

The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, October 27, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Chambers at the Oconee County Courthouse.

Members Present: Chairman Melvin Davis  
Commissioner Jim Luke  
Commissioner John Daniell  
Commissioner Chuck Horton

Commissioner Margaret Hale was absent.

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

Jeff Benko, Finance Director  
BR White, Planning Director  
Emil Beshara, Public Works Director  
Steve Hansford, Code Enforcement Director  
Rusty Haygood, Economic Development Director  
Lisa Davol, Acting Parks & Recreation Director  
Chris Thomas, Utility Director  
Jeff Gearhart, Information Technology

Media Present: Vinnie Williams, The Oconee Enterprise  
Joe Vanhooose, Athens Banner Herald

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

**Approval of the Agenda:** On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Daniell, the agenda for the October 27, 2009 meeting was unanimously approved as submitted.

**Patriotic Employer Presentation:** Brigadier General Joel Seymour (Ret.) presented the Board with a Certificate from the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and the Department of Defense in recognition of their support of employees participating in the National Guard and Reserve. Parks and Recreation Director John Gentry's wife, Katherine Gentry, and daughters, Caroline and Anna, were present for the recognition.

**Commissioners Remarks:** None.

**Citizen Remarks:** None.

**Development Authority Applicants:** The Board interviewed applicant Rick Waller for appointment to the Oconee County Development Authority for two 4-year terms, expiring December 31, 2013. Applicant Chuck Williams was unable to attend. The Board will consider these appointments at their November 3, 2009 meeting.

**Board of Health Applicants:** The Board interviewed applicant Flynn Warren for appointment to the Oconee County Board of Health for a 5-year term, expiring December 31, 2014. The Board will consider this appointment at their November 3, 2009 meeting.

**Library Advisory Board Applicants:** The Board interviewed applicants Adam Cain, Patricia Hallow, Kelly Holt and Penny Mills for appointment to the Oconee County Library Advisory Board for two 5-year terms, expiring December 31, 2014. Applicant Debbie Wagner was unable to attend. The Board will consider these appointments at their November 3, 2009 meeting.

**Oconee River Resource, Conservation & Development Council Applicants** The Board acknowledged Kate McDaniel and William E. "Bubber" Wilkes have applied for appointment to the Oconee River Resource, Conservation & Development Council Board for two 4-year terms, expiring December 31, 2013. Ms. McDaniel was interviewed at the September 29, 2009 meeting and Mr. Wilkes was unable to attend. The Board will consider these appointments at their November 3, 2009 meeting.

**Solicitation Ordinance:** The Board held a First Reading and Public Hearing on a proposed Solicitation Ordinance to regulate groups soliciting funds at various intersections in the county. County Attorney Daniel Haygood reviewed the requirements and procedures of the ordinance. Street solicitation will be allowed only by charitable organizations with an event permit provided by the Code Enforcement Office. Permit applications must be submitted at least 15 days prior to the event. The number of permits issued will be limited to one per year per charitable organization.

Larry Wood suggested a provision be added limiting the number of street solicitations taking place simultaneously. Chairman Davis noted the Code Enforcement Director will take this into consideration when reviewing any application.

The Board will hold the Second Reading and take final action on the proposed Ordinance at the November 3, 2009 meeting.

**Oconee Area Radio System – County Representative:** Administrative Officer Alan Theriault reported as part of the Oconee Area Radio System (OARS) Project Agreement, Oconee County needs to make an appointment of a county representative to the OARS Governance Committee. Mr. Theriault recommended the appointment of Capt. Jimmy Williams, Communications Chief and E911 Director, to serve in this capacity.

Commissioner Luke requested Mr. Theriault check on the term of the appointment.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the November 3, 2009 consent agenda.

**Ethics Ordinance Committee:** The Board discussed strategy for moving forward with an Ethics Ordinance and the possible formation of an Ethics Ordinance Committee to assist in studying ethics rules and experiences. It was agreed the Ethics Ordinance would apply only to the Board of Commissioners.

County Attorney Daniel Haygood will provide examples of other Ethics Ordinances that pertain only to Commissioners. The Board will then discuss how they want to proceed.

**Economic Development:** The Board discussed economic development in Oconee County and various ways to maximize economic development efforts.

Commissioner Daniell stated he would like the county to move forward with a regional effort initially involving Oconee and Athens-Clarke counties, as recommended by the Oconee Athens-Clarke Regional Economic Development Task Force. Commissioner Horton stressed he does not have the answers he needs to support this recommendation.

Commissioner Luke concurred some details have not yet been examined, but was agreeable to the Task Force's recommendation to join efforts with Athens-Clarke County.

Chairman Davis questioned what funds would be left to develop our own product, explaining we would have to have a product in order to market Oconee County.

Mike Lewis, Chair of the Oconee County Chamber of Commerce, said the Chamber supports the concept of regional economic development. He noted the Chamber will continue working with the Board of Commissioners on economic development efforts.

Ed Perkins, Chairman of the Oconee Athens-Clarke Regional Economic Development Task Force, offered to help the Board in answering questions and formatting resolutions to those questions.

Bill Mayberry stated he was opposed to any taxpayers' dollars going to benefit Athens-Clarke County. Larry Ward encouraged the Board to move slowly on any decision to become involved with another county.

The Board scheduled a Called Meeting for further discussion on Economic Development at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3, 2009 in the Commission Meeting Chambers at the Oconee County Courthouse.

**November 3, 2009 Agenda:** The agenda for the November 3, 2009 meeting was read by County Clerk Gina M. Lindsey.

**Executive Session:** On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss real estate acquisition, pending litigation and personnel matters. No action was taken in Executive Session.

On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Luke, the Board adjourned Executive Session. On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board adjourned back into Regular Session.

**Fire Station Property Acquisition:** On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Daniell, the Board voted unanimously to approve a contract reviewed in Executive Session for the purchase of a 4.25 acre tract located on Hodges Mill Road for construction of a fire station, at the neutral appraised value, to be funded by Special Local Option Sales Tax.

There being no further business, on motion by Commissioner Daniell 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

