 06, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman McCranie presiding. He called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, Commissioner Cheek gave a devotion from Psalm 37:1-7, entitled "The Ticking Watch." Next, she led a prayer.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

A. Attorney John Harrington on behalf of Fire Chief Jamey Wilkinson

Attorney Harrington introduced a resolution on behalf of Fire Chief Jamey Wilkinson for the City of Rhine, as stated:

**City of Rhine
State of Georgia**

A resolution came before the Council for the City of Rhine at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Council stating the following:

Whereas, the City of Rhine currently has an existing Fire Department located between First Street and the North right-of-way line of the Southern Railway tracks in the City of Rhine;

Whereas, The County of Dodge is making a County-wide Fire Department which would also protect the Citizens of Rhine GA;

Whereas The County of Dodge would need to have title to the property currently used as a Fire Department in order to obtain grants, equipment, materials, and training for said Fire Department personnel; and

Whereas, all of said matters are to the benefit of the Safety, Cost of Property insurance, and Safety of all citizens in Rhine;

Now therefore, be it resolved that the property identified as Parcel No. 011A 181 on the tax records of Dodge County, Georgia will be conveyed to the County of Dodge for Public Safety Purposes. It being provided, however, that if Dodge County ever ceases to use the Property for Public Safety Purposes that said property shall be reconveyed to the City of Rhine.

This the 6th day of May, 2024.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All physically present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes – April 15, 2024 Regular Meeting

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

Old Business

A. Library Board Application

Manager Bearden presented a regional library board application from Charlotte H. Coffee to the board for the local library appointment. He confirmed Ms. Coffee was willing to serve locally.

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 physically present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. Road Engineer Work Authorization Form

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the work authorization form from WSP USA Environment & Infrastructure Inc. for \$53,500. Commissioner Cheek seconded the motion. All physically present voted in favor. Motion passed.

C. Community Service Board Contract Renewal

Commissioner Cheek made a motion to approve the Community Service Board Contract, as spread upon the minutes below. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All physically present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONTRACT

GEORGIA, Dodge

THIS AGREEMENT made and entered into, by and between the Community Service Board of Middle Georgia of the first part and the Dodge County Commission of Dodge County Georgia of the second part.

WITNESSETH

THAT, WHEREAS, IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED BY AND BETWEEN the parties hereto that this Contract Agreement is being made for the purpose of the provision of behavioral health services by the party of the first part, through the Community Service Board of Middle Georgia, located at Dublin, Laurens County, Georgia, to all clients suitable for referral by the party of the second part for behavioral health services and alcohol services shall be made available to Dodge County residents; specifically, those services that shall be provided will consist of diagnosis, evaluation and appropriate treatment services rendered by staff of the aforesaid program units; and

WHEREAS, IT IS FURTHER UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED THAT the aforesaid services shall be rendered in compliance with state and federal standards promulgated by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities: and

WHEREAS, IT IS FURTHER UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED THAT THE AFOREMENTIONED services shall be provided to the party of the second part without regard to number.

NOW, THEREFORE, FOR AND IN CONSIDERATION OF THE SUM OF Thirteen Thousand Three Hundred Forty Three Dollars (\$13,343.00) it is agreed that the part of the second part will contribute said sum to the part of the first part towards the operation of the Community Service Board of Middle Georgia for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025; said funds shall be paid in twelve (12) monthly installments and shall be due in the amount of \$1,111.91, and it is understood and agreed that no portion of said monthly installments so paid by the part of the second part may be recovered by the party of the second part at the end of fiscal year involved.

THIS CONTRACT IS BEING EXECUTED and each copy thereof shall be considered an original; and by its duly authorized officers, in the presence of the parties hereto, by and through their proper officers, have caused this instrument to be executed and seals affixed on the day and year first above written.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD
OF MIDDLE GEORGIA**

Ellise Tapley
Notary Public, State of Georgia

Ellise N. Inber
Chief Executive Officer

Kimberly Smith Parkerson
Notary Public, State of Georgia

Kimberly Smith Parkerson
Dodge County Commissioner
Chairman

D. Sweet Home Church Road Dumpsters

Manager Bearden indicated he'd been contacted numerous times about the state of the unmanned dumpsters on Sweet Home Church Road. Citizen Jody Walker addressed the board to ask if the dumpsters could be removed when the dumpsters in Milan open at the end of May. Citizen Milton Ussery presented pictures of the state of the dumpsters on Sweet Home Church Road. The board stated they would reevaluate the dumpsters after the opening of the dumpsters in Milan.

