

Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 05, 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 (deceased August 3, 2024)

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, August 05, 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 Malachi 1:6-8, entitled "Giving God Our Leftovers," and led a prayer.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

Nothing presented.

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes – July 15, 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 16, 2024 SPLOST Work Session

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.

C. Minutes – July 29, 2024 SPLOST Negotiations Called 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.

Old Business

A. Airspace – Potential Ordinance

County Manager Bearden reported he was still searching for a potential ordinance.

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 \$430,763.73. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. 2025 LMIG

Manager Bearden presented the 2025 LMIG list of roads and scope, as follows:

Road Name	Scope of Work	Cost	Mileage	District
Ridley Rd	DST	\$158,586.67	1.40	3
Friendship Church Rd	ACS	\$112,150.00	1.25	3
Pete Sapp Rd	ACS	\$101,620.00	1.10	3
Maple Place	ACS	\$23,720.00	0.20	3
Woodleaf	ACS	\$20,290.00	0.15	3
Studstill Rd	ACS	\$333,350.00	3.55	4
Bill Mullis Rd	ACS	\$318,640.00	3.70	2
		\$1,068,356.67	11.35	

Manager Bearden reported the LMIG Grant was \$969,235.57 with a required match of \$96,923.56. Total of the two are \$1,066,159.13, leaving a variance of \$2,197.54. The cost per mile is \$94,128.34.

Commissioner Cheek made a motion to approve the 2025 LMIG projects, as presented. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

C. City of Eastman Annexation – Gene Johnson

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to not approve the annexation due to the financial burden of road maintenance. And also, the annexation was not published in the legal organ. Commissioner Cheek seconded the motion. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

The board tasked the county manager to report the motion to the city. If the objection conditions are rectified, the City may resubmit the request with an intergovernmental agreement to maintain Congo Lane and the Congo Lane Connector.

Manager Bearden asked the board how to handle Congo Lane’s resurfacing on the LRA project. Commissioner Watkins advised the manager to not do anything until the city’s stance on the matter has been determined.

D. ARPA Fire Station – Bid Approval

The manager requested permission to place a bid on Georgia procurement for two fire stations – one behind the armory (Station 15) and one in the Roddy area (Station 5). The ARPA grant money earmarked for these projects has to be spent by 2026. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to request bids with two options, one with support beams, and one without. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

E. 2025 ACCG LLC Voting Delegate

Commissioner Watkins opened nominations with Commissioner Sharon Cobb Flanagan. Commissioner Cheek seconded the nomination. With no other nominations forthcoming, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Cheek seconded the motion. All present voted agreeably, and Commissioner Flanagan was appointed by acclamation.

F. DCA Annexation Arbitration Training Delegate

No motion was made in this matter.

G. DCEDA SPLOST Request

On behalf of the DCEDA, Wally Putnam requested \$122,000 from SPLOST funds for building improvements at the Department of Juvenile Justice building and the district attorney's office building (which are owned by the DCEDA). The manager confirmed funds were available. Commission Flanagan made a motion to approve the SPLOST request. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

H. Set Work Session for Courthouse Projects

Manager Bearden updated the board that Parrish, Ajax, and Sheridan were available to meet August 23 beginning at 10 a.m. to discuss their ideas for the courthouse projects. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to schedule a work session August 23. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

I. 2nd Quarter Financials

Manager Bearden presented the second quarter financials, as follows:

Dodge County Commissioners
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures by Source QTR 2 FY2024

Unaudited

REVENUES:

	Collected	Expenditure
Taxes:	\$ 1,022,041.7	
Permits and Licenses:	8,837.45	
Intergovernmental:	1,407,877.61	
Charges for Services:	462,679.77	
Judicial Fees and Charges:	94,167.12	
Special Revenue Charges:		

EXPENSES:

Board of Commissioners	\$	44,622
Office of Co. Commissioner:		78,004.99
CTHSE EXP. (PUBLIC BLDGS. & ANNEX)		103,513.39
Election Expense:		25,718.09
Registrar:		22,309.04
Office of Tax Commissioner:		76,365.81
Tax Assessor and Appraiser:		61,518.74
Superior Court		75,397.91
District Attorney		15,557.61
Clerk of Superior Court		79,187.58
Magistrate:		51,021.21
Probate Court		52,742.42
Sheriff:	1,056,269.52	
Coroner:		15,230.44
E-911:		165,383.67
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES:		538,695.02
PS* RFD* RURAL FIRE DEPT&OTHER EXP.MPS		
Dodge County Fire Department/EMA		184,507.35

Oconee Drug Task Force		37,872.19
Roads		1,127,623.20
Sanitation		306,265.60
HEALTH AND WELFARE:		18,055.97
Nutrition Center:		14,394.57
RECREATION & CULTURE:		65,270.33
Building Inspection:		24,671.21
Other Dev. & Hous.		2,250.00
County Agent		14,546.40
Transit		77,268.13
Misc Community Service		15,352.35
Board of Equalization		
Group Ins/Ret.*Co. Share		1,485.76
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 2,995,603.12	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		4,350,600.30

J. 2nd Quarter Work Order Report

Manager Bearden discussed the county roads work order report, which included a total of 74 work orders with an average 9.5 days till completion.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Flanagan reported NACO appointed her to the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Committee. She also noted the county agent position had not been filled yet. Lastly, she reported the cardboard recycling bins at Chas Mar and Goody’s were having issues with wet cardboard due to the lids being opened.

County Manager

Manager Bearden reported the status on DOT projects in Dodge County. He reminded the board that the millage rate would be set this month. He reported that the pickleball courts quotes had been received by the recreation department, as below.

- ICB - \$210,000
- Advanced Athletic Services - \$29,050

Manager Bearden stated the recreation department had requested \$29,050 from SPLOST funds to proceed with the pickleball court. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Cheek seconded, and all present voted in favor. Motion passed.

Lastly, Manager Bearden reported he had received a scholarship for the certified public manager program through the Carl Vincent Institute of Government at UGA.

Public Comments

Susan Coffee stated she would help keep the recycling bins closed, but the bins are too tall.

Attorney Harrington stated the board could instruct the county manager to approach the Elections Superintendent to place Commissioner Belflower’s seat on the November ballot due to Commissioner Belflower’s death on August 3. Commissioner Watkins made a motion for the county manager to proceed. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed. The county manager stated qualifying would be August 21 at 9:00 a.m. till noon on August 23 with fees of \$162.

Executive Session

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to enter executive session at 6:57 p.m. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All present voted in favor, and the board went into executive session to discuss legal matters and personnel.

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to reenter the regular meeting at 7:36 p.m. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Adjournment

Before adjourning, Manager Bearden updated the board about Hurricane Debby and its potential impact on Dodge County.

With no further business to address, a motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Cheek to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Approved:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Dan McCranie, Chairman