

The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, March 30, 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
Bruce Thaxton, Fire Chief/EMA Director
Mark Melvin, Assistant Fire Chief
Steve Hansford, Code Enforcement Director
Rusty Haygood, Economic Development Director
Chris Thomas, Utility Director
Lisa Davol, Acting Parks and Recreation Director
Paula Nedza, I.T. Director

Media Present: Vinnie Williams, The Oconee Enterprise
Erin France, 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 Daniell and second by Commissioner Hale, the agenda for the March 30, 2010 meeting was unanimously approved as submitted.

Commissioners Remarks: Commissioner Luke spoke on the recent discussions regarding additional courthouse space. He explained the intention of the Board of Commissioners is to put future Boards in a good position by having a site and plan ready. He stated there are no plans for construction for at least ten years. Commissioner Horton noted the Board intends to engage the public throughout the planning process.

Commissioner Daniell reported he has reviewed a draft ACCG Ethics Ordinance and the five-year update of the Short Term Work Program element of the Solid Waste Management Plan. He hopes to bring these items before the Board in the near future.

Citizen Remarks: Russ Page reported a public forum was held last week on the proposed Elder Mill Bridge Park.

Sarah Bell said she has reviewed the County's FY 2009 Financial Statements and asked for confirmation of her understanding of the county's debt as presented in the audit. Finance Director Jeff Benko explained the audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards (GAAP) and the report was issued in accordance with Government Auditing Standards (GASB). He pointedly noted the county's long-term debt obligations are being repaid through SPLOST revenues and Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund revenues, not property taxes, and the County is in a strong financial position.

Keep Oconee County Beautiful Chair Esther Porter announced the month of April has been designated as Keep Oconee Beautiful Month.

Donation Presentation – Tenant House: The Board recognized Albert Ward and Zachary Norville for their private donations of \$45,300 to relocate and renovate a sharecropper's (tenant) house for the Historic Village at Heritage Park. Lisa Douglas was also recognized as the owner of the house.

Recognition of First Responders: The Board recognized Fire Rescue Personnel Dan Connor, Benjamin Holton, Jason Mauldin, Adam Smith, James Thaxton, Kenney Wilson, Ed Carson (Oconee Fire Rescue/National EMS Ambulance), Steve Shelton (National EMS Ambulance) and Shannon Aguilar (Oconee Dispatcher) for their performance of life saving measures on

heart attack victim Cheri Barber. Ms. Barber expressed her appreciation to the First Responders and to Oconee County for what it provides to the Fire Rescue Volunteers.

Regionally Important Resources: Lee Carmon of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission provided an overview of the Regional Resource Plan and the process for identifying Regionally Important Resources (RIRs).

Ms. Carmon reported the NEGRC received 35 nominations for consideration of Regionally Important Resource designation. Nominated resources are located in the City of Auburn and Jackson, Oconee, Newton and Morgan Counties. The RIRs were submitted by counties as well as several organizations and include historic districts, parks, rivers, farms, trails and forests.

The Northeast Georgia Regional Planning Advisory Committee reviewed each nomination and evaluated it against the selection criteria adopted by the Regional Commission Council. Twenty-Four nominations will be recommended to the Regional Commission Council for RIR Designation. The RIRs nominated for Oconee County include The Athens Line, Elder Mill Bridge and Elder Mill.

Keep Oconee County Beautiful Commission Applicants: The Board interviewed Deborah Callahan for appointment to the Keep Oconee County Beautiful Commission for a 3-year term expiring June 30, 2013. Applicants Angela Helwig, Marge McKee and Kate McDaniel were unable to attend. The Board will take action on these appointments at the April 6, 2010 meeting.

Family & Children Services Board Applicant: The Board interviewed Patsy Grimes for reappointment to the Oconee County Family & Children Services Board for a 5-year term, expiring June 30, 2015. The Board will take action on this appointment at the April 6, 2010 meeting.

Voting System – Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement: Administrative Officer Alan Theriault presented a proposed Second Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Secretary of State for the uniform electronic voting system. The Amendment outlines methods for disposing of non-repairable voting equipment.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the April 6, 2010 consent agenda.

Animal Control Advisory Board Resolution: Administrative Officer Alan Theriault presented a proposed Resolution to Amend the Animal Control Advisory Board by increasing the number of members serving on the Advisory Board from 5 members to 6 members, effective July 1, 2010.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the April 6, 2010 agenda for action by the Board.

Wastewater Capacity Fee Policy: Administrative Officer Alan Theriault presented a proposed Resolution to establish a Wastewater Capacity Fee Policy. Mr. Theriault explained the proposed Wastewater Capacity Fee Policy would formalize the assessment and administration of capacity fees and provide for a structure that is fair, equitable and user-friendly. He noted Oconee County has used the JT-1 table developed by the Georgia Department of Human Resources as the basis for guaranteeing sewer capacity.

Highlights of the proposed Policy include:

- All capacity fees would be reduced to 50% of the JT-1 Table.
- The Board of Commissioners would be the sole entity empowered to deviate from the administration and application of the Policy.
- The Administration of the Policy would be uniform and consistent across the board to all who request and are granted sewer capacity by the County.
- The cost of opening or expanding a business in Oconee County would be reduced.
- Since sewer capacity stays with the property, it would be the financial responsibility of the landlord/developer for any costs associated with capacity fees.
- Individual water meters would be required as a prerequisite for sewer availability.

Mr. Theriault also recommended the Board provide a refund/adjustment of capacity fees for Scoops and Rachel's in the amounts of \$1575 and \$8805, respectively, as the two identified food service establishments were required to pay 100% of the JT-1 table for capacity fees because they were single locations.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the April 6, 2010 agenda for action by the Board.

April 6, 2010 Agenda: The Agenda for the April 6, 2010 meeting was read by County Clerk Gina M. Lindsey.

Executive Session: On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss 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 Horton and second by Commissioner Luke, the Board adjourned back into Regular Session.

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

County Clerk

Chairman

Date