

Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Monday, October 06, 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, Attorney Ron Daniels, 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, October 06, 2025, 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 Matthew 18:21-35 about unlimited forgiveness. Afterward, he led a prayer.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

Nothing presented.

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes – September 15, 2025 Regular Meeting

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

B. Minutes – September 15, 2025 Work Session

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

Old Business

A. Solar Ordinance – Utility Easement Setbacks

After discussion, no motion was made in the matter of utility easements. The ordinance was not amended in this section.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to strike the solar ordinance addendum from the board meeting on September 15, which banned battery energy storage facilities in Dodge County. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. After discussion, Commissioners Watkins and Jones voted in favor of striking the addendum. Commissioners Flanagan and Greene voted against striking the addendum. Chairman McCranie broke the tie by voting in favor of striking the ban of battery energy storage facilities in Dodge County. Motion passed with a 3 to 2 vote.

B. McIntosh County MOA Shelter Plan

The board discussed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for a shelter plan with McIntosh County, clarifying that the Red Cross and the Dodge County Eastman Development Authority would be responsible for any damages to the Terry Coleman Center. Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the McIntosh County MOA Shelter Plan. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$193,431.30. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. 2024 Tax Bill

The board addressed a clerical error from the tax commissioner's office where a taxpayer's payment was applied to the wrong account on a 2024 tax bill. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve a refund of \$124.10 to the taxpayer, who would then pay the correct bill of \$69.73, excluding any penalties and interest. Commissioners Flanagan and Greene seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

The school board would also be asked to process a similar refund to balance their accounts.

C. 2nd Quarter Building Report

Manager Bearden presented the 2nd quarter building inspection report with issues to be addressed, along with the 1st quarter's resolutions.

D. VOCA Grant with Signing Authority

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Oconee Judicial Circuit Grant in the amount of \$77,030 and to authorize District Attorney Timothy G. Vaughn as the signing authority for all submissions and documentation. Commissioner Greene seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

E. Dodge County Drug Court Grant

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Adult Felony Drug Court Grant in the amount of \$170,921.00. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

F. Airport Authority

On behalf of the Heart of Georgia Regional Airport Authority, Vice-Chair Derek Hutchinson requested the ad valorem taxes from aircrafts housed at the airport. Attorney Harrington stated the board couldn't designate the taxes; however, there could be a designated budget item based on the tax valuation.

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to designate a budget item for the next ten years for the Heart of Georgia Airport based on the valuation of the ad valorem tax for aircrafts registered in Dodge County by an intergovernmental agreement between the county and airport. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

G. Community Requests

- Commissioner Jones made a motion to be a community sponsor for Music on Main in the amount of \$350. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.
- Commissioner Jones made a motion to sponsor the Leave It Better Park-Alleyway Project for a memorial brick at \$100. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted favorably, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Flanagan discussed the upcoming legislative leadership conference policy agenda priorities. She also gave a brief overview of Senator Walker's upcoming work session topics.

County Manager

Manager Bearden updated, as follows:

- Dodge County's unemployment rate is 3.7%, the lowest in the Heart of Georgia Altamaha area.
- Dodge County is a Storm Ready Community, as classified by the National Weather Service.
- Eastman Commons has requested to move the clock to the courthouse grounds. The board had no objections.

Public Comments

- Randy Thompson, Middle Georgia State University, notified the board that enrollment was up by 5%. Also, there's a \$16 million expansion project at the school.
- Phil Bearden thanked the board for supporting the airport.

Adjourn

With no other business to come before the board, Commissioner Greene made a motion to adjourn at 7:11 p.m. Commissioner Jones seconded. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Approved:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Dan McCranie, Chairman