

Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Tuesday, January 20, 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 Tuesday, January 20, 2026, with Chairman McCranie presiding. He called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Then, he gave a devotion from Psalm 139. Afterward, he led a prayer.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

A. EMS Director Michael Johnson

EMS Director Johnson reported December revenues of \$225,101.44 with 373 calls.

B. Interim Fire Chief Malcolm Tyson

Interim Fire Chief Tyson reported 78 calls in December with total yearly revenues of \$75,767 (including grant funds).

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes – January 05, 2026 Regular Meeting

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

Old Business

A. Sanitation

Commissioner Jones made a motion to transition from 8 cu yard dumpsters to roll offs, thereby ending the county’s commercial dumpster service by May, giving customers a 90-day notice. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Watkins requested the county manager give an update at the next meeting regarding truck and roll off requirements for the transition.

B. Drug Task Force Bank Account

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to add Ama May, Oconee Drug Force Grant Coordinator, as a signatory on the Drug Task Force bank account at Colony Bank. Commissioner Jones seconded. 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 \$764,921.21. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. Tax Matters

- Attorney Harrington notified the board of no fault from the Tax Assessor's office in the tax matter from the last meeting.
- Manager Bearden notified the board of a tax matter in which a mobile home was not allocated to the correct parcel since 2023, resulting in late fees/penalties and unpaid taxes. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to table this tax matter until it could be researched by the attorney. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

C. Library Board Appointment

Manager Bearden notified the board that a Library Board appointee had missed three consecutive meetings, which by state law voids the appointment, thereby creating a vacancy. The appointment will be advertised.

D. 2026 Qualifying Fees

Commissioner Greene made a motion to set the qualifying fees at 3% of the base salary for the upcoming election, which will be \$162 for the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

E. Solar Concerns – Derek Hutchinson

Derek Hutchinson presented The Georgia Low Impact Solar Siting Map for reference to indicate that a solar site is not advised in the Ocmulgee Church Road/Gum Swamp Rd area.

F. Subdivision Road Concerns – Mike Flanagan/Justin Barnett

At the request of Justin Barnett, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve 25 mph signage in the North Lakes subdivision. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. Commissioners Watkins, Greene, and Jones voted in favor, while Commissioner Flanagan abstained. Motion passed.

Mike Flanagan presented a petition from the residents and property owners of the North Lakes subdivision, requesting the board deny any connection to the subdivision roadways.

G. De-Annexation – Brian Stuckey

On behalf of the Dodge County Golf Course Board, Secretary Brian Stuckey, made a request that the county agree with the golf course's request to de-annex from the city. Commissioner Jones made a motion to agree. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

H. Dodge County Fire ISO Rating

Manager Bearden and Interim Fire Chief Tyson addressed concerns about increases in homeowners' insurance premiums related to the county's ISO rating. A new assessment from ISO must be requested and can take some time.

I. Comprehensive Plan

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the Regional Commission's fee of \$16,500 to write and submit the county's updated comprehensive plan. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Manager Bearden stated the county normally covers \$10,000 with the balance split

between the five cities.

J. Dodge County Transit Policy

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the Dodge Transit Procurement Policy. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Flanagan reported that the ACCG website has a webinar on data centers. Also, she stated there's a grant available for picking up tires on the right-of-way.

Chairman McCranie discussed potential changes to timber taxes, which Manager Bearden explained in further detail in the manager report.

County Manager

Manager Bearden gave a legislative update, stating House Resolution 1000 is being presented which will exempt ad valorem taxes on timber cut and sold, if it's under the Forest Land Protection Act exemption.

He also stated the Comprehensive Planning meeting will be on January 29, 2026.

Public Comments

Howard Warnock requested the board put a cap on solar farms in the county and implement a data center ordinance.

Eugene Brannon stated the Farmer's Market will open on April 4. He also invited the board to an after-hours business owners/leaders' event with Nabo's on May 28.

Executive Session

Commissioner Jones made a motion to enter an executive session at 7:25 p.m. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to re-enter regular session at 8:07 p.m. Commissioner Greene seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Adjourn

With no other business to come before the board, Commissioner Greene made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Approved:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Dan McCranie, Chairman