

Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Monday, March 16, 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, March 16, 2026, with Chairman McCranie presiding. He called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, he gave a devotion from 1 Corinthians 1:26-30 about boasting in the Lord, and not self. Afterward, he led a prayer.

Road Abandonment Hearing

A. Peanut Road – Partial Abandonment

Chairman McCranie opened the floor for discussion regarding the partial abandonment of Peanut Road. No public comments were made.

With no comments forthcoming, the public hearing adjourned at 6:04p.m.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

A. Michael Johnson – EMS Update

EMS Director Johnson reported 325 calls in February with revenues of \$99,599.77. He also reported two paramedics had passed their certifications on the first attempt.

B. Malcolm Tyson – Fire Update

Manager Bearden noted that interim Fire Chief Tyson had been offered the Fire Chief position and had accepted. Chief Tyson reported 102 calls in February.

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes – March 02, 2026 Regular Meeting

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

B. Minutes – March 09, 2026 Work Session

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

Old Business

A. Courthouse Floor Plan – Rhett Walker

Clerk of Superior Court Rhett Walker, speaking on behalf of the court system, advocated for Option 1 of the courthouse floorplan, which includes Probate and Magistrate Courts in the same building as Superior Court.

After hearing from the Superior Court clerk, Commissioner Jones made a motion to select Option 1, which is the large judicial floorplan. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. Commissioners Flanagan, Greene, and Jones voted in favor. Commissioner Watkins voted against. Motion passed by majority vote.

B. DFCS Board Appointment

Manager Bearden reported one applicant who'd been vetted by DFCS – Alisha Cheek. Manager Bearden stated she also served on the Farmer's Market Board. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to table the appointment. Commissioner Jones seconded. All voted in favor, and the item was tabled.

Executive Session

Commissioner Greene made a motion to enter an executive session at 6:15 p.m. to discuss legal and personnel. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted favorably, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to return to the regular meeting at 6:38 p.m. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$186,723.46. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. SPLOST Request – Sheriff's Office

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the SPLOST request from the Sheriff's Office to purchase the following vehicles, totaling \$89,800.00. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

- 2026 Ford Interceptor SUV – VIN 1FM5K8AB4TGA52446 - \$44,900.00
- 2026 Ford Interceptor SUV – VIN 1FM5K8ABXTGA43847 - \$44,900.00

C. Community Request – Arts Guild

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the Arts Guild 2026 Banner Sponsorship for a total of \$1,000. Commissioners Watkins and Jones seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

D. National Library Week Proclamation

County Manager Bearden read the National Library Week Proclamation, as follows:

Whereas, libraries spark creativity, fuel imagination, and inspire lifelong learning, offering a space where individuals of all ages can find joy through exploration and discovery;

Whereas, libraries serve as vibrant community hubs, connecting people with knowledge, technology, and resources while fostering civic engagement, critical thinking, and cultural enrichment;

Whereas, libraries provide free and equitable access to books, digital tools, and innovative programming, ensuring that all individuals—regardless of background—have the support they need to learn, connect, and thrive;

Whereas, libraries partner with schools, businesses, and organizations to maximize resources, increase efficiency, and expand access to essential services, strengthening the entire community;

Whereas, libraries empower job seekers, entrepreneurs, and lifelong learners by providing access to resources, training, and opportunities that support career growth and economic success;

Whereas, libraries nurture young minds through story times, STEAM programs, and literacy initiatives, fostering curiosity and a love of learning that lasts a lifetime;

Whereas, libraries protect the right to read, think, and explore without censorship, standing as champions of intellectual freedom and free expression;

Whereas, dedicated librarians and library workers provide welcoming spaces that inspire discovery, collaboration, and creativity for all;

*Whereas, libraries, librarians, and library workers across the country are joining together to celebrate National Library Week under the theme "**Find Your Joy**";*

***Now therefore,** be it resolved that we, as the Dodge County Board of Commissioners, proclaim April 19–25, 2026, as National Library Week. During this week, we encourage all residents to visit their library, explore its resources, and celebrate all the ways that the library helps our community find joy.*

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the proclamation as read, thereby adopting April 19-25, 2026, as National Library Week for Dodge County. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

E. Work Session Follow-Up

Manager Bearden asked the board whether to move forward with researching planning and zoning and land use and contacting the regional commission to assist. Commissioner Greene was in favor. Commissioners Flanagan, Watkins, and Jones preferred to put the project on hold.

F. Howard Warnock – Solar/Environmental

Howard Warnock requested the board require an insurance policy in the solar ordinance for clean up in the event of storm damage.

G. Dodge County Transit Dialysis Policy

The board addressed three necessary motions to amend the Dodge County Transit policy to comply with

the federal 5311 transportation grant requirements, specifically to include dialysis patients, who no longer have dialysis services offered in Dodge County.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to operate transit on Saturdays for the limited purpose of transporting patients to and from dialysis. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to include Pulaski County in the service area for transporting patients to and from dialysis. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to increase the fare from \$2 to \$5 for dialysis patients traveling to and from Pulaski County. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Flanagan provided a summary for several bills that passed over.

Commissioner Greene announced a town hall meeting for District 2 on March 19 at 6:00 p.m. in the Chester Gym.

County Manager

Manager Bearden gave a legislative update. He announced Dodge County Recycling Day on March 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Also, he noted the surplus auction will be on Saturday, March 21 at 10 a.m.

Public Comments

Kim Spencer, Director for the Ocmulgee Regional Library System, thanked the board for the library proclamation and stated the library will have an open house during library week.

Adjourn

With no other business to come before the board, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn at 7:08 p.m. Commissioner Jones seconded. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Approved:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Dan McCranie, Chairman