

Minutes

Dodge County Board of Commissioners

January 3, 2012

Present: Dan McCranie, Chairman
William T. Howell Jr., Vice-Chairman, Comm. Dist. 1
Terry Niblett, Comm. Dist. 2
Brian Watkins, Comm. Dist. 3
Karen Cheek, Comm. Dist. 4

Also Present: Kelly W. Bowen, County Manager
Linda W. Lowery, County Clerk
John P. Harrington, County Attorney

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 in the Dodge County Courthouse Annex Conference Room, Suite 101.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a devotional by Karen Cheek and prayer by Brian Watkins.

Elected Officials/Department Heads:

E-911 Director Craig Minor mentioned to the Board that upon reviewing the approved 2012 budget for his department he had found that the budget for telephones was \$63,000. He feels that this line item should be \$72,000 for the year based on the last 2 years' expenditures. Chairman McCranie directed Mr. Minor to discuss with the County Manager & come back with a proposal for the Board.

William T. Howell, Jr. made motion, second by Terry Niblett to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2011 regular meeting as presented. Vote was unanimous; motion carried.

Old Business:

Chairman McCranie asked if any further information had been received relating to the request to close Price Road. Neither the commissioners nor the County Manager have received any additional information.

Eastman City Council Member Buddy Pittman was in attendance to ask the Board if they would be interested in attending a called meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at Eastman City Hall to discuss the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) negotiation.

Terry Niblett made motion, second by William T. Howell, Jr. to schedule a called meeting with the cities in Dodge County on Thursday, January 12, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at Eastman City Hall to further discuss the LOST negotiation. Vote was unanimous; motion carried.

Chairman McCranie mentioned the proposal to the Board on December 20, 2011 made by Al Hagan regarding the privatization of the county jail. No action was taken regarding this proposal.

Chairman McCranie asked Cindy Eckles with the Dodge County News if she got the information that she had requested through her open records request. Ms. Eckles replied that she had. Chairman McCranie also mentioned that he had not found in Robert's Rules of Order where it requires that agendas be approved at each meeting. Ms. Eckles said that she had some information that she would provide to the Board.

Chairman McCranie mentioned the letter presented to the Board on December 20, 2011 by Dodge County School Superintendent Melinda Dennis. No action was taken by the Board.

New Business:

Dr. Lou Barker had requested to be placed on the agenda to address the Board, but she canceled.

County Manager Kelly Bowen reported that no line of credit bids had been received yet, but she was expecting bids from Colony Bank and Citizens Bank & Trust.

Brian Watkins made motion, second by Terry Niblett to add the line of credit bids to the agenda for the called meeting. Vote was unanimous; motion carried.

County Manager Bowen gave an overview of the county's financial status and the pending accounts payable.

Karen Cheek made motion; second by Brian Watkins to approve payment of the fuel bill to Bearden Oil in the amount of \$3,183.60. Vote was unanimous; motion carried.

Brian Watkins made motion; second by Terry Niblett to pay \$11,297.18 and hold the remainder on the accounts payable list. Vote was unanimous; motion carried.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman McCranie mentioned that he had talked with Dwayne Conley regarding trash on his property near the Airport Road dumpsters.

Chairman McCranie publicly thanked the Ocmulgee EMC for hanging and then later taking down the Christmas wreaths at the Courthouse and the Sheriff for providing help in taking down the Christmas tree in the Courthouse.

Attorney John Harrington reported that there has been no response from Randall Lewis with Timberline Transport regarding a request by the Board to attend a commissioner's meeting to discuss his delinquent Revolving Loan Fund account.

County Manager's Report:

Ms. Bowen reported that two of the county's three trash trucks were down - one is in the shop and the other is being taken to the shop. The county realizes that trash is an issue, but is doing all that can be done with only one truck.

Executive Session:

Terry Niblett made motion, second by Karen Cheek to go into executive session for a personnel issue. Vote was unanimous; motion carried.

The Board discussed the personnel matter.

Brian Watkins made motion, second by William T. Howell, Jr. to return to regular session. Vote was unanimous; motion carried.

No action was taken concerning the executive session.

Public Participation:

Ms. Diana Glass commented that she didn't understand why the county needed an attorney present at commission meetings. Chairman McCranie explained why the Board feels that the attorney is needed.

