

**Dodge County Board of Commissioners  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, November 04, 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 Harrington, County Attorney

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting at the Dodge County Pearl Bates Courthouse Annex Monday, November 04, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman McCranie presiding. He called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. After that, Commissioner Cheek gave a devotion from Matthew 5, entitled "Love Your Enemies" and led a prayer.

**Elected Officials/Department Heads**

None present.

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. Minutes - October 21, 2024 Regular Meeting**

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

**B. Minutes – October 30, 2024 Work Session**

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

**C. Minutes – November 01, 2024 Work Session**

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

**Old Business**

**A. Public Defender Contract**

At the prior meeting, the public defender's contract was tabled until the issue regarding the guardian ad litem for juveniles was resolved. At the present meeting, the county manager informed the board that the issue had been resolved, and the public defender's office would be responsible for providing guardian ad litem. A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Cheek to approve the public defender's contract. All voted in favor, and the motion passed. (First page below; full copy as an attachment in the official book of minutes.)

**OCONEE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PUBLIC DEFENDER CONTRACT OF SERVICES**

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024, among the Georgia Public Defender Council (herein referred to as GPDC), the Circuit Public Defender Office of Oconee Judicial Circuit (herein referred to as "the Public Defender Office"), and the governing authority of the counties of Bleckley, Dodge, Montgomery, Pulaski, Telfair and Wheeler, bodies politic and subdivisions of the State of Georgia (herein referred to as "the Counties"). This agreement is effective January 1, 2025 and is renewable without further action each year thereafter upon the same terms set forth herein, unless altered or terminated by the parties hereto.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, GPDC, the Public Defender Office, and the Counties enter into this agreement to implement the provisions of the Georgia Indigent Defense Act of 2003, as amended; and

WHEREAS, GPDC is existing under the laws of the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the Public Defender Office is existing under the laws of the State of Georgia and operating under the laws and Constitution of the State of Georgia with full power to enter into contracts and agreements with other entities; and

WHEREAS, GPDC is the fiscal officer for the Public Defender Office; and

WHEREAS, the Counties named above are each a body politic, existing and operating under the laws and Constitution of the State of Georgia with full power to enter into contracts and agreements with other political entities; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the parties to this agreement to provide for the operation of an indigent defense system to assure adequate and effective legal representation is provided, independent of political considerations or private interests, to indigent defendants in criminal cases consistent with the standards adopted by GPDC. This system and this agreement include the following:

- 1) The provision by the Public Defender Office of the statutorily required services to the Counties;
- 2) The provision by each Counties of its pro rata share of the costs of appropriate offices, utilities, telephone expenses, materials, and supplies as may be necessary to equip, maintain, and furnish the office or offices of the circuit public defender in an orderly and efficient manner;
- 3) The employment of 2 attorneys by the Public Defender Office as county paid attorneys to ensure the adequate staffing and legal representation of indigent defendants in criminal cases in Superior Court and Juvenile Court consistent with the statutory and constitutional obligation of the County to provide such indigent representation.

## **B. Solar Ordinance**

Commissioner Flanagan suggested the ordinance be reviewed and updated. Chairman McCranie stated either a work session or committee could make that happen.

## **C. Comprehensive Plan**

Manager Bearden noted the following items on the comprehensive plan had been completed. He also stated the comprehensive plan was due for an update in 2026.

- E911 system upgrade
- Completed Liberty Street with CDBG
- Establish new solid waste convenience centers
- Establish county rural fire department
- Continual resurfacing of county roads
- Continual expansion and improvements at recreation department

## **New Business**

### **A. Approval of Accounts Payable**

A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Flanagan to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$212,766.37. All voted in agreement, and the motion passed.

### **B. Parrish Construction Group Contract**

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the Parrish Construction Group contract for the courthouse project. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed. (First page below. Full copy as an attachment in official book of minutes.)



