

Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Monday, August 03, 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

Call to Order

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting at the Dodge County Pearl Bates Courthouse Annex on Monday, August 03, 2026, with Chairman McCranie presiding. He opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and giving a devotion from Proverbs. Afterward, he led a prayer.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

Nothing presented.

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes – July 20, 2026

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.

Old Business

A. Dodge County Landing

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to rescind the motion he made in the July 20 meeting to abandon the Dodge County landing. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the rescension, as she seconded the original motion in the July 20 meeting. All voted in favor, and the motion was rescinded.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to hold public hearings at the next two board meetings to discuss what happens to the land at the Dodge County landing. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$38,063.96. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. Adopt 2026 Sheriff's Benevolent Fund Budget

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to adopt the 2026 Sheriff's Benevolent Fund budget, a fund managed by the Sheriff's Office independently of the general fund. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

C. Farmers Market Week Proclamation

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to proclaim August 2 – August 8, 2026, as Dodge County Farmers

Market Week. Commissioners Greene and Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed. As proclaimed below:

Dodge County Farmers Market Week

Proclamation

August 2-8, 2026

Whereas, Dodge County farmers and artisans provide citizens with access to healthful, locally, and regionally produced foods and products through farmers markets, which are expanding and evolving to accommodate the demand for a diverse array of agricultural products, and

Whereas, we know that the Dodge County Farmers Market supports the farm to table movement, handcrafted movement, and artisan movement which highlights the role that local farmers, crafters, and artisans play in supporting healthy communities and stimulating local economies, and

Whereas, farmers markets and other agricultural direct marketing outlets provide infrastructure to assist in the distribution of farm and value-added products, thereby contributing approximately \$9 billion each year to the U.S. economy, and

Whereas, farmers markets serve as significant outlets by which small-to-medium, new and beginning, and veteran agricultural producers market agricultural products, generating revenue that supports the sustainability of family farms and the revitalization of rural communities nationwide, and

Whereas, the Dodge County Board of Commissioners recognize the importance of expanding agricultural marketing opportunities that assist and encourage the next generation of farmers and ranchers; generate farm income to help stimulate business development and job creation; build community connections through rural and urban linkages; and more;

Now therefore, to further the awareness of farmers markets' contributions to Dodge County life, We, the Dodge County Board of Commissioners, Dan McCranie, Brian Watkins, Sharon Flanagan, Leigh Ann Greene, and Jeffrey Jones, do hereby proclaim the week of August 2-8, 2026, as Dodge County Farmers Market Week, in conjunction with the observance of National Farmers Market Week. We call upon Dodge County citizens to celebrate farmers markets with appropriate observance and activities.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 3rd day of August 2026.

D. Regional TIA Act Band 2

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve a contract between the Georgia Department of Transportation and the county regarding the Transportation Investment Act Band Two projects, which include road improvements for Glynn Hickman Road, WPA Road, and Reedy Branch Road. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the contract was approved.

E. Georgia's Regional Water Planning Council

Manager Bearden notified the board that the Georgia Department of Community Affairs is partnering with the Environmental Protection Division to reconstruct Georgia's Regional Water Planning Councils.

Nominations to serve on the council will be open until August 29 with more information posted on the county's website.

F. 2025 Sales Ratio Study

The board reviewed the 2025 preliminary sales ratio study, which assessed 89 samples with an equalized ratio of 29.77%, below the 36-42% goal. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to proceed with an appeal due to concerns regarding the limited agricultural sample size. Commissioner Greene seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

G. Wallace Mullis – Courthouse Options, Scarborough Owens/Wilson Woodard Intersection

- Wallace Mullis raised safety concerns regarding the intersection of Wilson Wood Road and Scarborough Owens Road, citing limited visibility due to a hill, and requested the installation of a dangerous intersection sign or physical modifications to the road. Mr. Mullis also reported damage to Wilson Wood Road and Bell Line Road, noting that the wear may be linked to school bus traffic.
- Mr. Mullis also proposed the county explore selling or repurposing buildings rather than pursuing tax increases for new construction, highlighting successful restoration projects in other jurisdictions as a model.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Flanagan announced that she intends to resign from the workforce development board due to conflicts with the airport authority board meetings.
- Commissioner Jones noted the upcoming Recreation Department Banquet.

County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

- Manager Bearden reported that GA DOT awarded \$336,000 to update signage and pavement markers at 51 railroad crossings across Dodge County.
- Manager Bearden discussed the Trees Act, which offers tax relief for standing timber damaged by Hurricane Helene. The board agreed to have a resolution presented at the next meeting.
- Manager Bearden noted the Recreation Banquet is scheduled for Thursday.

Executive Session

Upon motion by Commissioner Jones and a second by Commissioner Greene, the board voted unanimously to convene to an executive session at 6:40 p.m. to discuss legal matters.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to reenter the regular meeting at 7:08 p.m. Commissioner Jones seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Adjourn

With no other business to come before the board, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn at 7:09 p.m. Commissioner Greene seconded. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Approved:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Dan McCranie, Chairman