

Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Monday, February 02, 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

Absent: 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, February 02, 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 add “Sheriff’s SPLOST Request” as a new agenda item F. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to amend the agenda, as detailed. Commissioner Greene seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed. Chairman McCranie then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, he gave a devotion from Psalm 126:5 about God not wasting painful moments. Afterward, he led a prayer.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

Nothing presented.

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes – January 20, 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

Manager Bearden presented three roll-off trucks options for purchase, as listed:

- 2019 Freightliner - \$129,000
- 2024 MAC - \$220,000
- 2016 Volvo - \$80,000

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to purchase the 2019 Freightliner for \$129,000. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. Library Board Appointment

One application for the library board was submitted by Christina (Nina) Cook. Commissioner Flanagan nominated Nina Cook for the open appointment. With no other nominations forthcoming, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close nominations. Commissioners Greene and Jones seconded. Nina Cook was appointed by acclamation.

C. DFCS Board Appointment

John Harrington withdrew his application, which was initially submitted due to no other applications. One remaining applicant, William Cooper, was presented to the board. Commissioner Greene nominated William Cooper for the DFCS board appointment. With no other nominations forthcoming,

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Watkins seconded. William Cooper was appointed by acclamation.

D. Tax Matter

Due to the billing discrepancy by the county in the mobile home tax matter, Commissioner Jones made a motion to waive \$1,286.48 in penalties and fees. (Taxes were not waived.) Commissioners Flanagan and Watkins seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$118,067.64. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. Jury/Bailiff Salaries

The County Manager presented a grand jury order recommending an increase in the bailiff pay from \$55 to \$95 per diem and jury pay from \$25 to \$35 per diem. The county manager stated the increase would be covered by the contingency fund. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the increase. Commissioner Jones seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

C. 2026 Surplus Items

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the vehicles and equipment surplus items list, with an auction planned for March. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

D. City of Eastman Annexation – Congo Lane

The board determined they had no grounds for objections, as the annexation would not impact the county's tax base or roadways. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the annexation. Commissioner Greene seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

E. Airport Match Request

Derek Hutchinson, Chairman of the Airport Authority, requested \$168,570 as a grant match for an FAA-mandated LED lighting project. The City of Eastman was asked but said they had no funds to contribute. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed. Also, the board requested that all receipts be provided for auditing purposes, and that the funds are segregated.

F. Sheriff's SPLOST Request

Manager Bearden presented a request from the Sheriff's office for an air conditioning upgrade at the jail in the amount of \$24,075.50, which is half of the amount needed. The Sheriff will pay the other half. Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the SPLOST request. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Flanagan reported that the clock project was delayed due to the weather conditions. She also reported from NACO and ACCG meetings.

Commissioner Watkins stated that the Old Dodge County Landing had dumpsters that were being used for unauthorized dumping. He requested signs be posted stating the dumpsters were being considered for removal and directing any concerned individuals to attend the next two consecutive meetings. He also requested a county well on the property and small portion of land be sold to two houses using the well. The county manager was tasked with places the signs, and the county attorney was asked to research the property request.

County Manager

Manager Bearden gave a legislative update. He also updated the board regarding community events. Lastly, he gave a follow-up on the fire department’s plan to address ISO and ESN issues, confirming that the ESN lines are first priority.

Public Comments

Susan Coffee stated the board should address the quality of the sound system, as she and others could not hear at the meetings.

Adjourn

With no other business to come before the board, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. Commissioner Jones seconded. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Approved:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Dan McCranie, Chairman