# Document A141<sup>®</sup> - 2014

## *Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Design-Builder*

**AGREEMENT** made as of the 17th day of October in the year 2024  
(In words, indicate day, month and year.)

**BETWEEN** the Owner:  
(Name, legal status, address and other information)

Dodge Commissioner of Roads and Revenue dba Dodge County Board of Commissioners

5016 Courthouse Circle  
PO BOX 818  
Eastman, GA 31023

and the Design-Builder:  
(Name, legal status, address and other information)

Parrish Construction Group  
221 Industrial Park Drive  
Perry, GA 31069

for the following Project:  
(Name, location and detailed description)

Dodge County Judicial Center

The Owner and Design-Builder agree as follows.

### **ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS:**

The author of this document has added information needed for its completion. The author may also have revised the text of the original AIA standard form. An *Additions and Deletions Report* that notes added information as well as revisions to the standard form text is available from the author and should be reviewed. A vertical line in the left margin of this document indicates where the author has added necessary information and where the author has added to or deleted from the original AIA text.

This document has important legal consequences. Consultation with an attorney is encouraged with respect to its completion or modification.

Consultation with an attorney is also encouraged with respect to professional licensing requirements in the jurisdiction where the Project is located.

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### **C. Tax Matter – Jodi Fountain**

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to forgive interest and penalties on the 2023 tax notice for Jodi Fountain. Commissioner Cheek seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

### **D. Eastman Downtown Development Authority Financial Request**

Paula McCain requested funds for an ice skating rink for a downtown event. The cost for the ice rink totaled \$14,000 to rent or \$40,334.63 to buy. She stated the City of Eastman had approved \$20,000 as a donation. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to table the item until clarification regarding liability could be

determined. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed. Attorney Harrington asked Paula for a copy of the city's charter, and she stated she would get the information.

**E. Civil Defense Corporation – Martin Kehayes**

Martin Kehayes presented the board with a document of *Articles of Incorporation of Dodge County Civil Defense Corp.* He proposed the county develop a civil defense program, which would include volunteers from local constituents, who would develop emergency preparedness plans.

**F. Rocky Springs Road Concerns – Neal Martin**

Neal Martin discussed a large construction project at 417 Rocky Springs Road near his residence at 418 Rocky Springs Road. He stated the county should have zoning to prevent industry from building in residential areas.

**G. FY 2025 Proposed Budgets**

Manager Bearden presented the proposed county budgets, as detailed below:

Dodge County Commissioners 2025 BUDGET	
<b>Revenues</b>	
Taxes:	9,236,243.00
Permits and Licenses:	38,500.00
Intergovernmental:	1,790,356.00
Charges for Services:	2,126,929.00
Judicial Fees and Charges:	507,000.00
Special Revenue Charges:	655,000.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>14,354,028.00</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Board of Commissioners	146,494.000
Office of Co. Commissioner	383,771.000
CTHSE EXP. (PUBLIC BLDGS. & ANNEX)	319,684.000
Group Ins/Ret.* Co. Share	64,124.000
Board of Elections	130,192.000
Office of Tax Commissioner	248,349.000
Tax Assessor and Appraiser	423,443.000
Equalization Board	750.000
Superior Court	384,061.000
District Attorney	67,550.000
Clerk of Superior Court	324,963.000
Magistrate	219,013.000
Probate Court	236,865.000
Sheriff	2,237,673.000
Jail	1,900,584.000
Coroner	43,194.000
E-911	669,245.000
Emergency Medical Services	1,801,169.000
Other Public Safety	20,000.000
Fire / EMA	707,200.000
Oconee Drug Task Force	204,397.000
Roads	1,867,010.000
Sanitation	815,146.000
Health & Welfare	67,155.000
Nutrition Center:	55,563.000
Recreation & Library	246,307.000
Building Inspection	105,354.000
Other Dev & Housing	24,288.000
County Agent	106,532.000
Transit	399,933.000
Misc Community Service	134,019.000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 14,354,028.00</b>

