

The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Chambers at the Oconee County Courthouse.

Members Present: Chairman John Daniell
Commissioner Mark Thomas
Commissioner Chuck Horton
Commissioner William E. "Bubber" Wilkes
Commissioner Mark Saxon

Staff Present: Justin Kirouac, County Administrator
Daniel Haygood, County Attorney
Kathy Hayes, County Clerk
Tracye Bailey, Deputy Clerk
Wes Geddings, Finance Director
Patrick Magana, Assistant IT Director
C. J. Worden, EMA Director
Crystal Berisko, Animal Services Manager
Diane Baggett, Communications Manager
Merry Howard, Senior Center Director
Alex Perschka, Tourism Director
Tim Durham, Water Resources Director
Lisa Davol, Parks & Recreation Director
Donna Norton, Budget Officer
Lt. Jeremy Wasdin, Sheriff's Office

Chairman John Daniell began the Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. with a moment of silence, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by County Clerk Kathy Hayes.

Approval of Agenda:

On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Wilkes, the Agenda was unanimously approved.

Statements and Remarks from Citizens:

Mike Simoneaux, Simonton Drive, asked that the Board consider school tax exemption for for senior citizens once they reach a certain age.

Statements and Remarks from Commissioners:

Chairman John Daniell asked for community support/donations for the 4th of July Spectacular and to contact Whitney Sperlik at Parks & Recreation should anyone wish to contribute.

Fiber Network Feasibility Study Presentation:

County Administrator Justin Kirouac introduced Mark Metcalf, President/CEO, Teton Telecom, to provide a presentation of a fiber feasibility study regarding high-speed internet for the County. Mr. Metcalf's recommendation for the County is as follows: "Oconee County invests in a middle-mile network to serve its facilities. It should also contract a Third Party to operate, maintain and grow the network. The network will provide an additional tool for the County's continued success. Future WAN cost reductions and revenue generation will offset the initial capital investment."

Mr. Metcalf answered questions from the Board regarding the availability of multiple partners; targeted businesses; home usage; availability for existing subdivisions which currently have partial connectivity; county rights-of-way regarding current utilities; expansion at a later date; and possibility of state funding/grants.

Mr. Kirouac stated that the need for high-speed internet was included in the 2017 Strategic Plan. The County's interest is to create public/private partnership, but not create another utility department. He recommended that a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) be issued to identify appropriate partners for the project.

Chairman Daniell thanked Mr. Metcalf for the presentation. Mr. Kirouac will continue to gather information/data for the project and present at a future Board meeting for approval.

Utility Easement Conveyance:

Water Resources Director Tim Durham presented a utility easement of 0.003 acres and a temporary construction easement of 0.005 acres to be conveyed to the County. The grantor is Land Arts, Inc. located at 2411 Hog Mountain Road. The property is shown on a plat entitled "Oconee County Drought Resiliency Improvements" dated June 25, 2018 by Precision Planning, Inc. Mr. Durham stated that the utility easements are necessary to place pressure-reducing valves, which allow tanks to cycle.

Chairman Daniell asked for Public Comment and there was none.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda of the April 2, 2019 Regular Meeting.

Animal Services – Architectural Services:

EMA Director C.J. Worden presented a contract from Lyman, Davidson, Dooley, Inc. for architectural services for the Animal Services Shelter. The contract amount is \$48,700.00 and includes schematic design phase, design development phase, construction document phase, procurement phase and contract administration phase. The contract amount does not include reimbursable expenses.

Chairman Daniell asked for Public Comment and there was none.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda of the April 2, 2019 Regular Meeting.

Tourism & Visitors Bureau:

Tourism Director Alex Perschka presented Bylaws of the Oconee County Tourism and Visitors Bureau, Inc. As one of the County's 2017 Strategic Goals, Mr. Pershka recommends the Bureau be created as a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization and file the necessary documents with the State of Georgia and Internal Revenue Service. The Oconee County Tourism and Visitors Bureau will become the County's official Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) and will operate as the current Tourism Department with the exception of the organization's structure. Hotel/Motel funds will go directly to the Tourism & Visitors Bureau for tourism promotion and not through the Chamber of Commerce.

