

Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 15, 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

Absent:

Kelly Belflower, District 2

Also Present:

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

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting at the Dodge County Pearl Bates Courthouse Annex Monday, July 15, 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 Colossians 3:14, "Clothe Yourselves in Love," and led a prayer.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

A. Fire Chief Jamey Wilkinson

Fire Chief Jamey Wilkinson reported 97 calls in June, making 502 for the year.

B. EMS Director Michael Johnson

EMS Director Michael Johnson reported 2,043 calls for the year and revenues of \$101,833.29 for the month of June.

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes – July 01, 2024 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the minutes with no additions, corrections or deletions. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. Minutes – July 11, 2024 SPLOST Negotiations

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the minutes with no additions, corrections or deletions. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Old Business

A. Dodge County Parcel E21 083

County Manager Bearden reported the GTS representative who handles tax sales for the county is able to auction parcel E21 083. (This property is .14 acres on Mt. Moriah Street and was acquired by the county in a tax sale in August 1997.)

B. 2024 SPLOST Discussion

The board, along with input from the City Council Chairman Graham Snyder who was present in the audience, decided upon July 29th at 6:00 p.m. as the next joint meeting for SPLOST negotiations.

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 \$257,300.54. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. Oconee Drug Task Force Vehicle Lease

Manager Bearden reported the Oconee Drug Task Force recently acquired asset forfeiture money bringing their account balance to \$292,139.51. On behalf of District Attorney Tim Vaughn, Manager Bearden requested to lease two F150s from Way Brothers with financing through Ford Motor Credit. Total for the two vehicles is \$110,644 at 8.69% with financing for 36 months. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the request from the Oconee Drug Task Force. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

C. 2024 Budget Amendments

Manager Bearden requested the following budget amendments:

- Transit Trust Fund Program revenues to the transit reimbursement GL 331220 and an expense to transit supplies GL 7-7150-531000 in the amount of \$282,992.97.
- Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) revenues to Grants Highway Projects GL 331080 and an expense to road maintenance GL 4-4000-522204 in the amount of \$891,629.32.
- Local Road Assistance Administration (LRA) funds to Grants Highway Projects GL 331080 and an expense to road maintenance GL 4-4000-522204 in the amount of \$1,182,974.00.

Commissioner Cheek made a motion to pass the budget amendments, as requested. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All present voted agreeably, and the motion passed.

D. 2024 LRA Bids

Manager Bearden presented two bids received for the 2024 LRA project:

- Griffin Grading and Concrete - \$1,434,098.88
- Scruggs - \$1,394,665.70

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to accept the low bid from Scruggs. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

E. Local TIA Agreement for Local Administration

Commissioner Cheek made a motion to not enter an agreement to administer the TIA project on Airport Road. Commissioner Flanagan seconded, and all present voted the same. Motion passed.

F. Federal OSS Program (Off System Signing and Striping)

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation for the Federal Off System Signing and Striping on Antioch Church Road from SR 87 to the Pulaski/Dodge County Line (10.10 miles). Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

G. 2024 LWCF Grant (Land and Water Conservation Fund)

Manager Bearden reported to the board that the LWCF grant, which established our recreation department, will open in August. The grant requires a 50% match. However, the City of Eastman is

applying for the grant, and Manager Bearden recommended the county forego applying this year. The board agreed.

H. Courthouse Design Build

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to proceed with the process of selecting a construction company for the courthouse project from the top three companies recommended by the courthouse committee, which were Ajax Building Company, Parrish Construction Group, and Sheridan Construction. Commissioner Cheek seconded the motion. All present voted favorably, and the motion passed.

I. Airport Authority – Potential Ordinance

Chairman McCranie requested Manager Bearden bring an airport authority ordinance proposal to the board for review, which could be used to regulate runway airspace.

J. Need for Dumpster Policy

The manager suggested the board consider a dumpster policy, which would require supervision of public-use dumpsters on county right-of-way.

Commissioner Reports

Nothing presented.

County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

County Manager Bearden reported, as follows:

- A SPLOST work session scheduled for Tuesday, July 16 at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comments

City Council Chairman Graham Snyder informed the board he had presented Manager Bearden with several proposals for SPLOST distributions.

Executive Session

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to enter executive session at 6:56 p.m. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All present voted in favor, and the board went into executive session to discuss legal matters and personnel.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to reenter the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All present 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 Cheek to adjourn at 7:31 p.m. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Approved:

Dan McCranie, Chairman