

Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Monday, April 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 Monday, April 20, 2026, with Chairman McCranie presiding. He called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, he followed with a devotion from Luke 6:1-10 emphasizing the power of God and the need to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Afterward, he led a prayer.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

A. Fire Update – Chief Malcolm Tyson

Chief Tyson provided an update for March, noting a total of 112 calls with \$136 in revenue. He also stated the Fire Department was awarded a \$25,000 fireworks grant. Lastly, he updated regarding the severity of the ongoing drought and requested residents practice extreme caution.

B. EMS Update – Director Michael Johnson

Director Johnson reported 363 calls in March with revenues of \$129,093.39. He also stated the EMS department received a \$10,000 grant from the Georgia Trauma Commission.

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes – April 06, 2026 Regular Meeting

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

Old Business

No old business was presented.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$709,904.85. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. EMS Region 5 Board Appointment

Commissioners Flanagan and Watkins made a motion to reappoint Michael Johnson as a representative of Dodge County on the Region 5 EMS Advisory Council. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

C. Dodge Transit – Telfair Operation

Manager Bearden reported that Kimberly Smith with GDOT had corresponded that the Transit Trust Fund Program (TTFP) can no longer be used for operations, subsequently eliminating the match funds for operating transit in Telfair County. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to cease operations of Telfair County Transit effective June 30, 2026, due to lack of funds and to notify all parties involved. Commissioner Greene seconded that motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

D. Set Work Session Date

Chairman McCranie asked the board members to check their calendars for a work session date to discuss the data center ordinance, courthouse funding, and county fire protection. The board unanimously decided upon May 18 at 4 p.m., preceding the regularly scheduled meeting that day.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Flanagan reported that DCA is responsible for a Developmental Regional Impact study, which will review data centers, solar farms, and other technical things.

Commissioner Greene addressed ongoing issues with the bridge closure on Hwy 257.

Commissioner Watkins noted that the Milan Eastman Road is under construction to replace the asphalt and repack the base.

County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

Manager Bearden updated the Board on Senate Bill 189, which mandates that QR codes cannot be used when tallying votes by July 1, 2026, despite no funds or rules being presented to implement the law. Senate Bill 285 requires that counties and cities pay 1.5% of insurance premium tax receipts to the Peace Officers Annuity and Benefit Fund. He also reminded the board of the library's open house on May 4th and the Chamber of Commerce banquet on May 7th. Lastly, he discussed the Great American Clean-Up Grant activities in which 200 bags of trash were picked up by high school students.

Public Comments

- Susan Coffee requested the board members properly use their microphones. She also elaborated that public attendance promotes accountability and transparency from the board.
- Bleckley County resident Johnny Holland requested the board implement strict regulations against data centers.
- Lynn Brown addressed concerns about speeding on Hwy 257. Also, she inquired about dumpsters for the elderly.

Adjourn

With no other business to come before the board, Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Approved:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Dan McCranie, Chairman