Recreation Board Chairman Ron White stated that they had not received their check from the county for December yet, and due to the financial state of the Recreation Department, if a check is not received by Thursday, then there will be an emergency meeting of the Recreation Department Board to shut down the Recreation Department on Friday due to not having money to pay bills. Chairman McCranie suggested that Mr. White get with the County Manager & let her know what is needed to keep the Recreation Department going.

Billy Joiner stated that there had been overpayments made on the boat ramp project, and he wanted to know if anyone had asked for these overpayments to be paid back to the county. He also asked a question about what is included in the Community Service category on the 2012 budget. County Manager Bowen explained what items were included under Community Service.

Charles Dennis asked about the status of his son's case against contractor Shorty Smith. County Attorney Harrington reported that the fine of \$1,000 has not been paid, but it is up to the Magistrate to handle collection of the fine.

Bill Tripp presented pictures of Bill Mullis Road to show the Board the condition of the road. He asked that something be done to the road, that it is in such bad shape that it is tearing up his vehicle.

Glenn Harrell asked if bids had been located for the sale of the Komatsu bulldozer and requested to see a copy of the bids. Chairman McCranie informed him that the county would provide copies of the bids once they were located. Mr. Harrell also had questions about the 2012 budget. Chairman McCranie recommended that Mr. Harrell get the County Manager to provide him with a copy of the full 2012 budget.

James Atkins wanted to know if there was an investigation going on to determine what happened with the bulldozer. Chairman McCranie stated that there was a paper trail to show that the money was deposited into the county's general fund but the actual bids had not been located.

Glenn Price suggested that the road department employee involved in selling the bulldozer be asked to provide the names of those who submitted bids.

Dwayne Conley wanted to know if the Board had come up with anything on the Airport Road dumpsters. Ms. Bowen stated that the road department employees were aware of the trash that needed to be picked up around the dumpsters, and they would be picking it up as soon as they could.

Karen Cheek reported that she had talked with Denise Woodard at the probation office about using probationers to pick up trash. All we would need to provide would be a \$10/hour person to supervise these people.

Karen Cheek made motion, second by William T. Howell, Jr. to instruct the County Manager to talk with Ms. Woodard and get the details about using probationers to pick up trash. Vote was unanimous; motion carried.

Patrick Sapp presented pictures to the Board of the trash at the dumpsters on Antioch Church Road. Mr. Sapp suggested that the Board look into privatizing the solid waste collection/disposal in the county. He also mentioned that the churches in the area are getting together a petition to have these dumpsters moved.

Cathy Sapp asked if the trash that is picked up by the probationers will be left in the bags on the side of the road. Ms. Cheek stated that the bags would not be left.

Thomas Sheffield asked if employees at the road department were still working four (4) 10-hour days. He said that he didn't think that the county was getting 40-hours of work out of some workers. He also mentioned that he thought it would be cheaper to privatize trash pickup.

Robert Rooks asked about the county's budget and whether or not the county will be looking at it during the year. Chairman McCranie informed him that yes, it would be reviewed on a regular basis. He also voiced his displeasure at not seeing elected officials when going into their offices.

Ronald Rowland wanted to know when the road department employees will be called back to work. Ms. Bowen informed him that we couldn't call back employees until the line of credit was established so that we would have money to pay the employees.

Heart of Georgia Regional Airport Authority Board Chairman Eddie Driggers mentioned that Dynamic Paint is interested in the Spec Building and wanted to know who can set the terms for a lease to own. He was informed that the Development Authority would be the one responsible for setting those terms. Mr. Driggers stated that Dynamic Paint needed a proposal quickly and that they would be willing to finish the building themselves.


Diana Glass asked if the County Manager could get information on what other counties are doing for trash collection.

Karen Cheek made motion, second by Terry Niblett to instruct the County Manager to investigate how to handle the trash situation. Vote was unanimous; motion carried.

Adjourn:

Terry Niblett made motion, second by Brian Watkins to adjourn. Meeting was then adjourned.

Signed:



Kelly W. Bowen, Interim County Clerk

Approved:



Dan McCranie, Chairman
Board of Commissioners