Dodge County, Georgia 2025 Budget E-911 Special Revenue Fund		
<b>Revenues:</b>		
	Charges for Services	\$ 500,000.00
	Dodge County Contribution	\$ 169,245.00
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 669,245.00</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
	<b>E911 Operations</b>	
	E 911 * SALARIES *	437234.00
	E 911 * HEALTH INS	93663.00
	E 911 * PR TAXES	33448.00
	E 911 * RETIREMENT	8000.00
	E 911 * W/COMP	750.00
	E 911 * GTA * TECHNICAL SUPPORT	500.00
	E 911 * DRUG & ALCOHOL TESTING	200.00
	E 911 * RADIO CONTRACT	0.00
	E 911 * VEH. R&M * & INSURANCE	1000.00
	E 911 * BLDG. & EQUIP R&M * MAINT	10000.00
	E 911 * COST RECOVERY CELL PH COMPANY	0.00
	E 911 * SOFTWARE 24/7 SUPPORT	2000.00
	E 911 * PROPERTY INSURANCE	900.00
	E 911 * TELEPHONE	61000.00
	E 911 * UNEMPLOYMENT	100.00
	E 911 * REIMB.MILAGE TRAVEL&LODG	2000.00
	E 911 * MISC. GDOC OTHER EXP	0.00
	E 911 * ADDRESS SIGN SUPPLIES	1500.00
	E 911 * CLEANING SUPPLIES	750.00
	E 911 * OFFICE SUPPLIES	3500.00
	E 911 * UNIFORMS	1000.00
	E 911 * ALL UTIL.SEE SUB CATEG.	8000.00
	E 911 * WATER	1450.00
	E 911 * VEH. FUEL TIRES & OIL	750.00
	E 911 * OFFICE R&M	0.00
	E 911 * COPY LEASE	1500.00
	<b>Total E-911</b>	<b>669245.00</b>
Excess (Deficiency) Revenues over Expenditures		0

<u>2025 Budget TSPLOST</u>	
<u>Revenues</u>	
Sales Tax Receipts	\$720,000.00
<u>Expenditures</u>	
Road Improvements	\$720,000.00
Excess/Deficiency Revenues over Expenditures	\$ -
<u>2025 Budget 2019 SPLOST</u>	
<u>Revenues</u>	
Sales Tax Receipts	\$2,400,000.00
<u>Expenditures</u>	
Payments to Entities	\$1,008,000.00
Roads, Buildings, Equipment	\$1,197,600.00
Economic Development	\$72,000.00
Recreation Department	\$26,400.00
Rural Fire Departments	<u>\$96,000.00</u>
Total Expenditures	\$2,400,000.00
Excess/Deficiency Revenues over Expenditures	\$ -
<u>2025 Budget Law Library</u>	
<u>Revenues</u>	
Judicial Fees and Charges	\$8,000.00
<u>Expenditures</u>	
Public Safety	\$8,000.00
Excess/Deficiency Revenues over Expenditures	\$ -
<u>2025 Drug Education Fund</u>	
<u>Revenues</u>	
Judicial Fees and Charges	\$12,000.00
MISC	
<u>Expenditures</u>	
Public Safety	\$12,000.00
Excess/Deficiency Revenues over Expenditures	\$ -

<u>2025 Budget Sheriff's Office Internal Accounts</u>		
<u>Account</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
Cash Bonds	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00
Equipment	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Sheriff's Fees	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 28,000.00
Deposit Account Fraud	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
Condemnation	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Bond Fee	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Commissary	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00
Vending	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$ 253,500.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 253,500.00</u></b>

### Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Flanagan reported from the NACO meeting where EDA authorization approval was discussed. Also, the healthcare crisis was discussed.

### County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

Manager Bearden reported a property tax sale at the courthouse on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Also, storm debris from Hurricane Helene, which is placed at the county right-of-way, has been approved for pick-up under federal funding.

### Public Comments

- Ken Carrol stated that the county needed zoning and a well-written ordinance would have lesser restrictions.

- Jenny Martin voiced her concern regarding the construction project on Rocky Springs Road.
- Rob Anders stated EDP Renewables is prepared to submit a special use permit application for a solar project and appealed to the board to remove the pause on the solar ordinance application process.
- Dennis Robinson, property owner at 417 Rocky Springs Road, discussed the nature of the construction project and developing business on his property.
- Sasha Smith inquired as to why Dennis Robinson would bring his business to Dodge County.

**Adjourn**

With no other business to come before the board, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn at 7:53 p.m. Commissioner Flanagan seconded, and all voted in favor. The meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Approved:

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Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

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Dan McCranie, Chairman