

The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, April 17, 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  
BR White, Planning Director  
Gary Dodd, Utility Director  
Chris Thomas, Assistant Utility Director  
John Hatcher, Wastewater Management  
Henry Hibbs, County Agent  
John Gentry, Parks and Recreation Director  
Mike Leonas, Public Works Director

Media Present:

Vinnie Williams, The Oconee Enterprise

Chairman Davis began the meeting with a Moment of Silence. Commissioner Hale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Family and Consumer Services Agent:** County Extension Agent Henry Hibbs introduced new Family and Consumer Services Agent Denise Everson. Ms. Everson has ten years experience with the Extension Service and will begin her employment with Oconee County on May 1, 2007.

**WaterFirst Community Program:** Utility Director Gary Dodd reported Oconee County has been selected as a WaterFirst Class of 2007 participant. The WaterFirst Community Program is a voluntary partnership between local governments, state agencies and other organizations working together to increase the quality of life in communities through the wise management and protection of our valuable water resources. Technical assistance and special workshops for WaterFirst program participants will be provided by the Department of Community Affairs' Office of Environmental Management and recognized water experts around the state.

Mr. Dodd also presented three awards the Oconee County Utility Department recently received from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals: a 2006 Platinum Award for the Utility Department, a 2006 Gold Award for the Calls Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility and a 2006 Gold Award for the Land Application System.

**Street Light Tax District, Amended – Oconee Crossing:** On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board unanimously approved the creation of amended Street Light Tax District No. A-2B-L1 for Oconee Crossing Subdivision, Phase I. ***See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 17.***

**North High Shoals Elementary School Road Project:** On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board unanimously authorized the Chairman to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of North High Shoals and the Oconee County Board of Education to assist in funding road improvements necessary for the construction of a new K-5 elementary school inside the city limits of North High Shoals.

**Sewer Request – City of Watkinsville:** On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board unanimously approved the sewer capacity request from the City of Watkinsville for the Marable property and the Booth property, based on the provisions of the intergovernmental agreement with the City dated January 8, 1991.

**Rezone Request No. 5320 – Request to Table:** On motion by Commissioner Norris and second by Commissioner Luke, the Board voted unanimously to table Rezone Request # 5320 by West Walton Properties, Inc. ±1.985 acres, located on Rocky Branch Road and Brookshire Drive, from R-2 MPD to R-2 MPD with modifications, to July 3, 2007, as requested by the applicant.

**Farmland Preservation Program Funding, FY2007:** Commissioner Norris made the motion to allocate \$75,000 to the Capital Program Budget from fund balance to close on the farm previously approved through the FY 2007 Farmland Preservation Program. Commissioner Hale seconded the motion. Commissioner Norris, Hale and Horton voted yes. Commissioner Luke voted no. The motion was approved.

**Farmland Preservation Program Funding, FY2008:** On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Norris, the Board voted unanimously to include \$75,000 in the FY2008 Capital Program Budget for the FY2008 Farmland Preservation Program.

**Elder Mill Park Grant:** On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board unanimously authorized the Chairman to execute a grant application for the proposed Elder Mill Park, provided there is no funding obligation for the County.

**Jail – Meal Service:** Sheriff Scott Berry reported on a proposal from Valley Services, Inc. to operate the Food Service at the Oconee County Jail. Valley will prepare and deliver three meals per day, seven days per week. The cost per meal for up to 50 inmates is \$2.581. Sheriff Berry stated he will be working with Administrative Officer Alan Theriault on a contract to submit to the Board of Commissioners for consideration.

**Crime Victim Office – Annual Lease:** Sheriff Scott Berry reported the 12-month lease for the Crime Victim Office expires on June 30, 2007. He stated the office is used to interview victims of crimes against children and proposed renewing the lease for an additional year.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the consent agenda for May 1, 2007.

**Jail – Out-of-County Inmates:** Sheriff Scott Berry reported the Oconee County Jail could not contract to house out-of-county inmates until the fencing is completed. At that time, a contract will be submitted to the Board of Commissioners for consideration.

**May 1, 2007 Agenda:** The agenda for the May 1, 2007 meeting was read by County Clerk Gina M. Lindsey.

**Citizen Remarks:** Flynn Warren, representing the Economic Development Committee of the Oconee County Chamber of Commerce, requested the Board of Commissioners consider creating an ordinance to permit on-site consumption sales of beer and wine in food service establishments in the county in a manner similar to the ordinance currently in use by the City of Watkinsville. Mr. Warren spoke on the reasons for a beer and wine consumption ordinance: economic benefits, timely issues and quality of life in Oconee County. He stated the Chamber of Commerce requests the Board of Commissioners hold at least two public forums to discuss the issue.

Russ Page offered his assistance with those interested in further information on the proposed Elder Mill Park.

Alex Pannell, representing Market Center, stated Oconee County needs a beer and wine ordinance that reflects and promotes the county's ability to attract quality establishments that citizens patronize and keep the tax dollars in the county treasury.

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

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County Clerk

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Chairman

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Date