

Minutes

Dodge County Board of Commissioners

February 17, 2014

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

Also Present: John Harrington, County Attorney
Bobby Peacock, County Manager
Nancy Gail Rogers, County Clerk

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 17, 2014, in Suite 101 of the Dodge County Courthouse Annex.

Chairman Dan McCranie called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. Commissioner Karen Cheek gave the devotional and Commissioner Terry Niblett gave the prayer.

Elected Officials/ Department Heads

A. Board of Assessors

Mr. Marvin Giddens, Chairman of the Board of Assessors gave copies of a letter of resignation from Chief Appraiser Cassie Faulk to board members as well as the county manager, attorney, and clerk. He also gave copies of a letter signed by members of the Board of Assessors appointing Dale Jones as Chief Appraiser and requesting the Board of Commissioners set her salary at \$42,000.

Chairman McCranie asked if the board would like to take action or call an executive session to discuss it since it was a personnel issue. The county attorney stated that the Board of Assessors selects the person for the job and the Board of Commissioners sets the salary and reminded the board that this is the busiest time of the year for the Assessor's office and time was of the essence.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to amend the agenda to add an executive session after the public comments portion of the meeting. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the addition.

Chairman McCranie then recognized Councilman Raymond Mullis of the Eastman City Council.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman McCranie asked for any additions, corrections, or deletions to the minutes of the February 3, 2014 meeting presented in printed form to the board members. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve as presented seconded by Commissioner Cheek. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

Old Business

A. 2014 Fireworks Request

Commissioner Cheek asked for verification that the amount the City of Eastman had requested was \$2,500 and Mullis answered yes. Commissioner Watkins asked if the firemen could put on the fireworks show. Councilman Mullis replied that the City of Eastman was prepared to send their people to Jacksonville Florida to be trained and that was a major portion of the expense but the liability was too great without the training. Commissioner Cheek made a motion to donate \$2,500 for the fireworks seconded by Commissioner Niblett. The vote was unanimous to approve the donation.

B. Historical Society Request

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to table the request until mid year finances were reviewed. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

C. Sheriff Department Firing Range

Chairman McCranie said he had received a request for use of the old ag park for a firing range. He had presented copies of the proposal to the board prior to meeting but suggested the matter be tabled until everyone had reviewed the request.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

After answering questions about check numbers 14357, 14346, 14364, and 14322 by the county manager, Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve the check listing seconded by Commissioner Niblett. The vote was unanimous to approve the accounts payable check list.

B. Qualifying Fees

The county manager informed the board that the qualifying fees were to run in the paper for two weeks and were three percent (3%) of the base salary. Qualifying fee for the Board of Commissioners is set at \$90 and the Board of Education is set at \$117. Qualifying dates are March 3 through March 7, 2014. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to set the fees and dates as stated seconded by Commissioner Niblett. All voted in favor of the motion.

C. John Battle/ NAACP

Mr. John Battle addressed the board regarding their oath of office and the flags being flown on public grounds. He asked for a conclusion and response by the end of next month.

D. Tax Penalty Waiver Request

County Attorney Harrington said he had asked for information from the Tax Collector but he could not be present for the meeting. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to table the request. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion and all voted in favor of tabling the request.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Cheek reported that she had received phone calls about the legal ad for non-partisan elections and she had talked with Representative Pruett about the matter. He said that state law prohibits non-partisan elections for constitutional officers and the referendum for a single commissioner form of government was in the works.

Commissioner Niblett said he had attended the Dodge County Livestock Show earlier in the day and there were quality animals and good showmanship by the young people at the show.

County Manager Report

County Manager Peacock said he had nothing to report. Commissioner Cheek asked about the Tax Anticipation Note Line of Credit for the county and Peacock replied it was in progress. Commissioner Cheek asked for an amount of TSPLOST funds collected and the county manager said approximately \$400,000 which was about \$100,000 less than anticipated.

Public Comments

None

Executive Session

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel seconded by Commissioner Watkins. All voted in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to return to regular session following the conclusion of the executive session. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion and all voted in favor of the return to regular session.

Commissioner Watkins then made a motion to accept the resignation of Cassie Faulk, Chief Appraiser and approve the Board of Assessors recommendation of Dale Jones as Chief Appraiser. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve the appointment.

Adjourn

Commissioner Niblett made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The vote was unanimous to adjourn.