Chairman Daniell asked for Public Comment and there was none.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda of the April 2, 2019 Regular Meeting.

2019 Community Development Block Grant Resolution – Senior Center Expansion Project:

Senior Center Director Merry Howard presented the "Resolution-Oconee County, Georgia 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application Submission for the Expansion of the Oconee Senior Center." The resolution names Chairman John Daniell as the Official to sign and execute documents for submission of the application; designates the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission as the Grant Administrator; and appropriates at least 5% (five percent) local match of the application for the project. Ms. Howard asked that the Board consider the resolution as the submittal deadline is April 1, 2019.

Chairman Daniell asked for Public Comment and there was none.

On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Saxon, the Board unanimously approved the "Resolution-Oconee County, Georgia 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application Submission for the Expansion of the Oconee Senior Center." **(See documentation in Ordinances & Resolutions Book No. 22.)**

University of North Georgia Intergovernmental Agreement:

County Administrator Justin Kirouac presented an Intergovernmental Agreement with the University of North Georgia (UNG) for the proposed Bishop Farms Parkway Extension Project to New High Shoals Road. Construction of the project will be provided by the County with UNG contributing \$200,000.00 for the project.

Chairman Daniell opened the Public Comment period.

Vickie Soutar asked that the Board consider the value of the wetlands, which is the headwaters of Calls Creek, when designing/constructing the road in order to protect water resources.

Chairman Daniell closed the Public Comment period.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda of the April 2, 2019 Regular Meeting.

Alcohol License Modification – Walmart:

County Clerk Kathy Hayes presented an Alcohol License Modification for Walmart located at 1911 Epps Bridge Parkway. Due to a change in employment, the current Registered Agent (Dave Cauley) is no longer employed at this Walmart location. The modification requests Marcia DiMarco as the Registered Agent. The appropriate fees have been received and the application is complete.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda of the April 2, 2019 Regular Meeting.

Chairman Daniell asked for Public Comment and there was none.

Courthouse Expansion Project Guaranteed Maximum Price:

County Administrator Justin Kirouac presented the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the Courthouse Expansion Project in the amount of \$2,404,018.00 to Kevin Price Construction for the sally port and three-story addition. Construction is anticipated to take eight to 12 months and will be funded by the 2004 SPLOST. Costs for geohydro review and inspection are not included and are estimated at \$12,000.00. The addition will provide long-term courthouse space needs.

Chairman Daniell asked for Public Comment and there was none.

On motion by Commissioner Saxon and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board unanimously approved the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the Courthouse Expansion Project in an amount not to exceed of \$2,404,018.00 for the sally port and three-story addition.

Sheriff's Office Request – Funding of Ford Utility Vehicles:

Finance Director Wes Geddings presented the Sheriff's Office request to forward fund six 2019 Ford Explorer Pursuit Utility vehicles in the FY19 budget year to take advantage of a cost savings of approximately \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00. A budget amendment of \$244,108.38 will be needed to fund the six vehicles

and related equipment in FY19 using 2015 SPLOST funds. The FY20 budget will decrease by the amount of the

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forward-funded purchase in FY19. Mr. Geddings noted that five of the vehicles are located in Georgia, which will be purchased under state contract, and one vehicle is located in South Carolina, which will be purchased under sole source contract.

Chairman Daniell asked for Public Comment and there was none.

On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Thomas, the Board unanimously approved the Sheriff's Office request for a budget amendment of \$244,108.38 from FY20 to FY19 to forward fund six 2019 Ford Explorer Pursuit Utility vehicles using 2015 SPLOST funds.

Executive Session:

On motion by Commissioner Saxon and second by Commissioner Wilkes, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn into Executive Session at 6:39 p.m. to discuss personnel and property acquisition.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

On motion by Commissioner Wilkes and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board adjourned Executive Session at 7:05 p.m.

On motion by Commissioner Saxon and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board adjourned back into Regular Session.

There being no further business, on motion by Commissioner Wilkes and second by Commissioner Horton, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Chairman John Daniell

Kathy Hayes, County Clerk

Date: _____