

**Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 06, 2025 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
Jeffrey Jones, 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, January 06, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman McCranie presiding. He called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, he gave a devotion, entitled "God Knows Everything," from Psalm 139 and led a prayer.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

Nothing presented.

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes – December 16, 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.

B. Minutes – December 16, 2024 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes with no additions, corrections or deletions. Commissioner Greene 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 Flanagan and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$153,081.35. All voted in agreement, and the motion passed.

B. Elect Vice-Chair for the Board of Commissioners

Chairman McCranie opened the floor for nominations for vice-chair. Commissioner Flanagan nominated Commissioner Brian Watkins. With no other nominations forthcoming, Commissioner Jones made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Greene seconded. All voted unanimously to close nominations.

Commissioner Watkins was elected vice-chair by acclamation.

C. Appoint Legal Counsel for the County

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to appoint Attorney John Harrington with Attorney Ron Daniels as co-counsel. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

D. Appoint County Auditor

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to appoint Frank Erwin, CPA, as the county auditor with the stipulation that the audit must be completed by June 15, 2025, with liquidated damages of \$200 per day, if late. Commissioner Greene seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

E. Appoint County Manager

Chairman McCranie opened the floor for the appointment of county manager. Commissioner Greene nominated Conner Bearden. With no other nominations forthcoming, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Jones seconded. All voted unanimously to close nominations.

Conner Bearden was appointed county manager by acclamation.

F. Appoint County Clerk

Chairman McCranie opened the floor for the appointment of county clerk. Commissioner Greene nominated Kimberly Smith-Parkerson. With no other nominations forthcoming, Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Jones seconded. All voted unanimously to close nominations.

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson was appointed county clerk by acclamation.

G. Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB)

Commissioner Jones made a motion for the manager to apply for the GTIB grant/loan with the roads, as follows:

- Eastman Milan Road Full-depth reclamation
- Bill Mullis Road Pave - Triple surface treatment
- Zion Hill Road Resurfacing

Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed. After applying for the grant, the commissioners may decline the grant at their discretion.

H. Tax Commissioner’s Banking Accounts Resolutions

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to pass the resolutions, as outlined below, to create the “Timber Tax” and “Current Year Tax” bank accounts at Colony Bank and the “Sales Tax Escrow” and “Back Tax Account” at Magnolia Bank with Jackie Smith and Windy Gibson as the two signatories on both accounts. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Also, Commissioner Greene made a motion to remove the previous elector, Kay Graham, from all the Tax Commissioner’s banking accounts. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

RESOLUTION

TO CREATE SEPARATE RESTRICTED BANK ACCOUNTS FOR THE COLLECTION AND DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS FOR MONIES RECEIVED BY THE DODGE COUNTY TAX COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

WHEREAS, it is resolved by the Dodge County Board of Commissioners that the "Timber Tax Account" and "Current Year Taxes" bank accounts be established for the purpose of collecting and disbursing fees received from the tax commissioner's office; and

WHEREAS, it is resolved that two signatories are set up on each account being: Jacqueline Smith - Dodge County Tax Commissioner and Windy Gibson - interim Dodge County Tax Commissioner's Clerk (or their successors over time as they appear and are elected or appointed).

The Dodge County Tax Commissioner is therefore directed to create said accounts at the Colony Bank in Eastman, GA.

SO RESOLVED, this 06th day of January, 2025.

RESOLUTION

TO CREATE SEPARATE RESTRICTED BANK ACCOUNTS FOR THE COLLECTION AND DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS FOR MONIES RECEIVED BY THE DODGE COUNTY TAX COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

WHEREAS, it is resolved by the Dodge County Board of Commissioners that the "Sales Tax Escrow" and "Back Tax Account" bank accounts be established for the purpose of collecting and disbursing fees received from the tax commissioner's office; and

WHEREAS, it is resolved that two signatories are set up on each account being: Jacqueline Smith - Dodge County Tax Commissioner and Windy Gibson - interim Dodge County Tax Commissioner's Clerk (or their successors over time as they appear and are elected or appointed).

The Dodge County Tax Commissioner is therefore directed to create said accounts at the Magnolia State Bank in Eastman, GA, and to have signature cards set up on said account.

SO RESOLVED, this 06th day of January, 2025.

I. Board of Tax Assessor’s Appointment Resolution and Order of Appointment

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the appointment resolution and order of appointment for Doris S. Mullis to serve on the Dodge County Board of Tax Assessors beginning January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2027. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

**ORDER OF APPOINTMENT OF DORIS S. MULLIS
GEORGIA, DODGE COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

BE IT ORDERED THAT Doris S. Mullis is hereby appointed a member of the Board of Assessors of Dodge County, Georgia, for a term beginning the 01st day of January 2025 and expiring the 31st day of December 2027.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Board of Commissioners of Dodge County, Georgia, has executed this **ORDER OF APPOINTMENT** and affixed the Seal of Office this 06th day of January 2025.

**RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT TO THE
DODGE COUNTY BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS**

WHEREAS, there is a vacancy on the Board of Assessors; and

WHEREAS, the law required the County Commissioner to appoint a successor when a vacancy occurs; and

WHEREAS, the person appointed will serve a term of three years;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Dodge County Board of Commissioners appoints Doris S. Mullis to the Dodge County Board of Tax Assessors with this term office to begin January 01, 2025, and to expire December 31, 2027.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Flanagan reported she completed the action to get the county manager information needed for the height ordinance at the airport.

County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

Manager Bearden reported the following:

- The Capitol Connection Conference/Legislative Breakfast is scheduled February 24th and 25th
- HB 581 training is scheduled January 13th
- Parrish will be at the next meeting to discuss the Feasibility Study.
- The DCEDA monthly contribution is no longer required.
- The Clerk of Court has notified that all liens must be filed through the clerk’s online portal.

- Several board appointments will be expiring this year.

Manager Bearden asked for approval to attend the next meeting remotely since he'll be at a training seminar. Approval was given by the board.

Public Comments

Nothing presented.

Adjourn

With no other business to come before the board, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn at 6:53 p.m. Commissioner Jones seconded, and all voted in favor. The meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Approved:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Dan McCranie, Chairman