

The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, January 26, 2010, 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 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  
Emil Beshara, Public Works Director  
Steve Hansford, Code Enforcement Director  
Rusty Haygood, Economic Development Director  
Chris Thomas, Utility Director  
Lisa Davol, Acting Parks and Recreation Director  
Peggy Holcomb, Tourism Director  
Marvin Poe, Maintenance and Facilities Director  
Patrick Magana, Assistant I.T. Director

Media Present: Vinnie Williams, The Oconee Enterprise  
Blake Giles, The Oconee Enterprise  
Joe Vanhoose, Athens Banner Herald

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

**Approval of the Agenda:** On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Hale, the agenda for the January 26, 2010 meeting was unanimously approved with the addition of "Discussion and Consideration of Rocky Branch Road and Whippoorwill Road Improvements".

**Commissioners Remarks:** Commissioner Daniell announced the county has scheduled a public "town hall" meeting on February 16, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Oconee County Civic Center.

**Citizen Remarks:** Russ Page expressed his concern over the pending sale of A.L. Cuming's property on Elder Mill Road and felt it would affect the preservation of the Elder Bridge area. Robert Wyatt read a memo from the Oconee County Democratic Party Committee urging the Board to consider purchasing other available properties in the vicinity of Elder Bridge for an Elder Bridge Park.

Lee Becker appealed to the Board to take action on the Wetland Mitigation Resolution.

**Animal Control Advisory Board Applicants:** The Board interviewed applicants Maria Caudill, Susan Scheff Wells and Gail Wiley for appointment to the Oconee County Animal Control Advisory Board for 2-year terms expiring June 30, 2012. The Board will take action on these appointments at the February 2, 2010 meeting.

**Board of Tax Assessors Applicants:** The Board interviewed applicant Harvey O. Downs, Jr. for appointment to the Oconee County Board of Tax Assessors for 6-year terms expiring March 31, 2016. Applicant Claire McDougald was unable to attend. The Board will take action on these appointments at the February 2, 2010 meeting.

**Development Authority Applicants:** The Board interviewed Charles Grimes for appointment as an Associate Member to the Oconee County Industrial Development Authority to fill an unexpired term expiring December 31, 2010. The Board will take action on this appointment at the February 2, 2010 meeting.

**Hard Labor Creek Management Board Appointments:** The Board discussed the reappointments of Jim Luke, Alternate Chuck Horton, Hank Huckaby, Alternate Chris Thomas, Jeff Benko and Alternate Alan Theriault to the Hard Labor Creek Management Board for 2-year terms, expiring December 31, 2011. The Board will take action on these appointments at the February 2, 2010 meeting.

**Report on FY 2009 Audit:** Matt Miller of Treadwell, Tamplin and Company reported on the completed FY 2009 audit for Oconee County. Mr. Miller noted county expenditures were 4% under budgeted expenditures and all revenue bond covenants were met by the Utility Department. He stated the county's overall financial position remains solid.

**Hotel/Motel Tax Expenditures:** Cultural Affairs and Tourism Committee Chair Donna Smith Fee presented a resolution from the committee recommending projects to be funded by Hotel/Motel sales tax collections. Four short-term projects were identified as being most apt to immediately drive additional tourism into Oconee County: (1) Restore the Tourism Assistant position for the Tourism Department; (2) Contract for a Professional Web Design; (3) Reassess the Welcome Center's location: and, (4) Increase signage.

The committee requested that immediate attention be given to the first priority. Ms. Fee explained the funding of a staff position for the Tourism Department is a key factor in moving forward with the other recommendations. The position would be fully funded from Hotel/Motel sales tax collections.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the February 2, 2010 consent agenda.

**Fiscal Year 2010 Six-Month Financial Update:** Finance Director Jeff Benko reported on the mid-year status of the FY 2010 budget. Mr. Benko reviewed the six-month financial status of the County's General Fund, Capital Budget, SPLOST 2004 and SPLOST FY 2009, LOST, and the Utility Department. He stated the county is on target in all areas.

