

**Dodge County Board of Commissioners**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, August 19, 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

**Also Present:**

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

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting at the Dodge County Pearl Bates Courthouse Annex Monday, August 19, 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 add "H. Board of Elections" to New Business. Commissioner Watkins made the motion, and Commissioners Cheek and Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor; the motion passed, and the agenda was amended. Next, Chairman McCranie led the Pledge of Allegiance. After that, Commissioner Cheek gave a devotion from Matthew 18:10-14, entitled "Lost Sheep," and led a prayer.

**Elected Officials/Department Heads**

**A. Recreation Department – Dodge County Proclamation for 2024 8U State Champs**

On behalf of the board, Russ Ragan from the recreation department read a proclamation honoring the Dodge County All Star 8U 2024 State Champs. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the proclamation. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed. The coaches and team members were presented with a signed copy.

**Proclamation**  
**to the citizens of Dodge County**

**Whereas**, the Dodge County Board of Commissioners is proud to recognize the achievements of citizens in our community; and

**Whereas**, Dodge County Recreation baseball is a program of service dedicated to teaching our youth sportsmanship and physical fitness, while providing recreation and camaraderie; and

**Whereas**, we recognize the 2024 Dodge County Recreation Department 8U All Star baseball team for winning the GRPA State Championship on June 28, 2024; and

**Whereas**, the All Star 8U team consists of Carter Bridges, Austin Craven, Walker Eaton, Matthias Gloston, Bo Hardy, Kaden Howell, Holt Mazza, Rowan Moseley, Tripp Purser, Cas Smith, Christian Turquiz, and Treyton Yawn; and

**Whereas**, the All Star 8U coaches are Branden Craven, Chase Eaton, Andrew Hardy, and David Mazza; and

**Whereas**, the Dodge County All Star 8U team had a remarkable season and brought home the first baseball or softball state championship since 2011; and

**Whereas**, it is proper that our community formally recognize the All Star 8U team and the entire coaching staff for their hard work and achievements; and

**Now therefore**, the governing officials of Dodge County, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, August 20, 2024, as a day of recognition for the Dodge County All Star 8U 2024 State Champs.

So proclaimed this 19th day of August, 2024.

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**B. Fire Chief Jamey Wilkinson**

Fire Chief Jamey Wilkinson reported 111 calls for the month of July with expectations to see similar numbers next month.

**C. EMS Director Michael Johnson**

Not present.

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. Minutes - August 05, 2024 Regular Meeting**

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the minutes with no additions, corrections or deletions. Commissioner Cheek seconded. Commissioner Flanagan noted the Congo Lane Connector may not have been specifically mentioned in the August 5th meeting (as it was recorded in the minutes). Commissioner Watkins asked Attorney Harrington if approving the minutes would change any actions in the road annexation. Attorney Harrington advised the annexation was not approved at the August 5th meeting but approved at the August 12th called meeting when the Congo Lane Connector was specifically discussed, thereby superseding any motion from the August 5th meeting. Commissioner Watkins reaffirmed his motion with no addition, corrections, or deletions. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

**B. Minutes – August 12, 2024 Called Meeting**

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. Airspace – Potential Ordinance**

County Manager Bearden reported he had a potential airport ordinance and was waiting on the airport to provide a map. With that information, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to table. Commissioner Flanagan seconded, and this item was tabled until further information could be obtained.

**New Business**

**A. Approval of Accounts Payable**

A motion was made by Commissioner Flanagan to strike the incorrect page one copy with invoices from 2010 and then approve the accounts payable report totaling \$175,177.79. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

**B. 2026 Transit Grant Authorization**

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the resolution, detailed below, authorizing the filing of an application with the Department of Transportation for transit and authorizing County Manager Bearden as the authorized official to execute and file the application. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All voted in favor, and the resolution passed.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR A GRANT UNDER TITLE 49 U.S.C., SECTION 5311.**

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Transit Administration and the Georgia Department of Transportation are authorized to make grants to non-urbanized (rural) areas for mass transportation projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the contract for financial assistance will impose certain obligations upon Applicant, including the provision of the local share of project costs; and

**WHEREAS**, it is required by the United States Department of Transportation and the Georgia Department of Transportation in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that in connection with the filing of an application for assistance under the Federal Transit Act, the applicant gives an assurance that it will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the United States Department of Transportation requirements thereunder; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the goal of the Applicant that Minority Business Enterprise (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and Women's Business Enterprise) be utilized to the fullest extent possible in connection with this project, and that definitive procedures shall be established and administered to ensure that minority business shall have the maximum feasible opportunity to compete for contracts and purchase orders when procuring construction contracts, supplies, equipment contracts, or consultant and other services.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY Dodge County Board of Commissioners hereinafter referred to as the "Applicant",

