

Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Tuesday, September 08, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
Public Hearing/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 public hearing and regular meeting at the Dodge County Pearl Bates Courthouse Annex on Tuesday, September 08, 2026, with Chairman McCranie presiding. He opened at 6:00 p.m. by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and giving a devotion from Matthew 6:25. Afterward, he led a prayer.

Open Public Hearing

Public hearing opened to discuss the Dodge County Boat Landing.

A. Dodge County Boat Landing

Chairman McCranie stated the old boat landing was being surveyed. A property owner of the land adjacent to the boat landing stated the well had been servicing his property for 50 years. Another public member highlighted the advantages of access of the Dodge County Boat Landing.

Close Public Hearing

With no more comments forthcoming, Chairman McCranie closed the public hearing at 6:08 p.m.

Regular Meeting

Elected Officials/Department Heads

A. Fire Chief Malcolm Tyson

Fire Chief Tyson reported 89 calls in August. He also reported revenues in the form of a grant for \$8,496 and restitution for \$4,671.

B. EMS Director Michael Johnson

EMS Director Johnson reported a July call volume of 369 with revenues of \$93,200.25 for August.

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes – August 17, 2026 Public Hearing/Regular Meeting

Commissioner Greene noted a correction to the second page under old business, section A, noting Commissioner Greene voted “against,” not “again.” Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the minutes, as corrected. Commissioner Greene seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Old Business

A. Robert Belflower – Tax Issue

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to table the tax issue pending more information. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. Community Development Block Grant

- **Administrative Contract**
- **Public Hearing Minutes**
- **Resolution**

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to table all items under the Community Development Block Grant. Commissioners Watkins seconded. Commissioner Flanagan amended the motion to allow the public hearing minutes to come before the board. Commissioner Watkins amended the second to the same effect. All voted favorably, and the amended motion passed.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the public hearing minutes (attachment #1). Commissioner Watkins seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

C. Hwy 87 Detour Concern Follow-Up

No specific board action was taken; however, the recommendation is to utilize Studstill Road as the main detour while the county will maintain the current practice of spot-treating areas on Jim Ross or Fair Haven with gravel or sand as needed.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the accounts payable report totaling \$549,526.13. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. Transit Resolution

Upon a motion by Commissioner Watkins and a second by Commissioner Flanagan, the board unanimously approved the transit resolution, as spread upon the minutes below:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR A GRANT UNDER TITLE 49 U.S.C., SECTION 5311.

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration and the Georgia Department of Transportation are authorized to make grants to non-urbanized (rural) areas for mass transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the contract for financial assistance will impose certain obligations upon Applicant, including the provision of the local share of project costs; and

WHEREAS, it is required by the United States Department of Transportation and the Georgia Department of Transportation in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that in connection with the filing of an application for assistance under the Federal Transit Act, the applicant gives an assurance that it will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the United States Department of Transportation requirements thereunder; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the Applicant that Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) be utilized to the fullest extent possible in connection with this project, and that definitive procedures shall be established and administered to ensure that minority business shall have the maximum feasible opportunity to compete for contracts and purchase orders when procuring construction contracts, supplies, equipment contracts, or consultant and other services.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY Dodge County Commissioner of Roads and Re hereinafter referred to as the "Applicant",

1. That the Designated Official Conner Bearden, hereinafter referred to as the "Official", is authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of Dodge Transit with the Georgia Department of Transportation, to aid in the purchase of bus transit vehicles and/or the planning, development, and construction of bus transit-related facilities pursuant to Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act.
2. That the Official is authorized to execute and file such application and assurances, or any other document required by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Georgia Department of Transportation effectuating the purpose of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
3. That the Official is authorized to execute and file all other standard assurances, or any other document required by the Georgia Department of Transportation or the U.S. Department of Transportation in connection with the application for public transportation assistance.
4. That the Official is authorized to execute grant contract agreements on behalf of the Applicant with the Georgia Department of Transportation.
5. That the Official is authorized to set forth and execute DBE policies and procedures in connection with the project's procurement needs as applicable.
6. That the applicant while making application to or receiving grants from the Federal Transit Administration will comply with FTA Circular 9040.1G, FTA Certifications and Assurances for Federal Assistance 2024 as listed in this grant application and General Operating Guidelines as illustrated in the Georgia State Management Plan.
7. That the applicant has or will have available in the General Fund the required non-federal funds to meet local share requirements for this grant application.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 8 day of September, 2026.

C. JAG Probation Contract

Upon a motion by Commissioner Greene and a second by Commissioner Flanagan, the board unanimously voted to approve the Judicial Alternatives of Georgia (JAG) Probation Services Agreement.

D. SPLOST Sheriff Request

On behalf of the sheriff, Manager Bearden requested funding to transition from handwritten citations to a digital system using refurbished computers from the Georgia State Patrol, at a cost of \$19,535. While the computers would allow for direct Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) access, board members raised questions about recurring monthly costs and the service availability in rural areas. Commissioner Greene made a motion to table the request to allow the sheriff or a designee to attend the next meeting to address questions. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

E. 2026 Millage Rate Discussion

The county manager stated the 2026 rollback rate would need to be set at 9.681; however, he recommended an increase to 11 mills to cover inflationary needs. The discussion included the volatility of utility assessment values, the current lack of financial reserves, and the need for three public hearings if the board opts against the rollback rate. The board decided to move forward with the public hearings.

F. Board of Health Advocate Application

With the resignation of Mike Grenade from the Board of Health, the board considered applicant Maya Clark as a replacement. Commissioner Greene made a nomination for Maya Clark. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the nomination. With no other nominations forthcoming, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Jones seconded. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Flanagan noted the airport would be requesting funds from the city, the county, and the development authority for a \$70,000 match on the lighting project grant. (They would also provide funds, splitting the match four ways.)
- Commissioner Flanagan also notified the board of the upcoming policy council meeting.

County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

- Manager Bearden updated regarding the rail crossing project, which will refreshen pavement markings and signage, should begin by early October.
- Manager Bearden notified the board that all hospital authority board appointments were confirmed in August, which included Mitchell Coffee, Dr. Donald Selph, and Mimi Dennis.
- Dodge County Drug Court has been named a model court and will be recognized by the state.
- The 2025 audit has been received by the Department of Revenue and the corrective action plan was approved.
- Sawmill Junction will have a public hearing on September 9 at 6 p.m. in the board room.

Executive Session

Commissioner Greene made a motion to enter an executive session to discuss legal matters at 7:09 p.m. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed. Commissioner Greene made a motion to reenter regular session at 7:26 p.m. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All voted in favor, and the board convened in regular session.

Adjourn

With no other business to come before the board, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

Approved:

Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Dan McCranie, Chairman