**FY 2011 Budget Submittal Plan:** Finance Director Jeff Benko presented the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Submittal Plan.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the February 2, 2010 consent agenda.

**Government Annex Renovations:** Maintenance and Facilities Director Marvin Poe requested an expenditure up to \$170,000 from 2004 SPLOST funds to complete renovations at the Government Annex. The work includes carpentry demolition and installation of wall partitions, electrical and computer wiring demolition and installation, HVAC demolition and installation, flooring and carpeting, sprinkler line extensions and head installations in areas not currently sprinkled and securing the property with alarms, fencing and gates.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the February 2, 2010 consent agenda.

**FY 2011 and FY 2012 Transportation Improvement and Maintenance (TIM) Plan:** Public Works Director Emil Beshara presented a Power Point Presentation on the Transportation Improvement & Maintenance (TIM) Plan for Fiscal Years 2011 and 2012. Mr. Beshara said the overall goal of the TIM Plan is to provide safe and efficient transportation systems and infrastructure that not only meet the current needs of the County and its citizens but will also support and sustain the future growth of the County.

The TIM Plan outlined transportation infrastructure work to be performed in FY11 and FY12 in five plan element areas at a budget amount of \$12,845,000 that includes county, state and federal funds.

- Road Resurfacing Program – 36 miles of resurfacing and repair of various roads and 4.0 miles of LARP repair to various county roads.
- Road Maintenance Minimization – Grade, remove rock, replace cross drains, replace driveway culverts (as required), and provide base and surface treatment for approximately 1.5 miles.
- Intersection Improvement Program – Widening, alignment and turn lane additions/enhancements at Daniells Bridge Road, Mars Hill Road and Oconee Connector.
- Bridge Maintenance & Improvement Program - Repair, modify and/or improve a portion of two bridges.

- Major Transportation Upgrades & Improvements Program – Mars Hill Road/SR 53 Widening, Phase I, Jennings Mill Parkway Extension to Oconee Connector and Butlers Crossing sidewalks.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the February 2, 2010 consent agenda.

**Rocky Branch Road and Whippoorwill Road Patching:** Public Works Director Emil Beshara reported recent rains and extreme cold weather have destroyed a significant portion of Rocky Branch Road and caused deterioration to the road base on both Rocky Branch Road and Whippoorwill Road.

On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board unanimously approved expenditures up to \$155,000 from 2004 SPLOST funds for immediate patching on Rocky Branch Road and Whippoorwill Road.

**FY 2010, FY 2011 and FY 2012 Water and Sewer Improvements (WASI) Plan:** Utility Director Chris Thomas presented a Power Point Presentation on the Water and Sewer Improvements (WASI) Plan for Fiscal Years 2010, 2011 and 2012. Mr. Thomas noted this first WASI Plan incorporates the remaining 6 months of FY2010 and thus constitutes a 30-month plan that mirrors the Public Works Department's TIM Plan.

The WASI Plan summarizes a portion of the work that OCUD plans to perform during the remainder of FY 2010 and FY 2011 and 2012 in 4 plan elements at a budget amount of \$4,445,000 funded by Sewer Capacity Fees and SPLOST revenues.

- Water Supply Improvements – Installation of a filtration unit at Hillcrest Well and upgrade of internal piping and pumps in various wells including Clarke Drive and Mars Hill.
- Water Distribution Improvements – Replacement of inefficient water meters, placement of pressure reducing valves in the water distribution system and placement of capital equipment that will improve general water quality.
- Sewer Treatment Improvements – Replacement of existing head works and installation of new membranes and ancillary components at the Calls Creek Water Reclamation Facility.
- Sewer Collection System Improvements – Replacement of aging and undersized collection lines along Lampkin Branch and upgrade components of various lift stations.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the February 2, 2010 consent agenda.

**February 2, 2010 Agenda:** The agenda for the February 2, 2010 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, litigation and personnel matters. No action was taken in Executive Session.

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

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