1. That the Designated Official Conner Bearden, hereinafter referred to as the "Official, is authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of Dodge Transit with the Georgia Department of Transportation, to aid in the purchase of bus transit vehicles and/or the planning, development, and construction of bus transit-related facilities pursuant to Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act.
2. That the Official is authorized to execute and file such application and assurances, or any other document required by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Georgia Department of Transportation effectuating the purpose of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
3. That the Official is authorized to execute and file all other standard assurances, or any other document required by the Georgia Department of Transportation or the U.S. Department of Transportation in connection with the application for public transportation assistance.
4. That the Official is authorized to execute grant contract agreements on behalf of the Applicant with the Georgia Department of Transportation.
5. That the Official is authorized to set forth and execute Minority Business Enterprise, DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) and WBE (Women Business Enterprise) policies and procedures in connection with the project's procurement needs as applicable.

- 6. That the applicant while making application to or receiving grants from the Federal Transit Administration will comply with FTA Circular 9040.1G, FTA Certifications and Assurances for Federal Assistance 2024 as listed in this grant application and General Operating Guidelines as illustrated in the Georgia State Management Plan.
- 7. That the applicant has or will have available in the General Fund the required non-federal funds to meet local share requirements for this grant application.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 19 day of August, 2024.

  
 Signature of Authorized Official

Dan McCranie, Chairman  
 Name and Title of Authorized Official

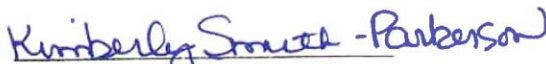
Signed, sealed, and delivered this 19 day of August, 2024 in the presence of





**CERTIFICATE**

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Clerk of Dodge County Board of Commissioners (Title of Certifying/Attesting Official) (Applicant's Legal Name) certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting held on August 19, 2024.

  
 Name of Certifying/Attesting Officer

Clerk  
 Title of Certifying/Attesting Officer



**C. 2024 Transit Title VI Update**

Manager Bearden reported updates to the Dodge Transit System Title VI Plan for the board's approval. Commissioner Cheek made a motion to approve the updates to the Title VI Plan. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

#### **D. Financial Software Upgrade**

Manager Bearden presented quotes from BS&A and Edmunds for upgrading the county's financial software and asked the board to review for an upcoming meeting. No motion was made.

#### **E. 2024 Millage Rate**

Manager Bearden discussed the PT32 and recommended the board accept the rollback millage rate of 11.986 for 2024, netting a tax increase of \$39,907. The commissioners discussed and concurred.

#### **F. Schedule Called Meeting to Set Countywide Millage Rate**

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to set a called meeting for August 29 at 6:00 p.m. to officially set the millage rate after the Board of Education's meeting at 5:30 p.m. Commissioners Flanagan and Cheek seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

#### **G. Heart of Georgia Airport Authority – TSPLOST Request**

On behalf of the airport, Manager Jeff Fordham requested \$200,000 from TSPLOST funds to help replace the runway lighting, a project, he estimated, will cost around \$2.5 million. He reported the state has promised \$600,000 with a match of \$200,000 and requires confirmation by September 1. The airport authority does not have the available funds for matching, and Manager Fordham also reported the City of Eastman said no.

Manager Bearden reported \$1,788,130.93 in the TSPLOST account, but after accounting for the WPA project, the actual balance is closer to \$1.2 million.

Commissioner Cheek made a motion to allocate TSPLOST funds in the amount of \$200,000 to the Heart of Georgia Airport Authority for the runway lighting project and to document in writing. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

#### **H. Board of Elections**

Chairman McCranie asked the board to consider the list of applicants for the Board of Elections appointments. Applications were received from Selma O. Grimes, Archie L. Spivey, Willie C. King, Larry J. Mullis, David Sheffield, Raymond F. Mullis, Cindy Eckles, Moniece M. Moore, and James Allen Mills.

#### **Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Flanagan stated she would be attending policy meetings. She also discussed WIOA and Job Training Unlimited, as well as the WorkSource Georgia brand.

#### **County Manager**

Manager Bearden reported updates from the airport authority meeting and from the county extension's office. Applicants for the county agent are being assessed. He also reported the county's audit is past due, which makes the county unable to apply for grants.

#### **Public Comments**

Nothing presented.

#### **Executive Session**

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to enter executive session at 7:02 p.m. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All voted in favor, and the board went into executive session to discuss legal matters.

Commissioner Cheek made a motion to reenter the regular meeting at 7:32 p.m. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to address, a motion was made by Commissioner Cheek and seconded by Commissioner Watkins to adjourn at 7:33 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