

Minutes

Dodge County Board of Commissioners

September 2, 2014

Present: Dan McCranie, Chairman
Terry Niblett, District 2 Commissioner
Brian Watkins, District 3 Commissioner

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

Absent: William T. Howell, Jr., Vice-Chairman, District 1 Commissioner
Karen Cheek, District 4 Commissioner

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 2, 2014, in Suite 101 of the Dodge County Courthouse Annex.

Chairman Dan McCranie called the meeting to order and noted that a quorum was present. He led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag and Commissioner Niblett prayed.

Elected Officials/ Department Heads

There were none noted as present.

Approval of Minutes

A. August 18, 2014 Regular Meeting

Chairman McCranie called for any additions, deletions or corrections to the minutes of the August 18, 2014 regular meeting presented in printed form to the board. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Commissioner Watkins. All voted in favor of approval.

Old Business

A. Housing Ordinance for Sexual Predator Monitoring

County Attorney Harrington said he had changed the ordinance draft with no licensing fee as suggested by the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG). He said this was the first of its kind and there was a chance that the nursing home association may fight it with a potential lawsuit. He asked the board members to give him direction and Commissioner Watkins asked if he had the ordinance for them to review. Mr. Harrington replied that he could email the revised draft to the board. Commissioner Niblett agreed that the board should see the ordinance and make a determination at the next meeting. He asked for the item to be placed on the next

meeting's agenda for final action. Harrington further elaborated that it could be a possible test case for Georgia.

New Business

A. Approval of Accounts Payable

Commissioner Niblett asked about check number 15767 to Zak Dowdy for pine straw. The county manager replied that Dowdy did maintenance on the courthouse grounds and he had put the pine straw at the request of Rhett Walker, Clerk of Court. Commissioner Niblett said that paying \$800 for pine straw after a tax increase does not look good. Commissioner Watkins asked if Rhett Walker understood and if the misunderstanding was cleared up and the county manager said yes. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable checklist seconded by Commissioner Niblett. The motion passed.

B. DOT Land Purchase

The county manager said he had received a proposal from the Georgia Department of Transportation to purchase 3/100ths of an acre of land on Highway 23 between Eastman and Empire. He said it was at the entrance to the dumpsters at Gresston and was needed for widening in connection with the new bypass. County Attorney Harrington said if the county opposed the purchase the DOT would condemn in order to widen the road. He said the county would still have access for the first ten feet. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to accept the proposal seconded by Commissioner Niblett. All voted in favor of the motion.

C. Ambulance Stretcher Purchase

County Manager Peacock said he had received a request from EMS Director Rickie Coleman to buy a new hydraulic stretcher used to transport large people. He said the price of a new stretcher was \$13,000 and he had asked Coleman to see if any used or refurbished stretchers were available. He said Coleman had a price of \$7,725 for a refurbished stretcher and there was money in the 2008 SPLOST to pay for the stretcher. The county attorney asked if the bid policy for items over \$2500 had been followed or was the purchase from a government auction. Peacock replied that he had gotten the two prices for the new and used stretcher and that advertising locally for bids of a specialized item like this would be useless. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to bypass the bid policy and purchase the used hydraulic stretcher with SPLOST funds. Commissioner Niblett seconded the motion. The motion passed.

D. Health and Wellness Grant

Chairman McCranie announced that Dodge County was the recipient of a Health and Wellness Grant from ACCG to promote wellness programs for the employees. He said that the Workplace Wellness Policy should be adopted by the board as a grant requirement. Commissioner Niblett made a motion to adopt the policy provided to the board in printed form. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to adopt the policy.

Commissioner Reports

The county manager said he and Commissioner Niblett would go to Savannah on Friday morning to receive a grant of \$500,000 for improvements off the WPA Road in the Shady Oaks Subdivision. He invited all the Board of Commissioners to attend the ceremony.

Chairman McCranie said a ceremony was being planned in the Memorial Park on September 11, 2014 at 11 a.m.

Commissioner Niblett asked if the sheriff had signed the medical contract approved to be effective September 1, 2014. Attorney Harrington said the sheriff came to his office and signed the contract on August 27th.

County Manager Report

The county manager said he had nothing new to report and there were no questions for him.

Public Comments

Kenneth Williamson commented on the speed limit signs on Gum Swamp Road and proposed a paperwork system for complaints.

Susan Coffee asked for an update on the recycling program. She said the blue dumpsters at North Dodge Elementary and Dodge County Middle School had been removed. She said the lid on the dumpster at the courthouse was too heavy to lift. Cindy Mullis of the Dodge County News concurred that the dumpster for recycling was no longer at NDE. Commissioner Niblett asked the county manager to check on the dumpsters at the schools. Mullis said she will advertise the locations at a reduced rate in the local newspaper.

Adjourn

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Niblett. All voted in favor of adjournment.