

Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Work Session Minutes
October 15, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.



Present: Chairman Dan McCranie, Sharon Cobb Flanagan - District 1, Leigh Ann Greene - District 2, Vice-Chair Brian Watkins - District 3, Manager Conner Bearden, Bleckley County Commissioner Mike Davis, Senator Larry Walker and staff Charlie Barrett, and Davenport Financial - Ricardo Cornejo and Courtney Rogers

Commissioners Not Present: Jeffrey Jones – District 4

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners held a work session with Senator Larry Walker at the Dodge County Pearl Bates Courthouse Annex Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. with Chairman McCranie presiding. He called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer. Chairman McCranie gave the floor to Bleckley County Commissioner Mike Davis for an update from the Joint Development Authority of Bleckley and Dodge County. Commissioner Davis discussed efforts to acquire land between the counties to foster growth and secure a grant for water infrastructure.

Next, Commissioner Watkins provided an update from the Dodge County-Eastman Development Authority stating that a \$2 million grant had been acquired to upgrade a 70-acre grad site at the airport. Senator Walker stated that the grant was part of a rural site development initiative by Governor Kemp, and the DCEDA was awarded the maximum amount possible. Next, Commissioner Watkins discussed a 280-acre chip mill site with double rail spurs, which the DCEDA hopes to get grad certified.

Commissioner Flanagan discussed the courthouse construction project whereby the county would like to have new judicial and administrative buildings, as renovating the old courthouse would be costly, functionally inefficient, and difficult to make ADA-compliant.

Senator Walker noted there was a potential purchase of 165-acres adjacent to the public fishing area for enlarging the public fishing area through the DNR. Senator Walker and staff Charlie Barrett stated they would research low-interest or no-interest loans for the courthouse project.

Financial Advisors Ricardo Cornejo and Courtney Rogers explained their role as fiduciaries who represent the county's interests in securing the best interest rates for bonds. They emphasized the importance of competition among banks and the public market to achieve competitive rates, and they highlighted their services, which include capital funding strategies, credit rating guidance, and policy development. They also clarified the distinction between a financial advisor and an underwriter, noting that underwriters serve two masters (issuers and investors) and therefore have different interests than the issuer.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Attested:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Approved:

Dan McCranie, Chairman