E. Recovery Residences

Manager Bearden presented a proposed ordinance for Recovery Residences, as detailed below. Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to pass the ordinance. Commissioner Cheek seconded the motion. All physically presented voted in favor. Motion passed.

Chapter 10 – Businesses and Business Regulations

ARTICLE III. - RECOVERY RESIDENCES

Sec. 10-26. - Title.

This article shall be known as the "Dodge County Recovery Residence Ordinance."

Sec. 10-27. - Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Person means any individual, corporation, company, partnership, trust or other entity.

Recovery residence means any facility located in, on or at any land within the unincorporated area of Dodge County, which houses, shelters or supervises any individual for the purpose of assisting him or her in rehabilitating from and overcoming substance abuse and addiction; provided that, recovery residence also means safe and healthy residential environments in which skills vital for sustaining recovery are learned and practiced in a home-like setting, based on certain principles and standards recognized by the National Alliance of Recovery Residences ("NARR") and the Georgia Association of Recovery Residences ("GARR").

Sec. 10-28. – License(s).

(a)Effective January 1, 2024, a license must be obtained from the governing authority before a person may operate any recovery residence in the unincorporated area of Dodge County, Georgia.

(b)No license to operate a recovery residence shall be issued to any person who is not 21 years of age and a citizen of the United States or who has been convicted of a felony. Application for a license to operate a recovery residence shall be made upon such forms as provided by the county manager and shall be filed and maintained in the office of the county manager.

(c)Every application for a license shall be accompanied by the affidavit of the applicant, sworn to before an officer authorized by law to administer oaths, stating the applicant is a citizen of the United States; that they have not been convicted of a felony; that they will comply with the standards promulgated by GARR as set forth in Sec. 10-29 and the laws, rules, and regulations as promulgated by any local, state, or federal

governing authority having jurisdiction over the facility; that a suitable policy of insurance has been procured with a copy of an insurance binder in no less amount than \$1,000,000.00 for general liability purposes; that the premises of the recovery residence is sufficiently secure as to not create a public nuisance; and that no person at said recovery residence shall be permitted to use alcohol or illegal substances as defined by OCGA 16-13-1 et seq.

(d)The county manager or their designee shall issue a license for a recovery residence which meets the criteria set forth in Sec. 10-28(c) and Sec. 10-29. In the event an application for a license for a recovery residence is rejected, the applicant shall be provided a written statement setting forth the basis of the denial and the applicant shall not be prohibited from submitting further applications after remediating nay issues identified in writing by the county manager or their designee.

Sec. 10-29. – Minimum Standards

Each and every recovery residence shall comply with the principles and standards established by the GARR, as set forth in the most current edition of the NARR standards, 3.0, as amended, including but not limited to insuring that:

- (1)The recovery residence is in good repair, clean and well maintained;
- (2)There is 50 plus square feet per bed per sleeping room;
- (3)There is a minimum of one sink, toilet and shower per six residents;
- (4)Each resident has personal item storage;
- (5)Each resident has food storage space;
- (6)There are laundry services accessible to all residents;
- (7)All appliances are in safe, working, condition;
- (8)There is a meeting space large enough to accommodate all residents;
- (9)A comfortable group area providing space for small groups and socializing;
- (10)There are kitchen and dining areas large enough to accommodate all residents;
- (11)The recovery residence has a safety-inspection;
- (12)There is a policy regarding a smoke-free living environment and/or designated smoking area outside the recovery residence;
- (13)There are emergency numbers, procedures (including overdose and other emergency responses) and evacuation maps posted in a conspicuous location;
- (14)There are resident rights, rules, responsibilities, schedules, emergency procedures, emergency numbers, staff contact numbers, and grievance process posted in all recovery residences; and
- (15)There are resource directories, written or electronic, made available to all residents.

