

A Called Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Wednesday, May 5, 2010, at 5:30 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
Wes Geddings, Assistant Finance Director
Lisa Davol, Acting Parks and Recreation Director
Steve Hansford, Code Enforcement Director
Malinda Smith, Human Resource Director
Paula Nedza, Information Technology Director
Austin Marable, Information Technology

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

Approval of the Agenda: On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Hale, the agenda for the May 5, 2010 meeting was unanimously approved as submitted.

Employee Health Insurance Plan: Human Resource Director Malinda Smith presented summaries of the various benefit plans reviewed by the Benefits Committee for the county's employee health insurance renewal. She noted the Committee recommended the County accept the renewal option from Health Plan Select that would increase the rates by 7.37% (\$167,000) and the County continue to pay the same share of the coverage (employee coverage on HMO at 100% and dependant coverage at 60/40).

The Board discussed the impact on the FY2011 budget and deliberated extensively on how to fund the 7.37% increase. Much of the discussion was centered on whether the county would pay the increase or spread the cost to the employees.

Cafeteria Plan Amendment: Human Resource Director Malinda Smith explained the Cafeteria Plan Year needed to be amended to coincide with the County's Health Plan Year. On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board unanimously approved an amendment to the Cafeteria Plan (Flexible Benefits Plan) to change the plan year to beginning June 1 and ending May 31, except for the short plan year beginning May 1, 2010 and ending May 31, 2010. **See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 19.**

FY 2011 Budget: Finance Director Jeff Benko reported the FY2011 General Fund Requested Budget resulted in a shortfall of \$2.4 Million in proposed expenditures over proposed revenues. He presented a recommended list of potential reductions for the Board to consider in meeting the deficit.

The Board devoted considerable discussion to the list of potential expenditure reductions, fee increases and modifications to the budget to reduce expenditures by \$2.4 Million. They reached a consensus on several items including, but not limited to: utilizing \$1.1 Million from fund balance; not matching employees' 401K retirement contributions; using unrestricted fund balance from the Health Department and the Senior Center to lessen the county's allocation; forgoing the allocation to the Oconee Industrial Development Authority for infrastructure at Gateway Business Park; eliminating several new vehicle requests; reducing overtime pay by 50% (excluding law enforcement, E911 and Jail personnel); reducing Commissioners' salaries, reducing hours of operation at the Collection Sites; and spreading payment for federally mandated reprogramming of radios and pagers over a two-year period. Sheriff Berry offered a reduction in his budget by \$100,000, plus the purchase of an additional vehicle (for a total reduction of 3 vehicles).

Another option discussed was to vacate the county offices currently housed in the Dolvin Buildings and moving those to the Government Annex where renovations are currently planned to be funded by SPLOST.

The Board discussed in depth the option of furloughing employees four days during the next fiscal year or increasing the employees' share of the health insurance increase. Commissioner Hale made a motion to pass the full insurance premium increase on to the employees rather than requiring a four-day furlough. Commissioner Daniell seconded the motion. Commissioners Hale, Daniell and Horton voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Luke voted no. The motion passed. Chairman Davis asked that his "no" vote be noted in the record.

The Board set aside the date of May 18, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. for a second work session regarding the FY 2001 Budget, if the need arises.

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

County Clerk

Chairman

Date

