

**Dodge County Board of Commissioners  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, December 16, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**



**Commissioners Present:**

Chairman Dan McCranie  
Sharon Cobb Flanagan, District 1  
Leigh Ann Greene, District 2  
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

**Call to Order**

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting at the Dodge County Pearl Bates Courthouse Annex Monday, December 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman McCranie presiding. He called the meeting to order and requested to amend the agenda to add Robert Pruitt, DCEA, as a new business line item. Commissioner Greene made a motion to amend the agenda. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All voted in favor, and the agenda was amended. Next, Chairman McCranie led the Pledge of Allegiance. Then, Commissioner Cheek gave a devotion from Isaiah 6:9 and Luke 2, entitled *Signpost at Christmas*, and afterward, she led a prayer.

**Elected Officials/Department Heads**

**A. Fire Chief Jamey Wilkinson**

Fire Chief Jamey Wilkinson reported the department was formed February 15, 2022, and had 434 calls that year. In 2023, 788 calls were reported. And thus far in 2024, there have been 1,018 calls, with 108 in November alone.

**B. EMS Director Michael Johnson**

EMS Director Michael Johnson reported 450 calls in November and revenues of \$94,972.34.

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. Minutes – December 02, 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.

**Old Business**

Nothing presented.

**New Business**

**A. Approval of Accounts Payable**

A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Greene to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$434,454.85. All voted in agreement, and the motion passed.

## **B. Pratt Recycling Contract**

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to table the Pratt Recycling Contract until the second meeting in January. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

## **C. 2025 Holiday Schedule**

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the 2025 holiday schedule. Commissioner Cheek seconded. All voted favorably, and the motion passed.

## **D. 2025 Board Meeting Schedule**

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the 2025 board meeting schedule for the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All voted in favor, and the schedule was approved.

## **E. DCEDA Executive Director Robert Pruitt**

Executive Director Robert Pruitt reported that the Dodge County-Eastman Development Authority was awarded Georgia's Inaugural Rural Site Development Grant for \$2 million for necessary water and sewer improvements at the airport GRAD site. However, a ten percent match is required, and Director Pruitt requested \$200,000 from the SPLOST account for the matching funds. Manager Bearden reported \$264,615.09 was available in the account. Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the request for the matching funds in the amount of \$200,000 from the SPLOST account. Commissioner Cheek seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

## **Commissioner Reports**

- Commissioner Greene reported she and Jeffrey Jones attended the newly elected officials' training.
- Commissioner Cheek thanked the constituents and friends in District 4. She also thanked the board and the staff of Dodge County.
- Chairman McCranie presented Commissioner Cheek with a plaque for years of service.

## **Public Comments**

Sam Rawlins, resident at 283 Dyal Still Road, requested a 20-mile per hour speed limit sign on Dyal Still Road. He also requested attention to the ditches.

## **County Manager Report: Conner Bearden**

Manager Bearden reported the following:

- The 2023 audit was uploaded to the Department of Audit's website, and the county is now compliant.
- The Sawmill Junction construction project was not approved by Georgia Power for 2025.
- The engineer is preparing estimates for the GTIB.
- Board of Elections submitted James Callier's name for the election supervisor position.
- Parrish submitted an estimate for a feasibility study for the courthouse project for the board to review.

**Executive Session**

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to enter an executive session to discuss legal matters at 6:35 p.m. Commissioner Cheek seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Commissioner Cheek made a motion to enter regular session at 6:59 p.m. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the board reentered regular session.

**Adjourn**

With no other business to come before the board, Commissioner Greene made a motion to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Cheek 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