

The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, April 20, 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  
Steve Hansford, Code Enforcement Director  
Rusty Haygood, Economic Development Director  
Chris Thomas, Utility Director  
Emil Beshara, Public Works Director  
Justin Martin, Assistant Tourism Director  
Dan Flanders, GIS Administrator

Media Present: Vinnie Williams, The Oconee Enterprise  
Erin France, 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 Daniell and second by Commissioner Horton, the agenda for the April 20, 2010 meeting was unanimously approved as submitted.

**Commissioners Remarks:** None.

**Citizen Remarks:** Lee Becker requested information on discussions that have taken place regarding additional Courthouse facilities. He asked for the identity of specific properties being discussed and how the public will be involved in the decision. Mr. Becker noted an article in the April 19, 2010 edition of the Athens Banner-Herald indicated the Commissioners are pricing properties around the Courthouse and the Jail.

The Board members responded that there has been no pricing of properties, no discussions have taken place on Courthouse property acquisitions for several years and that the public will be involved in the decision. Chairman Davis also stated a response to Mr. Becker's questions will be placed on the county's website.

Kenneth Mann, representing the Oconee County Chamber of Commerce, expressed appreciation for the Board's efforts in economic development.

Johnny Harrison requested Plantation Drive be placed on the list for triple surface treatment.

**Oconee Areawide Radio System:** Capt. Jimmy Williams presented an update on the progress of the Oconee Areawide Radio System. He noted there is the potential of other counties and the University of Georgia joining in the project.

Phase 2 of the OARS project will enable Oconee County to complete its portion of the network infrastructure, which will also benefit radio coverage in portions of Morgan and Greene Counties and enable all three counties to connect to a master switch already installed in Walton County.

In preparation of Phase 2, Capt. Williams requested the Board proceed with a lease agreement with John Arthur Hale to place the radio tower on the Hale property, prepare an intergovernmental agreement with Greene County relating to the funding of the project and enter into a contract with Motorola for the infrastructure.

Finance Director Jeff Benko explained Oconee County's portion of the infrastructure is \$3.2 million and will be funded by SPLOST over a six-year period. He estimated the \$500,000 per year in SPLOST collections would be used to pay the annual installments of the loan for this project. Mr. Benko noted the cost of radios is not included.

**Economic Development:** Commissioner Daniell proposed dedicating a public town hall meeting to the discussion of economic development and sending out invitations to the Board of Education, the various municipalities, the Chamber of Commerce and local civic groups. The Comprehensive Economic Development Plan prepared by Basile, Baumann, Prost & Associates and the Economic Development Report prepared by the Oconee County Chamber of Commerce will be placed on the county's website for the public's information.

**Ethics Ordinance:** County Attorney Daniel Haygood reported he has reviewed the Model Ethics Ordinance generated by the Association County Commissioners of Georgia and the Ethics Ordinance adopted by Gwinnett County. The Board discussed holding a work session after the budget process is complete to prepare a draft Ethics Ordinance for the public's input.

**Solid Waste and Recyclable Disposal Contract:** Public Works Director Emil Beshara requested authorization to issue a Request for Proposals for a contract for solid waste and recyclable collection and disposal services.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the May 4, 2010 agenda for action by the Board.

**Surplus Road Department Equipment:** Public Works Director Emil Beshara requested the Board deem a 1998 Cat Bulldozer, a 1994 Cat Bulldozer, a 1980 Cat Bulldozer and a 1996 Ingersoll-Rand Packer as surplus and authorize the holding of reserved price auctions to dispose of the equipment. Mr. Beshara recommended using the proceeds to fund two needed pieces of equipment for the Road Department.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the May 4, 2010 agenda for action by the Board.

**May 4, 2010 Agenda:** The Agenda for the May 4, 2010 meeting was read by County Clerk Gina M. Lindsey.

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