Sec. 10-30. – Issuance of License.

Upon the application being filed and approved, the county manager shall issue a license for the current year or unexpired portion thereof upon the payment of \$150.00 as a license fee.

Sec. 10-31. - Surrender, transfer and forfeiture of license.

If any licensee shall voluntarily relinquish personal supervision, management, and control of such recovery residence, they shall surrender their license to the county manager, who may issue a new license to some other person to continue the business under this article, in which event credit shall be given for the unused portion of the surrendered license; but, if any licensee transfers or subleases the place of business to anyone or relinquishes management and control of the business without surrendering their license to the

county manager for reissuance, the license shall be deemed to be forfeited, and the county manager will notify the sheriff of the county, who shall close the place of business.

Sec. 10-32. Revocation.

The failure of the licensee to comply with the terms of this article or the provisions of state law governing the operation of a recovery residence shall authorize the county manager to immediately revoke any license issued permitting the operation of a recovery residence.

Sec. 10-33. - Punishment for violation(s).

Any person or individual who violates any part or provision of this article shall be punishable by the means and manners set forth in Chapter 1, Sec. 1-4.

F. FY '24 – 1st Quarter Financials

Manager Bearden presented the 1st Quarter Financials, as detailed:

**Dodge County Commissioners
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures by Source QTR 1 FY2024**

Unaudited

<u>REVENUES:</u>	Collected	Expenditure
Taxes:	\$ 2,462,810.60	
Permits and Licenses:	13,229.70	
Intergovernmental:	333,992.30	
Charges for Services:	457,890.44	
Judicial Fees and Charges:	90,863.28	
Special Revenue Charges:	15,190.00	
 <u>EXPENSES:</u>		
Board of Commissioners		42,939
Office of Co. Commissioner:		99,279
CTHSE EXP. (PUBLIC BLDGS. & ANNEX)		69,016
Election Expense:		43,803
Registrar:		24,637
Office of Tax Commissioner:		79,503
Tax Assessor and Appraiser:		109,689
Superior Court		62,942
District Attorney		15,558
Clerk of Superior Court		81,438
Magistrate:		57,729
Probate Court		57,137
Sheriff:		1,197,854
Coroner:		15,422
E-911:		173,804
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES:		535,391
PS* RFD* RURAL FIRE DEPT&OTHER EXP.MPS		16,282

Dodge County Fire Department/ EMA	144,065
Oconee Drug Task Force	55,446
Roads	802,163
Sanitation	275,874
HEALTH AND WELFARE:	16,272
Nutrition Center:	13,944
RECREATION & LIBRARY:	59,593
Building Inspection:	26,281
Other Dev. & Hous.	2,250
County Agent	22,831
Transit	69,832
Misc Community Service	11,744
Board of Equalization	-
Group Ins/Ret.* Co. Share	60,967
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 3,373,976.32
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	4,243,684

G. FY '24 - 1st Quarter Road Work Order Report

Manager Bearden presented the work order report for the first quarter of 2024. Total work orders entered were 102, and average days to completion were 9.51.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Belflower reported that the Roddy Road right-of-way mulching project was a great success.
- Chairman McCranie reported from a meeting at the ACCG conference that Kevin Tanner, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, still has plans for the old YDC location, but they will be providing their own security.

County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

County Manager Bearden reported, as follows:

- The Ocmulgee Water Trail's "Paddle the Forks" is scheduled for June 8.
- Diane Fountain, at the tax assessor's office, passed her Level 3 Certification.
- Board of Tax Assessor's meeting will be held May 8 at 10:00 a.m. in the BOC boardroom due to early voting in their building.
- Solar project meeting is scheduled May 21 at 10:30 a.m. in the BOC boardroom.
- New transit van should arrive by Thursday.
- Joint work session with the City of Eastman is scheduled for Thursday, May 9.

Public Comments

- Milton Ussery commented about the Sweet Home Church Road dumpster issue again.
- A citizen who works with the Department of Community Supervision commended the board for adopting a recovery residence ordinance.

Adjournment

With no further business to address, a motion was made by Commissioner Flanagan and seconded by Commissioner Watkins to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. All physically present voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Approved:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Dan McCranie, Chairman