

**Dodge County Board of Commissioners**  
**Monday, May 04, 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, May 04, 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 6:27-36 which focuses on loving enemies. Afterward, he led a prayer.

**Elected Officials/Department Heads**

Nothing presented.

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. Minutes – April 20, 2026 Regular Meeting**

Commissioner Flanagan requested an addition to the minutes in the public comments section to include Mr. Johnny Holland was from Bleckley County. Then, Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the minutes with the additional information. Commissioner Greene 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 Jones made a motion to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$80,058.27. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

**B. Community Service Board Agreement – Annual Renewal**

With no changes noted to the community service board agreement from the prior year. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the annual renewal agreement. Commissioner Greene seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

**C. Fire/EMA Resolution – Fire Chief Malcolm Tyson**

In the absence of Fire Chief Tyson due to other obligations, Manager Bearden presented a mutual aid resolution for the fire/EMA departments to form a mutual aid resource within the State of Georgia, as attached below. After discussion, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the resolution with the removal of the section requiring board approval for aid extending beyond 48 hours. (County manager approval was deemed sufficient.) Commissioners Greene and Jones seconded the motion. All voted favorably, and the resolution passed, as detailed below:

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DODGE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO FORM A MUTUAL AID RESOURCE PACT WHICH SHALL BE A PUBLIC CORPORATION; TO RENDER AND RECEIVE AID AND ASSISTANCE FOR DISASTROUS INCIDENT SUPPRESSION, PREVENTION AND RESCUE/MEDICAL RESPONSES TO/FROM MEMBERS OF THE GEORGIA MUTUAL AID GROUP.**

**WHEREAS**, disastrous incidents and immediate response emergencies occur, during which conditions of extreme peril exist which threaten the safety of person and property; and

**WHEREAS**, disastrous incidents and immediate response emergencies potentially present major public safety conditions, which are likely to be beyond the control of the personnel, equipment, facilities and other resources of the Dodge County Fire Department and Emergency Management Agency; and

**WHEREAS**, other political subdivisions of the State of Georgia are likely to be confronted with similar disastrous incidents and immediate response emergencies, which are likely to be beyond control of the personnel, equipment, facilities and other resources of those jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, by combining the resources of the Dodge County Fire Department and Emergency Management Agency with the resources of the other political subdivisions of the State of Georgia during disastrous incidents and immediate response emergencies, the life and property of all citizens may be better protected; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dodge County Fire Department and Emergency Management Agency desires to provide the best possible protection to its citizens, businesses, and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dodge County Fire Department and Emergency Management Agency desires to prevent disastrous incidents from occurring; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dodge County Fire Department and Emergency Management Agency desires to maximize the protection of life and property when disastrous incidents and immediate response emergencies occur; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Georgia has provided for Mutual Aid Resource Pacts through O.C.G.A. 25-6-1 et seq. and O.C.G.A. 36-69-1 et seq.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as follows:

**Section 1:** That the Dodge County Fire Department and Emergency Management Agency may render aid and assistance during disastrous incidents and other immediate response emergencies outside its jurisdiction.

**Section 2:** That the Dodge County Fire Department and Emergency Management Agency may form a Mutual Aid Resource Pact, known as the Georgia Mutual Aid Group, with other jurisdictions, as defined on O.C.G.A. 25-6-1 et seq., the Georgia Mutual Aid Group being a public corporation.

**Section 3:** That the Georgia Mutual Aid Group shall be governed by O.C.G.A. 25-6-1 et seq.

**Section 4:** That the Dodge County Fire Chief and the Dodge County Emergency Management Agency Director, or his/her designee shall be authorized to act on behalf of the Dodge County Fire Department and Emergency Management Agency respectively, on all matters relating to the activities and functions of the Mutual Aid Resource Pact once it has been established.

**Section 5:** That the Dodge County Fire Department and Emergency Management Agency may withdraw from the Georgia Mutual Aid Group by resolution and vote of Dodge County pursuant to O.C.G.A 25-6-1 et seq.

