

The Regular Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, May 4, 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 Clerk Gina M. Lindsey
County Attorney Daniel Haygood

Jeff Benko, Finance Director
Brad Callender, Planner
Chris Thomas, Utility Director
Steve Hansford, Code Enforcement Director
Wes Geddings, Assistant Finance Director
Malinda Smith, H.R. Director
Justin Martin, Assistant Tourism Director
Austin Marable, Information Technology
Cpt. Jimmy Williams, Communications Chief

Media Present: Vinnie Williams, The Oconee Enterprise

Chairman Davis began the meeting with a moment of silence. Commissioner Horton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda: On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Horton, the agenda for the May 4, 2010 meeting was unanimously approved as submitted.

Commissioners Remarks: None.

Citizen Remarks: Esther Porter reported the Keep Oconee County Beautiful Commission (KOBBC) will be making recommendations in the near future to update their By-laws. She recently was made aware of the Board of Commissioners resolution requiring the KOBBC report directly to the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Porter presented a proposed budget request for FY2011.

Terry Fahey expressed concern that the business community will be asked to bear the burden of making up the shortfall in the county's budget. He asked the Board to "think outside the box" for ways to balance the budget without affecting local businesses.

Lee Becker requested his response to the posting on the county's website regarding the potential of a new courthouse be posted on the home page of the website. He noted he has decided to form an ad hoc committee to improve the county's website.

Minutes: On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Horton, Minutes of the April 6, April 12, April 13, April 14 and April 20, 2010 Meetings were approved as distributed.

Representative Bob Smith - Resolution of Appreciation: The Board presented a Resolution of Appreciation to Representative Bob Smith on his retirement from the Georgia House of Representatives. Laura Smith was presented with a bouquet of roses.

Fiscal Year 2010 Nine-Month Financial Update: Finance Director Jeff Benko reported on the 3rd quarter status of the FY 2010 budget. Mr. Benko reviewed the nine-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. Mr. Benko also provided a brief summary of the current debt of the County.

Employee Health Insurance Plan: Human Resource Director Malinda Smith reported the Benefits Committee reviewed the county's health insurance renewal rates and the rate increase proposed by Health Plan Select. The Committee recommended the County accept one of the renewal options that would increase the rates by 7.37% (\$167,000). It was also recommended that the County continue to pay the same share of the coverage (employee coverage on HMO at 100% and dependant coverage at 60/40).

Ms. Smith explained the HMO Plan and the POS Plan would require an increase in prescription coverage from 15/25/50 to 20/35/60.

On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Daniell, the Board voted unanimously to postpone action on this item to the May 5, 2010 Called Meeting.

Oconee Areawide Radio System: Cpt. Jimmy Williams and Motorola Site Design Team Manager Jay Nix spoke on the Oconee Areawide Radio System that will upgrade the County's radio communication services. County Attorney Daniel Haygood reviewed a proposed Lease Agreement with Albert Hale to place a radio tower on the Hale property, an Intergovernmental Agreement with Greene County relating to operations and maintenance of the project and a contract with Motorola for the lease purchase of the equipment. Mr. Haygood explained the new lease with Albert Hale will be for a term of 50 years at a rental rate of \$2,400 per year.

Finance Director Jeff Benko stated, under the Intergovernmental Agreement, Greene County will pay \$5,279,649 and Oconee County will pay \$3,200,000 on the Motorola contract. Oconee County's portion will come from SPLOST funds and will be financed through an installment agreement with Motorola. Mr. Benko said the installment agreement will allow Oconee County to fund the voter-approved project at a 3.6% interest rate.

Larry Ward asked for clarification on the maintenance costs for the tower. Jay Nix stated the expense would be minimum and shared equally by Greene County and Oconee County.

Lee Becker questioned what would happen if the County did not collect the \$3,200,000 in SPLOST revenue. Jeff Benko answered he is confident SPLOST projections will be met; however, any unfunded parts of the loan would have to be paid by the General Fund.

On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Daniell, the Board unanimously approved the Intergovernmental Agreement with Greene County.

On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board unanimously approved the Communications System Agreement with Partial Lease with Motorola.

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the Lease Agreement with Albert Hale. Commissioner Hale seconded the motion. Commissioners Horton, Hale and Daniell voted yes. Commissioner Luke voted no, stating he could not support a 300 ft. lighted tower in the south end of the County. The motion passed.

Consent Agenda: On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Luke, the Board unanimously approved the following Consent Agenda items:

- **Solid Waste and Recyclable Disposal Contract:** Authorized the issuance of a Request for Proposals for solid waste and recyclable collection and disposal services.
- **Surplus Road Department Equipment:** Deemed a 1998 Cat Bulldozer, a 1994 Cat Bulldozer, a 1980 Cat Bulldozer and a 1996 Ingersoll-Rand Packer as surplus and authorized the disposal by reserved price auctions. The proceeds will fund two needed pieces of equipment for the Road Department.

Announcements: Chairman Davis announced the Board of Commissioners will be holding a called meeting to discuss the FY2011 budget proposals on Wednesday, May 5, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Chambers. He noted the public is invited to attend.

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

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

County Clerk

Chairman

Date