Dodge County Board of Commissioners
Monday, November 02, 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 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, November 02, 2026, with Chairman McCranie presiding. He called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, he read a devotion from Psalm 13 and led a prayer.

Elected Officials/Department Heads

Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes – October 19, 2026 Called Meeting

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 19, 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 27, 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. Dodge County Landing

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to table to the Dodge County landing until the attorney could locate original heirs of unused property. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the Dodge County Landing was tabled. Commissioner Watkins stated the landing itself, parking, and river access remain open and unaffected.

B. City of Eastman Annexation – Green Lawn Baptist Church

The board reached a consensus to let the 45-day review period lapse without formal approval or interference for petition of annexation from the City of Eastman on behalf of Green Lawn Baptist church at 1016 Soperton Highway.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the accounts payable report totaling $133,165.86. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

B. Regional Commission – Third Member Appointment

Commissioner Watkins nominated Manager Bearden to continuing serving as the third member appointment for the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission Regional Council for 2027. With no other nominations forthcoming, Commissioner Watkins made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Flanagan seconded. All voted in favor. Manager Bearden was appointed by acclamation.

C. TSPLOST Resolution

Manager Bearden stated the 2022 TSPLOST is projected to cap prior to the 10-year expiration, thereby requiring approval of a resolution to establish 2027 roundtable project calls. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the TSPLOST resolution, as detailed below. Commissioner Greene seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed. Commissioner Watkins urged the board to be considering road projects, both local and regional.

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF DODGE COUNTY, GEORGIA, CALLING FOR COUNTIES IN THE HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHA SERVICE DELIVERY REGION TO ESTABLISH A REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE AND PROPOSE A ONE-CENT SALES TAX FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE REGION.

WHEREAS, the Transportation Investment Act of 20IO established the ability of each service delivery region in Georgia to levy a sales tax for the purposes of funding transportation infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Region; consisting of Appling, Bleckley, Candler, Dodge, Emanuel, Evans, Jeff Davis, Johnson, Laurens, Montgomery, Tattnall, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Wayne, Wheeler, and Wilcox counties; implemented the requirements of the Transportation Investment Act of 20 IO; and voters approved a sales Tax Referendum on May24, 2022; and the Region has been successful in collecting a transportation sales tax and delivering projects in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, upon the adoption of resolutions by a majority of county governing bodies within the Heart of Georgia Altamaha special district, an election may be held for the re-imposition of the tax while the tax is in effect; and

WHEREAS, all of the procedural requirements of the Transportation Investment Act of 20 IO remain in effect regarding the creation of investment criteria, the establishment of the Regional Roundtable and Executive Committee, the development of a draft investment list, and public participation among other items.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dodge County Board of Commissioners desire to initiate the process outlined in the Transportation Investment Act of 20 IO for the voters of the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Region to consider the imposition of a one-cent sales tax for the purposes of funding transportation infrastructure improvements in the region; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Director of Planning of the Georgia Department of Transportation, the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission; as well as the Boards of Commission of the counties of the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Region.

D. O.C.G.A. § 6-3-41(a)

Manager Bearden informed the board of new statute, O.C.G.A. § 6-3-41(a), which establishes vegetative and construction height restrictions near airports in order to maintain funding eligibility.

E. Road Engineer Work Order #8 Authorization

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the road engineer work order #8 for drawdowns in the amount of $53,500. Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

F. FY '26 Third Quarter Reports

Manager Bearden discussed the third quarter road work order report, noting 38 work orders with an average completion of 16.9 days. He also presented third quarter financials for the board to review.

G. Schedule FY '27 Budget Work Session

Manager Bearden stated he had balanced the budget and was ready to meet with a committee or the full board for review. Commissioners Watkins and Flanagan agreed to meet with the county manager before the next meeting to review the county budgets.

H. Schedule Joint Work Session

Commissioner Flanagan requested a joint work session with the City of Eastman, and the Eastman/Dodge County Development Authority to establish goals for growth and industry. Chairman McCranie tasked the county manager with finding agreeable dates for the entities.

I. GTIB Loan Request

Manager Bearden stated the amortization schedule for the GTIB loan has been issued from the state in the amount of $43,153.11 per month for 60 months. The county manager requested payment come from the TSPLOST account. The board agreed.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Flanagan reported attending a meeting at the airport and another with the hospital.
- Commissioner Greene asked for a status update on the Hwy 257 bridge project and the Roddy fire station. Manager Bearden didn't have an update on the bridge but stated he anticipated the fire station to be open in the first quarter of 2027.
- Commissioner Watkins requested the commissioners consider local and regional roads for T-SPLOST projects.

County Manager Report: Conner Bearden

Manager Bearden stated the recreation advisory board and farmer's market board have openings. He also noted that the DCA had accepted the local comprehensive plan. Next, he reported a 2026 Homeowners Tax Relief Grant provides an additional $18,000 tax exemption for homestead properties on the 2026 tax bills. Lastly, he noted that the recreation department was awarded the GRPA District One Sportsmanship award.

Executive Session

Commissioner Greene made a motion to go into executive session to discuss legal and personnel at 6:40 p.m. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the board convened in executive session.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to reenter regular session at 7:36 p.m. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion. 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 7:37 p.m. Commissioner Jones seconded. All voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Attested:

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Kimberly Smith-Parkerson, County Clerk

Approved:

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Dan McCranie, Chairman