

The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, June 26, 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  
Rusty Haygood, Econ Development Director  
John Gentry, Parks and Recreation Director

Media Present:

Vinnie Williams, The Oconee Enterprise  
Chris Butler, Athens Banner Herald

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

**Hotel/Motel Tax Ordinance:** The Board held a First Reading of an Ordinance authorizing the imposition of an excise tax on rooms, lodgings and accommodations within the unincorporated area of Oconee County.

Administrative Officer Alan Theriault provided an overview of the proposed ordinance, noting the ordinance would become effective January 1, 2008. An excise tax of 6% on rooms, lodgings and accommodations within the unincorporated area of Oconee County would be imposed to benefit the citizens of Oconee County and contribute to the promotion of tourism, conventions, trades shows and economic development.

The Board will hold a Second Reading and consider the adoption of the proposed ordinance at its July 3, 2007 meeting.

**FY 2007 Budget – Amend and Revise:** Finance Director Jeff Benko requested approval to amend and revise the FY 2007 Budget in preparation for the fiscal year closeout and commencement of the County’s comprehensive audit.

On motion by Commissioner Norris and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board unanimously authorized the Chairman and Finance Director to amend and revise the FY 2007 Budget as required in accordance with changing governmental conditions and in accordance with all applicable regulations.

**Water Availability Fee:** Utility Director Gary Dodd reported the Utility Department’s recommended water availability fee increase of \$675 per residential meter was inadvertently omitted from the fee schedule that was approved with the Board of Commissioners FY 2008 Budget, due to a typographical error.

Abbie Kobmann, Government Affairs Director for the Athens Area Home Builders Association, stated the Association was opposed to an increase in water availability fees.

On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Luke, the Board unanimously approved the water availability fee increase of \$675 per residential meter, effective July 1, 2007.

**Oconee Community Complex – Change Order:** Ed Czyncon of WK Dickson reported subsurface rock was found in the areas where the Central and West ponds were to be located at the Oconee Community Complex. Mr. Czyncon stated prior to the start of the project, Geo-Hydro performed geotechnical borings on the site, but did not encounter any rock on the site. The borings missed the rock that was subsequently encountered by the contractor, F.E. Sims Enterprises. To reduce the cost of the rock removal, WK Dickson redesigned the two ponds to

minimize the rock blasting to just the trench for the pipe leading from the storm system to the pond. Mr. Czyscon recommended the Board approve a Change Order to the contract with F.E. Sims Enterprises in the amount of \$425,460 for construction of the redesigned ponds.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for July 3, 2007.

**July 3, 2007 Agenda:** The agenda for the July 3, 2007 meeting was read by County Clerk Gina M. Lindsey.

**Pottier v. Oconee County, et al:** County Attorney Daniel Haygood reported the Superior Court of Oconee County issued an Order Granting Summary Judgment to Oconee County, and all of its officials and employees, in the case of Steven and Theresa Pottier v. Oconee County, et al.

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

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County Clerk

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Chairman

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Date