

The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, May 25, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Chambers at the Oconee County Courthouse. The meeting was preceded by a Public Hearing on the proposed FY2011 Budget at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Melvin Davis
Commissioner Jim Luke
Commissioner John Daniell
Commissioner Margaret Hale

Commissioner Chuck Horton was absent.

Staff Present: Administrative Officer Alan Theriault
Attorney Mike Pruett
County Clerk Gina M. Lindsey

Jeff Benko, Finance Director
Wes Geddings, Assistant Finance Director
Marvin Poe, Operations Director
BR White, Planning Director
Brad Callender, Planner
Emil Beshara, Public Works Director
Lisa Davol, Interim Parks and Recreation Director
Steve Hansford, Code Enforcement Director
Rusty Haygood, Economic Development Director

Media Present: Vinnie Williams, The Oconee Enterprise
Blake Giles, The Oconee Enterprise
Erin France, Athens Banner Herald

FY 2011 Budget Hearing: At 6:30 p.m., the Board held a public hearing on the proposed 2011 Fiscal Year Budget.

Finance Director Jeff Benko presented a power point presentation on the proposed FY 2011 Budget. He reported the proposed General Fund budget reflects a 4% decrease and includes a reduction in personnel and base operating expenditures, an emphasis on Public Safety, the Court System and Public Works and only critical capital expenditures. Mr. Benko noted the millage rate of 6.68 supports the proposed budget for the General Fund of \$20,865,454.

Mr. Benko stated the overall proposed budget reflects a 4% increase over the FY 2010 budget due to increased reliance on SPLOST and Special Revenues. The proposed budget for all funds is \$36,080,659.

Kate McDaniel asked if the County was depending on sales tax increasing and tax assessments remaining low.

Lee Becker said he would support a ¼ mil increase in property taxes to allow the county to continue funding the 401K match and increased health care costs for county employees.

Chairman Davis announced the proposed FY 2011 Budget and the proposed FY 2011 Fee Schedule will be placed on the county website and copies are available at the Board of Commissioners Office and the Oconee County Library.

There being no further public comments, the Public Hearing was closed.

Agenda Setting Meeting: At 7:00 p.m. Chairman Davis called the Agenda Setting Meeting to order and began with a Moment of Silence. Commissioner Luke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda: On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Daniell, the agenda for the May 25, 2010 meeting was unanimously approved as submitted.

Commissioners Remarks: Commissioner Daniell announced the next Town Hall Meeting will be held on June 10, 2010 at the Oconee County Civic Center. The emphasis of the meeting will be Economic Development.

Citizen Remarks: None.

Minutes - Page Two
May 25, 2010

FY 2011 Budget: Chairman Davis expressed appreciation to the Board of Commissioners and county staff for their time and efforts in preparing the proposed FY 2011 Budget. He noted the Board will hold a second Public Hearing and consider adoption of the FY 2011 Budget and Fee Schedule at the June 1, 2010 meeting.

Fiscal Impact Model: Dr. Jeff Dorfman made a presentation on a Fiscal Impact Model for Oconee County that would predict the impact of specific proposed developments on the county budget.

Alcohol License – QuikTrip: County Clerk Gina Lindsey presented an application for a 2010 Alcohol License submitted by QuikTrip, located at the intersection of Daniells Bridge Road and the Oconee Connector. The applicant, Albert Wagner, was present. Ms. Lindsey stated all requirements of the Alcohol Ordinance have been met.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for June 1, 2010.

Courthouse Roof: Operations Director Marvin Poe requested authorization to issue a request for proposals for engineering services to assess the ongoing leak problem on the Courthouse roof. Mr. Poe explained temporary repairs have been made, but a long-term plan is needed.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for June 1, 2010.

Hard Labor Creek Reservoir – Project Update: Jimmy Parker of Precision Planning, Inc. presented an update on the Hard Labor Creek Reservoir Project. He stated all required permits have been obtained and 50% of land acquisition has been completed. The project design is 75% complete and wetland mitigation construction and utility relocations are underway. Mr. Parker noted all line items are trending under budget.

Hard Labor Creek Reservoir – Oconee County Mitigation Sites: Jimmy Parker of Precision Planning, Inc. presented an overview of the mitigation sites for the Hard Labor Creek Reservoir Project, focusing on the three sites proposed in Oconee County. Mr. Parker requested authorization to proceed with mitigation construction on the Rocky Branch LAS and Veterans Park sites in July 2010 and on the Heritage Park site in spring 2011.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for June 1, 2010.

Unified Development Code Amendments: The Board held the First Reading of the proposed amendments to the Unified Development Code. Planning Director B.R. White reviewed the amendments relating to veterinary offices and veterinary clinics, automobile driving schools, soap and other detergent manufacturing and soil erosion and sedimentation control.

Suzanne Bourgeois, owner of Verdae Skin Therapy, requested hand-crafted soap making be allowed as a special use in A-1 zoned areas. Russ Page stated agricultural products should be allowed in an agriculture zone. The Board asked the Planning Director to review the request and come back with a recommendation at the June 1, 2010 meeting.

The Board will hold the Second Reading and take final action on the proposed amendments at the June 1, 2010 meeting.

Zoning Maps: Planning Director B.R. White presented two copies of the updated zoning maps for Oconee County. Mr. White requested the revised zoning maps be officially approved as an amendment to the Unified Development Code.

The Board will take final action on the proposed Official Zoning Maps at the June 1, 2010 meeting.

Georgia Transmission Corporation – Quit Claim Deed for Collection Site: Administrative Officer Alan Theriault requested formal acceptance by the Board of Commissioners of the Quit Claim Deed from Georgia Transmission Corporation for 1.042 acres located at the corner of Carrithers School Road and Georgia Hwy. 53. Mr. Theriault explained the site will be converted into a collection center to replace the one currently located on Georgia Hwy. 53.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for June 1, 2010.

Government Annex Renovations: Administrative Officer Alan Theriault discussed the potential renovations to the Government Annex and the status of the lease agreement with USDA/FSA. He noted the initial design for the renovations would take 4 – 6 months and construction could possibly begin in January 2011.

Chuck Williams stated the USDA presence in Oconee County is valuable and asked that accommodations be made for that presence to continue.

Kate McDaniel questioned why the county offices could not remain in the Dolvin Buildings. Larry Ward asked if the Government Annex could accommodate the county offices as well as the USDA/FSA. By consensus, the Board confirmed their intention to proceed with the renovation process at the Government Annex and agreed to extend the lease agreement with USDA/FSA through December 2010.

District Attorney – Pre-Trial Diversion Program Fees: Finance Director Jeff Benko presented the District Attorney's request for the Board to authorize the deposit of Pre-Trial Diversion Program fees to the Victim Services Account for the remainder of FY2010 and throughout FY2011 to insure an adequate cash balance to meet the needs of his office in its payment of reimbursements to the State.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for June 1, 2010.

District Attorney – Payment for Furlough Days: Finance Director Jeff Benko presented the District Attorney's request for the Board to authorize the County to act as a conduit for payment from his Drug Forfeiture Account to State employees for four furlough days the employees worked in FY2009. By consensus, the Board agreed to place this item on the June 1, 2010 agenda for further discussion.

June 1, 2010 Agenda: The agenda for the June 1, 2010 meeting was read by County Clerk Gina Lindsey.

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

County Clerk

Chairman

Date