

Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Monday, August 04, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
Board Meeting Minutes



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: Attorney John Harrington, Manager Conner Bearden, Clerk Kimberly Smith-Parkerson

Call to Order

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting at the Dodge County Pearl Bates Courthouse Annex Monday, August 04, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman McCranie presiding. He called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. and asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add “Council on Aging Board Appointment” as a new business item. Commissioner Greene made the motion, as detailed. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the agenda was amended. Chairman McCranie then led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave a devotion from Hebrews 12 entitled “A Cloud of Witnesses.” Afterward, he led a prayer.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

None present.

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes – July 21, 2025 Regular Meeting

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

Old Business

A. Sanitation Update

Manager Bearden reported that one 2013 Freightliner had been acquired and he’s working on acquiring a second. Roll offs are being placed Mitchell and the transfer station as test sites for county drivers to acclimate themselves to the new equipment.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$125,360.87. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. WPA Road Project

Manager Bearden updated the board on the WPA Road project. The county is estimated to get approximately \$220,00 from FEMA/GEMA. However, the total estimated project is around \$600,000.

C. Larry Johnson – Ocmulgee Church Road Solar

Mr. Johnson questioned why solar farms were being granted the rights to build on wetlands. He stated if a solar farm is built, they will be in court, along with the county.

D. HOGARC Aging Advisory Committee Appointments

Mr. John Battle was appointed at the last meeting, but the county manager explained Mr. Battle's untimely death reopened the appointment. Commissioner Watkins made a nomination to appoint Willie Mae Nash. With no other nominations forthcoming, Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Jones seconded. All present voted in favor, and Willie Mae Nash was appointed by acclamation.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Flanagan stated she'd attended a meeting in Thomaston for airport authority activities.
- Commissioner Greene asked the attorney if the board could be more specific about executive session topics of discussion. The attorney stated executive sessions were only allowed in cases of personnel, property acquisition, or legal issues. Nothing else may be discussed in executive, nor can votes take place in executive session. Also, he pointed out the agenda always includes a topic for executive session.

County Manager

Manager Bearden gave the status of fire stations 5 and 15. He also stated a recreation board meeting would be Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Public Comments

- Wallace Mullis discussed solar farms and its effect on the community. He also stated the county might want to have a data center ordinance.
- Howard Warnock discussed solar farms and suggested the board forfeit the bond if the solar farm changes ownership. Also, who will clean up in the event of a storm that leaves major damage?
- Dale Beck stated he was against solar farms.
- Sasha Mullis stated there were lawsuits in Texas resulting from solar.
- Stacey Purvis asked if environmental impact studies were done before solar. The county manager responded that this is a state requirement.

Executive Session

Commissioner Jones made a motion to adjourn to an executive session at 6:43 p.m. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. All present voted in favor, and the meeting went into executive session.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to re-enter regular session at 7:31 p.m. Commissioner Jones seconded. All present voted in favor, and the board re-entered regular session.

Adjourn

With no other business to come before the board, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn at 7:32 p.m. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Approved:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Dan McCranie, Chairman