

Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Friday, July 18, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.
Called Board Meeting Minutes



Commissioners Present: Chairman Dan McCranie, Sharon Cobb Flanagan - District 1, Vice-Chair Brian Watkins - District 3, Jeffrey Jones - District 4

By Phone: Leigh Ann Greene - District 2,

Also Present: Manager Conner Bearden, Clerk Kimberly Smith-Parkerson

Parrish Construction Group Representatives

Business: Dodge County Courthouse Discussion

Call to Order

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners held a called meeting at the Dodge County Pearl Bates Courthouse Annex Monday, July 18, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. with Chairman McCranie presiding. He called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. After that, he led a prayer.

Chairman McCranie turned the meeting over to the Courthouse Committee and Parrish Construction Group.

- Commissioners Flanagan and Watkins discussed the analysis of four proposed options for the courthouse and administrative buildings, focusing on cost per square foot. They highlighted that Option 4, which involves demolishing the old courthouse and building a new administrative building, appeared to be the most cost-effective approach according to their calculations.
- The estimated cost of a new judicial building is around \$10 million, but Commissioner Watkins stated a goal of reducing this to \$8 million. Parrish explained that more detailed programming will be done to identify potential space reductions and redundancies to control costs.
- Chairman McCranie raised concerns about the quality of materials, particularly regarding roofing. He also emphasized the desire for durability and a long-lasting structure. Parrish assured him that quality products with strong warranties would be used and that options for roofing and air conditioning would be discussed with the group to make collaborative decisions.
- Citizen Terry Coleman questioned the purpose of the construction project, particularly why the existing courthouse was vacated after remediation efforts. He expressed strong opposition to demolishing the existing courthouse, believing it remains a usable and historically significant facility capable of accommodating county needs.
- Parrish cited the extensive feasibility study which details significant deterioration of the existing courthouse, including damaged concrete, rusted steel, a failing roof, and compromised wood trim and windows, all of which contribute to the high cost of renovation.
- Commissioner Watkins stated that new construction was chosen over renovation due to cost estimates, which indicated it would be cheaper to build a new one-story building than to recondition the multi-story old building to meet current codes and address inadequate stairways and the need for multiple elevators.

Adjourn

Commissioner Jones made a motion to adjourn at 12:12 p.m. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Approved:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Dan McCranie, Chairman