

Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Monday, April 06, 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, Attorney Ron Daniels, Manager Conner Bearden, Clerk Kimberly Smith-Parkerson

(The meeting was delayed due to a technical error with the live stream.)

Call to Order

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting at the Dodge County Pearl Bates Courthouse Annex on Monday, April 06, 2026, with Chairman McCranie presiding. He called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, he followed with a devotion from Luke 23 focusing on the meaning of Easter and the hope of salvation. 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 6:08p.m.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

Nothing presented.

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes – March 16, 2026 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. DFCS Board Appointment

Manager Bearden stated no applications had been submitted for the appointment.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$613,318.82. Commissioners Watkins and Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. 2026 LRA – Road Committee Meeting

Manager Bearden stated \$1,184,273.47 had been appropriated for Dodge County for the 2026 LRA and requested a road committee meeting to discuss the allocation of funds. The road committee agreed upon Thursday, April 9 at 4:00 p.m.

C. 2026 LMIG Bid Approval

Manager Bearden stated one bid had been received for the 2026 LMIG project. It was from Scruggs in the amount of \$1,012,347.18. The grant was for 1,098,334.18, requiring a 10% match, which totals \$1,208,167.60. Manager Bearden stated the remaining \$195,820.42 could be used for an additional project. Roads included in the project are: Powers Road, Albert Lampkin Road, Bedsole Road, Tangerine Road, Orange Lane, Garrett Oxley Road, Bill Hambrick Road, Sparrow Lane, and MLK.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the bid from Scruggs. Commissioners Greene and Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

D. Hospital Authority Board Advertisement

Manager Bearden stated three appointments for the Hospital Authority will expire in June, so he'll be advertising for appointments. He also stated he had received applications from the current serving members.

E. Derek Hutchinson - Solar

Derek Hutchinson proposed an amendment to the Solar Ordinance to tighten restrictions as to where solar farms can be placed within the county. The discussion centered on the county's limited authority to override state and federal regulations, particularly those from EPA (Federal), EPD (State) and the Army Corps of Engineers, which always preempt local ordinances.

F. SPLOST Request – Road Department

Manager Bearden presented a SPLOST request from the road department for a new service truck. The proposed vehicle was a 2007 F-350 quad cab for \$13,500. The manager stated the truck has a new motor and transmission and Road Department Superintendent Richard Harrell has driven the truck and approves. Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve. Commissioner Greene seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

G. Partial Road Abandonment – Peanut Road

Following the completion of two required public hearings, the board unanimously voted to partially abandon Peanut Road. Commissioner Watkins presented the motion with Commissioner Flanagan seconding. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

H. Data Center Ordinance - Draft

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to table the data center ordinance for further review. Commissioners Greene and Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion was tabled.

I. Facilities Authority Meeting

The board considered calling a joint meeting with the newly appointed Facilities Authority to establish expectations and begin discussions about funding the courthouse project. Although the projected funding model has changed and may not require bonds, which the Authority was initially intended to facilitate, it was deemed a good idea to prepare the Authority in case their services are needed.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Flanagan gave a brief legislative update for the homestead exemption.

County Manager

Manager Bearden discussed community events and legislative updates, specifically the Home Act Bill.

Public Comments

Director of Community Engagement for Middle Georgia State University Randy Thompson announced a time capsule would be buried at the flight school on Friday.

Adjourn

With no other business to come before the board, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Greene seconded. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Approved:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Dan McCranie, Chairman