**Section 6:** That the Dodge County Fire Department and Emergency Management Agency liabilities, privileges, and immunities, including those of its firefighters and other persons acting on its behalf, shall be governed by O.C.G.A. 25-6-1 et seq.

#### **D. Dodge County Hospital Authority Board Applications**

Chairman McCranie stated the board was in the process of accepting applications for the hospital board authority.

#### **E. Eastman Commons Clock Project – Mike Flanagan**

Mike Flanagan updated that the Eastman Commons clock installation is scheduled on Tuesday.

#### **F. 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Report**

The first quarter financial report was presented, showing total revenues of \$5,860,155.95 and total expenditures of \$4,677,314.17, resulting in a positive balance of \$1,182,841.78. Manager Bearden stated the positive balance was attributed to collecting taxes in January instead of December.

#### **G. 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Work Order Report**

Manager Bearden reported the first quarter had a total of 46 work orders with an average completion time of five days, a notable improvement from 14 days for the previous quarter.

#### **Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Flanagan reported on meetings regarding robotics in the school system, highlighted concerns about local youth demographics, and inquired about the board's accountability over autonomous authorities.

Commissioner Greene discussed Antioch Church Road and the issues resulting from the GDOT project by Griffin Grading. She stated the situation would be addressed. Also, she thanked the county manager for assistance on Hwy 257.

Chairman McCranie noted Thursday is the National Day of Prayer, and the courthouse ceremony will be at noon. Also, he read the Bible Reading Marathon Proclamation for signatures by the City Council and Board of Commissioners:

## **Proclamation**

### **Bible Reading Marathon Week**

### **May 12 – May 17, 2026**

**Whereas**, the 21<sup>st</sup> century has been proclaimed International Century of Bible Reading by millions around the world who recognize the Bible as the inspired Word of God to mankind, which is profitable for instruction in righteousness (II Timothy 3:16); and

**Whereas**, all scripture is essential to prepare us to be the people God wants us to be and to accomplish the purpose for which he created us; and

**Whereas**, America, being founded upon biblical principles and Judeo-Christian ethics as taught in the Bible, paid tribute to the Bible for its important influence upon the development of our Nation by many of our great national leaders, such as Presidents Washington, Jackson, Lincoln and Wilson; and

**Whereas**, President Andrew Jackson called the Bible "the Book on which this Republic rests," and President Abraham Lincoln called the Bible "the best gift God has given to man"; and

**Whereas**, the Bible is recognized as the one true revelation from God, showing the way of Salvation, Truth, and Life, and enriching the daily lives of millions of men and women, who through the ages have looked to it for comfort, hope, and guidance; and

**Whereas**, the decline in the moral fabric of our country can be directly traced to the time when the reading of the Bible was removed from our schools; and

**Whereas**, regular Bible reading renews the minds of men, thus transforming the life of the individual which ultimately affects the lives of those in the family, the local community, the state, and the nation;

**Now therefore**, we joyfully encourage everyone in our community to read through the Bible on a daily basis in 2026 and to continue until the Lord comes. We see The International Century of Bible Reading as a major opportunity to create an awareness of the message of Truth and Hope with our communities and neighbors.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the Bible Reading Proclamation. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

#### **County Manager Report: Conner Bearden**

Manager Bearden noted several community events, such as a tax sale, a hazard mitigation plan meeting, various school programs, and the Chamber of Commerce banquet. He also stated that meeting recordings are now posted on YouTube to avoid using website server space.

#### **Public Comments**

- Charlotte Coffee, with the library board, gave an update on library happenings, noting increased circulation and attendance.
- Lynn Brown discussed needing building inspector reports from 2004/2005, due to a homeowner's insurance dispute.

#### **Adjourn**

With no other business to come before the board, Commissioner Greene made a motion to adjourn at 6:38 p.m. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Approved:

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Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

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Dan McCranie, Chairman