

**Dodge County Board of Commissioners**  
**Monday, January 05, 2026, 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 on Monday, January 05, 2026, 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 move the executive session to the next order of business. Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to amend the agenda. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the agenda was amended.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to enter an executive session at 6:01 p.m. Commissioner Jones seconded. All voted in favor, and the board entered executive session.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to enter back into the regular meeting at 7:10 p.m. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All voted in favor, and the board continued the regular meeting.

Chairman McCranie led the Pledge of Allegiance. Then, he gave a devotion from Ecclesiastes Chapter 3, discussing a time and a season for everything. Afterward, he said a prayer.

**Elected Officials/Department Heads**

Nothing reported.

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. Minutes – December 15, 2025 Regular Meeting**

Commissioner Jones 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.

**Old Business**

**A. Dodge County Tax Assessor Board Appointment**

A tax assessor board application was reviewed from George Watson for one open appointment.

Commissioner Watkins made a nomination to appoint George Watson. With no other nominations forthcoming, Commissioner Jones made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Greene seconded. All voted in favor, and George Watson was appointed to the tax assessor's board by acclamation.

**B. Joint Development Authority of Bleckley County and Dodge County Appointments**

Joint Development Authority of Bleckley County and Dodge County Board applications were submitted by Silas M. Harrington (Mac), Leigh Ann Greene, Robert Pruitt, Terry Coleman, Matthew Holland, Trent Dykes, and Allen Long for four open appointments.

- **1st Appointment**

Commissioner Jones made a nomination to appoint Commissioner Leigh Ann Greene for the first open appointment. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close nominations for that seat. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and Commissioner Greene was elected by acclamation.

- **2nd Appointment**

Commissioner Greene made a nomination to re-appoint Robert Pruitt for the second open appointment. Commissioner Jones made a motion to close nominations for that seat. Commissioners Watkins and Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and Robert Pruitt was elected by acclamation.

- **3rd Appointment**

Commissioner Flanagan made a nomination to appoint Terry Coleman for the third open appointment. Commissioner Watkins made a nomination to appoint Matthew Holland for the third open appointment. Commissioner Greene made a motion to close nominations for that seat. Commissioner Jones seconded. All voted in favor, and the third seat nominations were closed.

Commission Flanagan voted in favor of Terry Coleman for the seat. Commissioners Greene, Jones, and Watkins voted in favor of Matthew Holland. Matthew Holland was elected by majority vote.

- **4th Appointment**

Commissioner Jones made a nomination to appoint Trent Dykes for the fourth open appointment. Commissioner Flanagan made a nomination to appoint Terry Coleman for the fourth open appointment. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close nominations for that seat. Commissioners Greene and Jones seconded. All voted in favor, and the fourth seat nominations were closed.

Commission Flanagan voted in favor of Terry Coleman for the seat. Commissioners Greene, Jones, and Watkins voted in favor of Trent Dykes. Trent Dykes was elected by majority vote.

### **C. Dodge County Recreation Advisory Board Appointments**

Dodge County Recreation Advisory Board applications were submitted by Sheila Honeycutt, Clay Tripp, Chase Eaton, Dustin Thomas, Andrew Hardy, and Buddy Piper for two open appointments.

- **1st Appointment**

Commissioner Jones made a nomination to appoint Chase Eaton for the first appointment. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close nominations for that appointment. Commissioner Greene seconded. All voted in favor, and Chase Eaton was elected by acclamation.

- **2nd Appointment**

Commissioner Watkins made a nomination to appoint Sheila Honeycutt for the second appointment. Commissioner Jones made a motion to close nominations for that appointment. Commissioner Greene seconded. All voted in favor, and Sheila Honeycutt was elected by acclamation.

### **D. DFCS Board Appointment**

The county manager requested time to make certain applicants meet state qualifications. Commissioner

Greene made a motion to table the appointment with Commissioner Jones seconding. All voted in favor, and the appointment was tabled.

## **New Business**

### **A. Approval of Accounts Payable**

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$512,063.50. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

### **B. Tax Matters**

- A citizen requested a waiver of penalties and fees on timber taxes due to not receiving a bill. Chairman McCranie requested Attorney Harrington research the matter.
- In the tax matter from the meeting on December 15, 2025, regarding mobile home tax bills, Attorney Harrington recommended no waiver of fees.

