

Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Monday, November 17, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
Budget Public Hearing/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 public hearing in conjunction with a regular meeting at the Dodge County Pearl Bates Courthouse Annex Monday, November 17, 2025, with Chairman McCranie presiding. He called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add an executive session for legal after public comments. Commissioner Watkins made the motion with Commissioner Flanagan seconding. All voted in favor, and the motion passed. Next, Chairman McCranie led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered a devotion from Romans 14 about being thankful. Next, he led a prayer.

Public Hearing

Business: Discuss Proposed FY 2026 County Budgets

Chairman McCranie opened the floor for public comments regarding the proposed 2026 county budgets. Commissioner Flanagan opined that adjustments should be made to the airport budget due to legal obligations regarding the airport fuel sales tax. Chairman McCranie tasked Attorney Harrington with contacting GDOT and the Department of Revenue for further clarification. No other public comments were forthcoming.

The public hearing ended at 6:18 p.m.

Board Meeting

Elected Officials/Department Heads

A. Fire Chief Jamey Wilkinson

Fire Chief Wilkinson reported 82 calls for the month of October, with 932 calls for the year.

B. EMS Director Michael Johnson

EMS Director Michael Johnson reported 361 calls in October and collections of \$102,753.11.

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes – November 03, 2025 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Watkins 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. Facilities Authority Appointments

The Facilities Authority consists of a five-member board with two sitting commissioners. Chairman McCranie called for consideration of appointments from applicants Jason Braden, Mark Doss, and Jason Hersey.

- Commissioner Watkins nominated Jason Braden. Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Jones seconded. All voted in favor. Jason Braden was appointed by acclamation.
- Commissioner Flanagan nominated Mark Doss. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Jones seconded. All voted in favor. Mark Doss was appointed by acclamation.
- Commissioner Jones nominated Jason Hersey. Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Greene seconded. All voted in favor. Jason Hersey was appointed by acclamation.

To fill the commissioners' positions, the following nominations were made:

- Commissioner Watkins nominated Commissioner Jones. Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Greene seconded. All voted in favor. Commissioner Jones was appointed by acclamation.
- Commissioner Greene nominated Commissioner Watkins. Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Jones seconded. All voted in favor. Commissioner Watkins was appointed by acclamation.

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to set terms for board appointees as follows: Jason Braden – three years, Mark Doss – two years, and Jason Hersey – one year. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed. (Commissioners nominating appointees agreed to a blanket modification for insertion of term limits in the order, as prescribed.)

B. EMS Expanded Services

EMS Director Johnson discussed expansion of EMS services by carrying blood products on ambulances. Commissioner Jones made a motion to table the discussion until liability issues could be discussed with the county attorney. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$210,568.73. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. Regional Council Third Member Appointment

Commissioner Jones nominated Manager Bearden for the third member appointment on the regional council. Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Greene seconded. All voted in favor. Manager Bearden was appointed by acclamation.

C. BRACE Grant

Commissioner Flanagan discussed the BRACE Grant (Keep America Beautiful) projects. BRACE funds requested were \$7,500 with a total project cost of \$15,130. Matching funds will be provided by in-kind (volunteers) and funds from the county in the amount of \$830. Commissioner Flanagan stated the county has applied and won this grant for six years. Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the BRACE grant. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. All voted favorably. Motion passed.

D. Eastman Commons Clock

Chairman McCranie tasked the county manager to have someone from Eastman Commons come to the next meeting to discuss the location of the clock at the courthouse.

E. Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Grant Signatory

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to name Count Manager Bearden and Clerk Parkerson as the signatories for the CJCC Grant. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

F. Public Defender Contract

Manager Bearden presented the Oconee Judicial Circuit Public Defender Contract of Services and stated the contact stipulations align with the 2026 proposed budget. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the contract. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Reports

Tire Abatement Grant

Commissioner Flanagan discussed the tire abatement grant and inquired as to whether the county wanted to apply again. Commissioner Jones made a motion, and Commissioner Greene made a second that the county apply for the tire abatement grant. All votes in favor, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Flanagan stated the airport had the new hanger open for leasing.

Commissioner Watkins stated the transportation tax has been collected sooner than anticipated for the TSPLOST obligations due to inflation, so reapplying will begin sooner than anticipated, as well. He asked the county to be considering county and regional projects.

County Manager

Manager Bearden updated the following:

- Fire Station #15 is waiting on GA Power for utilities.
- Fire Station #5 is undergoing HVAC, plumbing and electrical installation.
- The WPA road project had only one bid, which will be presented at the next meeting.
- The Road Committee will meet Wednesday to narrow down the LMIG road list.
- Both the 2025 LMIG and LRA projects are underway.
- An F550 has been stolen from the landfill.
- The county agent has resigned effective December 01. Position will be advertised in January.
- The JDA of Bleckley County and Dodge County has four open appointments. Two appointments are open on the recreation department advisory board. Also, a tax assessor board appointment is open. All appointments will be advertised on the county website.
- Tax bill due dates will be January 20, 2026.

Public Comments

Nothing stated.

Executive Session

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to enter an executive session to discuss legal matters at 7:14 p.m. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to reenter regular session at 7:57 p.m. with Commissioner Watkins seconding. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Adjourn

With no other business to come before the board, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn at 7:57 p.m. Commissioner Jones seconded. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Approved:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Dan McCranie, Chairman