

Dodge County Board of Commissioners Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 20, 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 20, 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 Luke 10:25-27, entitled "Hands and Feet." Next, she led a prayer.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

A. Fire Chief Jamey Wilkinson

Fire Chief Jamey Wilkinson noted 88 calls in April with 307 for the year.

A. Michael Johnson

EMS Director Michael Johnson reported 352 calls in April with revenues of \$102,603.35.

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes – May 06, 2024 Regular Meeting

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

A. Minutes – May 09, 2024 Joint Work Session with City of Eastman

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

Old Business

A. Library Board Application

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to open nominations with Charlotte H. Coffee. Commissioner Cheek seconded the nomination.

With no other applications presented and no other nominations forthcoming, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All physically present voted in favor.

Chairman McCranie stated Charlotte H. Coffee was appointed by acclamation.

B. Courthouse Tree Trimming Quotes

Two quotes were presented for the tree trimming at the courthouse:

- Allen’s Tree Service - \$5,600
- Utilicon - \$2,900

Manager Bearden recommended Allen’s Tree Service due to the specific detail of the quote and what it entailed. Commissioner Cheek made a motion to accept the quote from Allen’s Tree Service. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All physically present voted in agreement. Motion passed.

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 \$192,509.09. All physically present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. ACCG Property Insurance Renewal

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the property and insurance renewal from ACCG at the \$5,000 deductible option. Commissioners Flanagan and Cheek seconded. All physically present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

C. 2024 LRA Road Project

2024 LRA				
Road Name	Scope of Work	Cost	Mileage	District
Dyal Steel Rd	ACS	\$52,136.00	0.76	3
Orphans Cemetery Rd	TST	\$185,533.33	2.12	1
Congo Lane	DST-resurface	\$102,058.18	0.59	4
Studstill Rd	ACS	\$273,350.00	3.55	4
Fish Rd	ACS	\$125,020.00	1.90	1
Ben Giddens Rd	ASPHALT	\$157,986.00	0.84	2
Pine Lane	ACS	\$34,300.00	0.50	3
Lancaster Rd	ACS	\$94,360.00	1.48	2
Lister Cemetery Rd	ACS	\$160,510.00	2.33	2
Old Bethel Rd	ACS	\$87,360.00	1.32	2
JT Barlow Rd	ACS	\$77,763.33	0.53	3
Totals		\$1,350,376.84	15.91	

The LRA grant for this project totaled \$1,182,973.68 with no match required, leaving a variance of \$167,403.16, which is available in TSPLOST or SPLOST funds.

Commissioner Cheek made a motion to accept the LRA road project list, as presented. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All physically present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

D. 2024 Surplus Auction

Manager Bearden presented a list of surplus items recommended for auction:

1. 2006 Mack Garbage Truck
2. 1974 Low Boy Trailer
3. 1985 Low Boy Trailer
4. 1994 Chevy K1500
5. 1998 Ford F150
6. 1986 Chevy C10
7. 2004 Ford F450
8. 1978 LaFrance Fire Truck
9. 1995 CAT 12H Motor Grader

Commissioner Cheek made a motion to accept the list of surplus items, as detailed, for auction. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All physically present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

E. SPLOST Request – Sheriff’s Office

Manager Bearden presented a SPLOST request from the Sheriff’s Office to upgrade the control stations at the jail in the amount of \$42,021. Also, included in the request was a service warranty for the new control stations for \$20,000. Before approving the request, the board asked for clarification regarding the cost of the service warranty. No motion was made.

F. 2024 SPLOST Negotiations

The board agreed to set the meeting for SPLOST negotiations on June 20th at 6:00 p.m.

G. Set Elections Committee Meeting Date

The board agreed to set the elections committee meeting for June 6.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Flanagan asked the commissioners if they had any issues with policies to be discussed at an upcoming ACCG meeting. (She needed the information to complete a survey for ACCG’s agenda.)
- Commissioner Flanagan attended the Board of Assessor’s meeting and asked the manager to expound on some items discussed. Manager Bearden stated the tax digest increased to \$19.7 million due to assessed values. Also, the three-year lock during an appeal process is only allowed if the property owner has a homestead exemption.

County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

County Manager Bearden reported, as follows:

- Last road for the 2023 LMIG is in progress, which is West Chicken Road.
- LMIG 2024 has begun with Bedsole Road and Ag Best.
- WPA road is still in progress.
- Solar meeting is scheduled for May 21 at 10:30 a.m.
- The healthcare committee should be ready to meet soon for open enrollment in July.
- Senate Bill 171 requires development authority board members to complete at least two hours of continuing education annually and will be effective July 1.

- House Bill 1407 is the service delivery strategy law revisions and will be effective January 1, 2026.
- Senate Bill 19 requires passport fees to be reported to the governing authorities.
- House Bill 1149 requires constitutional officers to disclose supplemental income.
- Senate Bill 505 requires the hospital authority to select one of the three eligible persons submitted by the local governing authority for board appointments and was effective April 22, 2024.

Public Comments

John Battle requested trimming on Giddens Road from Hwy 23 to the Chester Road.

Adjournment

With no further business to address, a motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioners Cheek and Flanagan to adjourn at 6:53 p.m. All physically present voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Approved:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Dan McCranie, Chairman