### **C. Sanitation**

Manager Bearden updated the board on ongoing sanitation issues caused by the front-end load truck breakdown during the busy Christmas season. He proposed transitioning the county to 30-cubic yard roll-offs, which would mean no longer servicing commercial restaurant businesses in the city. Manager Bearden noted that the sanitation department is currently operating at a deficit, paying \$27,000 for trash disposal in December while only bringing in \$20,000 to \$22,000 in revenue. The proposal, which would save on disposal costs and other expenses, needs a decision at the next meeting.

### **D. Elect Board of Commissioners' Vice-Chair**

Commissioner Jones made a nomination to elect Commissioner Watkins as Vice-Chair. Commissioner Greene made a motion to close elections. Commissioner Jones seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed. Commissioner Watkins was elected by acclamation.

### **E. 2026 Board Appointments**

#### **• Legal Counsel**

Commissioner Jones made a nomination to re-appoint Attorney John Harrington and Attorney Ron Daniels as the county's co-counsel. With no other nominations forthcoming, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close the appointment. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor. Attorneys Harrington and Daniels were re-appointed.

#### **• County Auditor**

Commissioner Flanagan made a nomination to re-appoint Frank Erwin as county auditor. With no other nominations forthcoming, Commissioner Greene made a motion to close the appointment. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All voted in favor. Frank Erwin was re-appointed.

#### **• County Manager**

Commissioner Greene made a motion to re-appoint Conner Bearden as county manager. With no other nominations forthcoming, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close the appointment. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor. Conner Bearden was re-appointed.

#### **• County Clerk**

Commissioner Jones made a motion to re-appoint Kimberly Smith-Parkerson as county clerk. With no

other nominations forthcoming, Commissioner Greene made a motion to close the appointment. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor. Kimberly Smith-Parkerson was re-appointed.

**F. New Drug Task Force Bank Account Resolution**

County Manager presented a resolution for the new drug task force bank account at Colony Bank, as detailed below. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

***RESOLUTION***

***TO CREATE A SEPARATE RESTRICTED BANK ACCOUNT FOR THE COLLECTION AND DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS FOR MONIES RECEIVED BY VIRTUE OF THE OCONEE DRUG TASK FORCE/MIDDGE GEORIGIA GANG TASK FORCE (OCONEE-DTF/MGGTF) FEES AS REQUIRED BY THE STATE***

***WHEREAS***, it is resolved by the Dodge County Board of Commissioners that a bank account be established for the purpose of collecting and disbursing fees received from Oconee-DTF/MGGTF assessments; and

***WHEREAS***, it is resolved that all checks issued on said accounts shall require two of the following persons signatures on the face of the check: William Dan McCranie – Chairman, Conner Bearden – County Manager, Kimberly Smith-Parkerson – County Clerk, and/or Kyle McNeal - Oconee-DTF/MGGTF Director, or their successors over time as they appear and are elected or appointed.

*The County Manager is therefore directed to create said account at the Colony Bank in Eastman, GA, and to have signature cards set up on said account.*

***SO RESOLVED***, this 5th day of January 2026 .

**G. Signatory Addition – Federal Forfeiture Bank Account**

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the addition of Kyle McNeal to the Dodge County Board of Commissioners (Federal Forfeiture) bank account (231154341) at Colony Bank. Commissioner Greene seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

**Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Flanagan updated the board regarding: a new residential development near the North Lakes subdivision for the city, an upcoming meeting regarding airport fuel sales tax, and the submission of the tire abatement grant.

Commissioner Jones reported Chauncey basketball had started. And sign-up for softball and baseball is in progress at the recreation department.

**County Manager**

Manager Bearden stated qualifying fees for upcoming elections must be approved. He also stated he'd been approached by *Business View* magazine to feature Dodge County in its publication.

**Public Comments**

Derek Hutchinson reported an encounter with a representative from Southern Company that allegedly

purchased 2,200 acres to develop a solar and battery farm near Gum Swamp Creek.

**Adjourn**

With no other business to come before the board, Commissioner Greene made a motion to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. Commissioner Jones seconded. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Approved:

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Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

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Dan McCranie, Chairman