Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Monday, October 19, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
Board Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Chairman Dan McCranie, Sharon Cobb Flanagan – District 1, Vice-Chair Brian Watkins – District 3, Jeffrey Jones – District 4
Also Present: Attorney John Harrington, Attorney Kindall Browning-Rickle, 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, October 19, 2026, with Chairman McCranie presiding. He called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, Clerk Smith-Parkerson gave a devotion from John 10:10 and led a prayer.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

A. Malcolm Tyson – Fire Update

Fire Chief Tyson reported 82 calls in September. He also reported receiving grant funding for the EMA salary and hazard mitigation.

B. Michael Johnson – EMS Update

EMS Director Johnson reported revenues of $89,405.53 for September with 322 EMS calls. He also reported grant funding of around $12,000.

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes – October 05, 2026 Called Work Session

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the minutes as presented with no corrections or deletions. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. Minutes – October 05, 2026 Regular Meeting

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

C. Minutes – October 06, 2026 Public Hearing

Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve the minutes as presented with no corrections or deletions. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

D. Minutes – October 06, 2026 Called Meeting

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

Old Business

A. CDBG – Selection Committee

Commissioners Jones and Flanagan volunteered to serve on the CDBG selection committee to rate the engineering groups for the CDBG project.

B. Dodge County Landing

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to table to the Dodge County landing until the attorney could review information from the surveyor. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the Dodge County Landing was tabled.

C. Judicial Project

Manager Bearden stated that adding the cupola to the judicial design would cost approximately $75,000. The board was agreeable to the addition.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the accounts payable report totaling $1,831,143.44. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. Region 5 EMS Appointment

Commissioner Jones nominated EMS Assistant Director Mel Tripp to the Region 5 EMS Council in the vacancy left by Bob Braswell's retirement. With no other nominations forthcoming, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor. Mel Tripp was appointed by acclamation.

C. City of Eastman Annexation

Manager Bearden stated he'd received a request from the City of Eastman for petition of annexation from Green Lawn Baptist church at 1016 Soperton Highway. Attorney Harrington stated he would like time to review the request. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to table the annexation request. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. All voted in agreement, and the motion passed.

D. Appoint Co-Counsel

Manager Bearden stated consideration of Attorney Kindall Browning-Rickle as co-counsel due to the appointment of Attorney Ron Daniels to Superior Court Judge. Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to appoint Attorney Kindall Browning-Rickle as co-counsel. Commissioner Watkins seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Flanagan announced the top three priorities from the legislative conference as follows - addressing allocation of franchise fees, FLOST and LHOST reform, and Next Gen 911.

County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

Manager Bearden announced upcoming attendance at a study committee on local government, and notified the board regarding a $30 million lawsuit in Chatham County related to fire fees and potential double taxation.

Adjourn

With no other business to come before the board, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn at 6:25 p.m. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested: Approved:

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Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk Dan McCranie, Chairman