

Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Monday, September 15, 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

Also Present: Attorney John Harrington, Attorney Ron Daniels, Manager Conner Bearden, Clerk Kimberly Smith-Parkerson

Remotely: Jeffrey Jones – District 4

Call to Order

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting at the Dodge County Pearl Bates Courthouse Annex Monday, September 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman McCranie presiding. He called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, he delivered a devotion from Hebrews 11 about faith. Afterward, he led a prayer.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

A. EMS Director Michael Johnson

Director Johnson reported 334 calls in August with revenues of \$102,954.16.

B. Fire Chief Jamey Wilkinson

Chief Wilkinson reported 69 calls with receivables of \$21,000.

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes – September 02, 2025 Regular Meeting

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

B. Minutes – September 09, 2025 Work Session

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

Old Business

A. Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank Loan and Grant Award

Manager Bearden presented information regarding the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank loan and grant. The county was approved for \$2,429,108 in loans and \$2.4 million in grant funds for county roads. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the fundings with Commissioner Greene seconding. All present voted favorably, and the motion passed.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$169,959.70. Commissioners Greene and Watkins both seconded the motion. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. Set Called Meeting for 2025 Millage Rate

Commissioner Greene made a motion to table setting the called meeting date due to the Board of Education's proceedings. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

C. Milan Voting Precinct Compliance

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to renovate the voting precinct in Milan for the addition of a restroom and windows due to state code requirements. Commissioner Greene seconded. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

D. Approve October 15 Work Session

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the October 15 work session for 2:00 p.m. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. All present voted in favor; the motion passed.

E. Coleman Road Abandonment

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to advertise two public hearings for the abandonment of Coleman Road. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed. The meetings were set to be scheduled 30 minutes prior to the next two board meetings. Commissioner Watkins requested the county manager install signs to notify through traffic of road abandonment proceedings.

F. Alcohol Ordinance

County Manager Bearden stated the additions had been made to the alcohol ordinance as discussed at the work session with the inclusion of caterers' permitting fees. Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the updated alcohol ordinance. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

G. Franchise Fee Ordinance

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the franchise fee ordinance for the collection of cable company fees. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

H. GEMA Grant Acceptance

Manager Bearden received notification of award from GEMA/FEMA for a generator for Fire Station 6. Total awarded for approval was \$24,200 – with \$18,150 from FEMA, \$2,420 from GEMA, and \$3,630 from the county. Commissioner Flanagan approved the awards, as presented. Commissioners Greene and Watkins seconded. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

I. Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Manager Bearden presented a contract from the Heart of Georgia Regional Commission to provide assistance in updating the hazard mitigation plan for the county. Anticipated fees are not to exceed \$18,000 for which Manager Bearden stated the county would be awarded a grant from GEMA to cover the expense. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the contract. Commissioners Flanagan and Greene seconded the motion. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

J. Solar Ordinance Addendums

a. Battery Energy Storage Facility – This motion was rescinded October 06, 2025, and stricken from the Ordinance.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the addendum regarding Battery Energy Storage Facilities, as below. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All present voted in favor, and the addendum passed.

Defined in Definitions and added to Section 4(b) – Battery Energy Storage Facilities will not be permitted in Dodge County.

b. Section 4(e) Decommissioning, #2, Section 4(i) Visual Buffers, #1

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the addendum regarding approval by the county manager in the sections titled above. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All present voted in favor, and the addendum passed.

c. Section 4B (a)Setbacks, #2

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to table the setback revision until the verbiage could reflect true intent. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All present voted in favor of tabling. Motion passed.

d. Section 5A Business License Requirement

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the business license requirement. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

e. Section 5A Application Fee Requirement

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the application fee requirement. Commissioner Greene seconded. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

f. Section 5A(c) Construction Traffic

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the addition of a Construction Traffic Management Plan. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

g. Section 5A(d) Signage at submission of application and updated for public hearing dates

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the addition of signage for the proposed solar ordinance parcel. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

h. Section 5B (b) application denial if applicant receives tax abatements

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the addition of “A permit application shall be denied if the applicant seeks or receives any local tax abatements related to the solar project.” Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. Commissioner Jones and Commissioner Watkins voted against. Chairman McCranie broke the tie by voting in favor of the addition. Motion passed.

i. Section 5B(f) requirement of a public hearing

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the public hearing requirement for the applicant. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

K. Howard Warnock – Solar Discussion

Mr. Warnock discussed his opinions regarding solar.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Flanagan stated the Joint Development Authority had applied for a forgiveness loan.

County Manager

Manager Bearden gave an update from the GDOT regarding the intersection of Eastman Milan Road and Hwy 165. GDOT recommended refurbishing rumble strips in that area, which is part of the county's GTIB project. Also, the stop ahead signs will be updated.

Public Comments

- Chuck Parkerson discussed the county's rollback millage rate.

Adjourn

With no other business to come before the board, Commissioner Greene made a motion to adjourn at 7:23 p.m. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Approved:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Dan McCranie, Chairman