

The Regular Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, May 5, 2009, in the Commission Meeting Chambers at the Oconee County Courthouse.

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

Staff Present: Administrative Officer Alan Theriault
County Attorney Daniel Haygood
County Clerk Gina M. Lindsey

BR White, Planning Director
Brad Callender, Planner
Chris Thomas, Utility Director
Emil Beshara, Public Works Director
Jeff Benko, Finance Director
Steve Hansford, Code Enforcement Director
William White, Project Coordinator
Lisa Davol, Interim Parks & Recreation Director
Rusty Haygood, Economic Development Director

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

Minutes: On motion by Commissioner Daniell and second by Commissioner Horton, Minutes of the April 7, April 13, April 14, April 15 and April 21, 2009 meetings were approved as distributed.

Georgia Land Conservation Program: Curt Soper, Director of the Georgia Land Conservation Program, reported on the GLCP and its partnership within the State government to preserve natural land and water resources. The GLCP promotes partnerships between cities and counties in Georgia, state and federal agencies and landowners to achieve the permanent conservation of land through the acquisition of conservation easements and fee simple ownership.

Mr. Soper explained the land conservation funding options provided by the GLCP. He reported the \$55 million Georgia Land Conservation Revolving Loan fund is managed by the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority and provides low interest loans to cities, counties and non-profit organizations. Mr. Soper stated many local governments repay the loans from Special Local Option Sales Tax allocated for greenspace conservation.

Library Update: Interim Director of the Oconee County Library, Jackie Elsner, reported on the activities of the Library. Ms. Elsner spoke on the refurbishment of the Children's Area and the future development of an Early Learning Center. She noted there has been a 20% increase in materials checked out from the library and a 19% increase in computer usage over the past 9 months.

Public Works Department Update: Public Works Director Emil Beshara reported on the activities of the Public Works Department. Mr. Beshara provided an update on road resurfacing, road maintenance and bridge repair projects.

Red Flag Ordinance: The Board held the Second Reading of the Red Flag Ordinance for the purpose of creating policies relating to the use of consumer reports, address discrepancy and the detection, prevention and mitigation of identity theft. No one from the public desired to speak on the proposed ordinance.

On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board unanimously approved the Red Flag Ordinance. ***See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 18.***

Compensatory Mitigation Resolution: By consensus, the Board forwarded a citizen proposed resolution on the subject of future compensatory mitigation required by the Army Corps of Engineers for impacts to wetlands and streams to the Oconee County Land Use and Transportation Committee for review, study and recommendation.

Rezone Request No. 5844 – Louise Sims McElroy: The Board held a Public Hearing on Rezone Request No. 5844 by Louise Sims McElroy, ±3.0 acres, located on Sims Road, from A-1 to AR-3.

Planner Brad Callender presented the Staff Report.

Jim Bob McElroy, representing the applicant, said the 3.0 acre lot is proposed to be subdivided from the parent tract to construct a relative's primary residence.

No one spoke in favor or opposition to the Rezone Request.

On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Luke, the Board voted unanimously to approve Rezone Request No. 5844 by Louise Sims McElroy, ±3.0 acres, located on Sims Road, from A-1 to AR-3, with conditions. **See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 18.**

Head Start Building Lease Agreement: On motion by Commissioner Daniell and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board unanimously approved a lease agreement with Easter Seals of North Georgia for the Head Start Building in Bogart.

FY2009 Budget and Capital Expenditures: Finance Director Jeff Benko reported through reductions in operational and capital expenditures, the projected \$1.2 million revenue shortfall will be met for FY 2009. Mr. Benko identified \$400,000 in vacant positions and benefits, \$300,000 in unexpended capital expenditures and \$500,000 in departmental reductions of maintenance & operation expenditures.

Silver Business Development, Inc. – Proposal to Secure Funding: On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board unanimously approved a proposal by Silver Business Development, Inc. to secure grant funding to purchase P-25 800 MHz public safety communications infrastructure and equipment as part of the Oconee Areawide Radio System, at a fee not to exceed \$3,500, plus 5% of the funding awarded.

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

- **Oconee Areawide Radio System Intergovernmental Agreement:** Approved an Intergovernmental Agreement between Greene County, Morgan County, Walton County and Oconee County for the purpose of establishing an interoperable communication system between the multiple governmental public safety agencies, effective following the installation of the system. Oconee County's share of the Smart Zone controller maintenance costs is not applicable until the time of connection by Oconee County.
- **Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority Intergovernmental Agreement Amendment – Recreation Project:** Approved an amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Bear Creek Reservoir Recreational Project and funding up to \$5,000 for possible additional expenses.

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

County Clerk

Chairman

Date