

Minutes

Dodge County Board of Commissioners

July 7, 2014

Present: Dan McCranie, Chairman
William T. Howell, Jr., Vice-Chairman, District 1 Commissioner
Brian Watkins, District 3 Commissioner

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

Absent: Terry Niblett, District 2 Commissioner
Karen Cheek, District 4 Commissioner

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 7, 2014, in Suite 101 of the Dodge County Courthouse Annex.

Chairman Dan McCranie called the meeting to order and noted the absences of Commissioners Niblett and Cheek but reported the quorum had been met and he would be voting during the meeting. He then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag and prayed.

Elected Officials/ Department Heads

There were none noted as present.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman McCranie asked for any additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes of the June 16, 2014 meeting presented to the board members in printed form. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

Old Business

A. Chamber of Commerce Search Committee

Chairman McCranie reminded the board members that a representative from the Board of Commissioners was needed to serve on the search committee for the replacement of Judy Madden. Commissioner Howell volunteered to serve as the representative from the Board of Commissioners. Chairman McCranie made a motion that Commissioner Howell be nominated to the search committee with Commissioner Watkins seconding the motion. The county attorney

was asked if Commissioner Howell could vote for the motion and the attorney replied there was no personal gain attached to the motion and it was his opinion it was alright for Howell to vote. The vote was unanimous to appoint Commissioner Howell to the search committee.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Chairman McCranie asked for any questions concerning the checklist of accounts payable. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve the checklist seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The vote was unanimous to approve the checklist.

B. Mark Sheffield – Dodge County Sheriff Office Monitoring

Sheffield informed the board members that the Sheriff's Office is required to monitor sex offenders in Dodge County. He said of the seventy-four (74) listed on the state registry in Dodge County, twenty-five (25) reside at the Eastman Healthcare and Rehab nursing home. He said there are three (3) sexual predators in Dodge County that are required to wear leg monitors. He presented the board members with copies of the Georgia law requiring the monitoring device and also a copy of the contract the Dodge County Sheriff Office has for the monitoring. He explained the cost for monitoring one offender is \$1,460 per year. He said one of the offenders has a job and pays for his leg monitor. He said the other two are residents of the nursing home and the county will be responsible for their monitoring costs which he approximated at \$2,920 per year. He said he believes the nursing home to be making a profit for housing the predators and should be made to pay for their monitoring. He said he had met with the county attorney to see what could be done to get the nursing home to pay. The county attorney said he had reviewed the rules for monitoring sexual predators and could craft a local ordinance requiring anyone housing a predator for profit or non-profit to pay for their monitoring. Commissioner Watkins made a motion for the attorney to draft the ordinance for review by the board at their next meeting. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved.

C. Suzanne Wynne – Property Tax

Ms. Wynne was not present.

D. Carl Hosford – Chester Highway

Mr. Carl Hosford came before the board asking for consideration to widen and resurface the Eastman-Chester Road. He said he had been told by Dodge County bus drivers that when they meet an 18-wheeler or log truck on this road they have to move to the shoulder of the road. He asked that the road be widened with the local SPLOST for road improvement. He urged the board to give consideration because it is one of the more heavily traveled roads in the county.

E. Transit Contracts

The county manager asked for board approval for the renewal of the transit contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation at a total project cost of \$152,550 with Dodge County responsible for one-half or \$76,275. He said it was the standard 5311 contract used in previous years. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the contract seconded by Commissioner Howell. All voted in favor of the contract approval.

The county manager then asked for approval of the Third Party Operator agreement for the transit system for the new fiscal year of July 2014 through June 2015. He said this was the agreement with the MGCAA who handle dispatch for the local transit. The contract calls for Dodge County to reimburse MGCAA as the TPO the total of \$54,876. Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve the contract agreement and Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved.

F. Old Tire Disposal

Chairman McCranie said he had been asked about old tire pickup around the county and knew the EPD had offered a partial grant program at one time. He made a motion that the county manager look into any grant programs offered for the tire disposal. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion and all voted in favor. County Manager Peacock responded that he had checked and there were no funds available at the present time.

Commissioner Reports

There was nothing reported by the Commissioners who were present.

County Manager Report

The county manager asked the board to consider the prospect of purchasing two new ambulances for the EMS. He furnished bids along with the lease agreement for a five (5) year period. He said funds would be available in the new SPLOST. He said repair bills on the ambulances and equipment through May were \$18,000. Commissioner Howell asked for more time to review the information on the ambulances and lease agreements and made a motion to table until the next meeting. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion and the vote was in favor of the motion. Peacock told the board members that once the ambulance was ordered the estimated delivery time was one hundred (100) days. He urged that time was of the essence and to please address the matter when the board met in a called meeting to set the proposed millage rate. A motion was made by Commissioner Howell to have a called meeting on Thursday, July 10, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. to set the millage rate and discuss the ambulance purchase. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Commissioner Watkins asked Peacock to investigate the

cost to widen the Chester Road and present the information to the board. The county manager agreed.

Public Comments

Billy Steele commented on the Eastman-Chester Highway.

Adjourn

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