

The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, December 18, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Chambers at the Oconee County Courthouse.

Members Present:

Chairman Melvin Davis
Commissioner Jim Luke
Commissioner Donald H. Norris
Commissioner Margaret Hale
Commissioner Chuck Horton

Staff Present:

Administrative Officer Alan Theriault
County Attorney Daniel Haygood
County Clerk Gina M. Lindsey

Jeff Benko, Finance Director
Rusty Haygood, Econ Development Director
John Hatcher, Utility Director
Wayne Provost, Strategic Planning Director
Emil Beshara, Public Works Director
Quinton Still, EMA Director
Steve Hansford, Code Enforcement Director
William White, Project Coordinator

Media Present:

Vinnie Williams, The Oconee Enterprise
Adam Thompson, Athens Banner Herald

Chairman Davis began the meeting with a Moment of Silence. Alice White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Georgia Civic Awareness Program for Students: The Board recognized the members of the 2007 Georgia Civic Awareness Program for Students (GCAPS) of Oconee County. Commissioner Hale explained the program was designed to provide students with the opportunity to learn first hand the roles and services that local and state governments fulfill and to educate teens on the importance of an active and informed civic life.

4-H Agent: County Extension Agent Henry Hibbs introduced the new 4-H Agent for Oconee County, Lauren Mosher. Ms. Mosher expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to work with the Oconee County 4-H Program and said her starting date will be February 1, 2008.

Street Light Tax District – Princeton Farms: On motion by Commissioner Norris and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board unanimously approved the creation of Street Light Tax District No. A-03B-L1 for Princeton Farms Subdivision. ***See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 17.***

Wastewater – Upgrade: Jimmy Parker of Precision Planning, Inc. presented an update on the Rocky Branch Water Reclamation Facility Upgrade. Mr. Parker stated the request for proposals for design services was issued on November 16, 2007. A pre-proposal conference was held on December 4, 2007 with nine firms in attendance. The proposals are due on December 20, 2007 and will be reviewed and rated independently by the Oconee County Utility Department, Public Works Department, Administrative Officer Alan Theriault and Precision Planning before being presented to the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Parker recommended issuing a request for proposals for a Construction Manager at Risk in January – February, 2008. The design of the upgrade is expected to be complete in August – September, 2008. The Guaranteed Maximum Price will be presented to the Board of Commissioners in October, 2008 and construction will begin in November, 2008. The plant is expected to be operational in January – February 2010.

Water – Supply and Capacity Projections: Jimmy Parker of Precision Planning, Inc. presented an update on water supply capacity projections for Oconee County. Under normal conditions, Mr. Parker said the county has a water supply of 3.06 MGD and a demand of 2.50 MGD. Under drought conditions with 20% Level 4 Reductions, the county has a water supply of 2.53 MGD and a demand of 2.50 MGD.

Mr. Parker reported Oconee County's short term water supply remains critical due to drought conditions but the long term water supply capacity is sufficient based on current growth trends and planned capacity expansions.

Well Contracts: On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Luke, the Board unanimously authorized the Chairman to negotiate contracts with owners of private wells and appropriated up to \$38,000 from the Utility Department's Contingency Fund to connect the wells to the county water system should the leases be approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan: On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board unanimously approved a resolution to adopt the Oconee County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan as required by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. ***See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 17.***

Jail/E911/EOC Project Report: Finance Director Jeff Benko presented a close-out report on the Jail/E911/EOC Project. Total funding for the project, including SPLOST funds, installment sale proceeds and earned interest, was \$13,076,903.66. Total expenditures, including construction costs and other project costs, were \$11,854,010.14.

2008 Commissioners Meeting Schedule - Revised: On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Norris, the Board unanimously approved the revised Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule for calendar year 2008.

January 3, 2008 Agenda: The agenda for the January 3, 2008 meeting was read by County Clerk Gina M. Lindsey.

Citizen Remarks: Kate McDaniel asked if the county planned to implement the water conservations tips that were submitted during a contest sponsored by The Oconee Enterprise and the Oconee County Board of Commissioners.

Lee Becker, representing Friends of Barber Creek, spoke on a resolution drafted by the Georgia Water Coalition relating to the Statewide Water Management Plan and interbasin transfers. He requested the resolution be placed on the January 3, 2008 agenda for action by the Board of Commissioners. Russ Page suggested scheduling a special meeting for open dialog on the proposed resolution. No action was taken.

There being no further business, on motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Luke, the meeting was adjourned.

County Clerk

Chairman

Date