

The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, September 30, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Chambers at the Oconee County Courthouse.

Members Present:

Chairman Melvin Davis
Commissioner Jim Luke
Commissioner Donald H. Norris
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
BR White, Planning Director
Rusty Haygood, Econ Development Director
John Gentry, Parks and Recreation Director
William White, Project Coordinator
Emil Beshara, Public Works Director
Steve Hansford, Code Enforcement Director
Wayne Provost, Strategic/L-R Planning Director
John Hatcher, Assistant Utility Director
Bruce Thaxton, Fire Chief

Media Present:

Vinnie Williams, The Oconee Enterprise
Adam Thompson, Athens Banner Herald

Chairman Davis began the meeting with a Moment of Silence. Commissioner Horton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board of Health: The Board interviewed applicant Elaine Gunter for appointment as the Consumer Member to the Oconee County Board of Health to fill an expiring 5-year term. The Board will take action on this appointment at the October 7, 2008 meeting.

Development Authority: The Board interviewed applicants Larry Benson, John Morrison, Esther Porter, Rick Rodrigue and Rick Waller for appointment as Associate Members to the Oconee County Industrial Development Authority to fill four expiring 2-year terms. The Board will take action on these appointments at the October 7, 2008 meeting.

Alcohol License Applications: The Board reviewed the following applications and interviewed the applicants for a 2008 Alcohol License: Kui Aura Hibachi and Grill (Beer Only) – Mr. Chang Hua Lin; Plates at Market Center (Beer and Wine) – Mr. Keith Rabideau; and Taqueria La Parrilla (Beer and Wine) – Mr. Alonso Haro. By consensus, these items will be placed on the Consent Agenda for October 7, 2008.

Chief Magistrate Appointment: On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Eric Wayne Norris as Chief Magistrate for Oconee County to serve in a part-time capacity for a term of office of four years beginning January 1, 2009 and expiring December 31, 2012, as recommended the Chief Judge and Judges of the Superior Court of Oconee County.

Commissioner Norris recused himself from the discussion and vote.

Rezone Request #5462 – Fred Gunter Property, LLC: On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board voted unanimously to postpone action on Rezone Request #5462 by Fred Gunter Property, LLC, ±13.43 acres, located on U.S. Hwy. 441, LaVista Road and Chaddwyck Drive, to the November 4, 2008 meeting.

2009 SPLOST Timeline: Administrative Officer Alan Theriault presented the proposed dates for the 2009 SPLOST timeline. By consensus, the Board agreed to add an additional public information meeting to the schedule and to allow public comment on the county's website.

Wireless Telecommunications Facilities – Interim Application Process: David Dyer, representative of Georgia Center for Municipal Solutions (GCMS), presented a proposal to assist Oconee County with a customized Wireless Telecommunications Facilities Ordinance to precede the anticipated proliferation of an estimated 40,000 new tower sites across the state. Mr. Dyer explained that GCMS will provide this service

at no cost to the county. Wireless carriers will be required to fund an escrow account with a deposit of \$8,500 to finance GCMS's consulting costs. Mr. Dyer suggested adopting a 90-day Interim Application Process for the issuance of permits by the County during the pendency of the adoption of a new ordinance. During this period, GCMS will work with the County in processing any new applications and the customizing of an updated Ordinance.

Planning Director B.R. White said an updated Wireless Telecommunications Ordinance would enable the county to be better prepared for the new requests and proposals from wireless carriers and tower companies. Strategic and Long-Range Planning Director Wayne Provost commented on the ability to correctly assess the value of the towers for tax purposes.

On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board unanimously approved a Resolution Adopting an Interim Application Process for Wireless Telecommunication Facilities in Lieu of a Moratorium, to be effective immediately. *See Documentation in Ordinance and Resolution Book No. 18.*

Pumper Truck Purchase: Fire Chief Bruce Thaxton presented the sole bid of \$337,343.00 by Sutphen Corporation for the purchase of a pumper truck. Chief Thaxton explained the cost is over the budgeted amount of \$330,225.00 due to changes in the NFPA standards and EPA emission standards. Finance Director Jeff Benko noted this would require the line item budget in SPLOST funds to be amended by \$7,118.00. By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for October 7, 2008.

Senior Citizens Transportation Contract: On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board unanimously approved a contract with the Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center for the transportation of Oconee County's senior citizens beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.

Northwest Woods Subdivision Covered Bridge: The Board discussed the bids received for the replacement of the covered bridge structure in Northwest Woods Subdivision. Upon confirming the immediate replacement of the structure was not a safety issue, the Board agreed by consensus to delay action on this item after January 2009.

Concept Plan – Bishop Development Properties Rezone No. 081-B: On motion by Commissioner Norris and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board voted unanimously to postpone action on a new concept plan relating to rezoning condition #3 of Rezone #081-B by Bishop Development Properties, located on the southwest corner of the SR 53/Loch Lomond Circle intersection, to the November 4, 2008 meeting, as recommended by Planning Director B.R. White.

October 7, 2008 Agenda: The agenda for the October 7, 2008 meeting was read by County Clerk Gina M. Lindsey.

Executive Session: On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Norris, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. No action was taken.

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

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

County Clerk

Chairman

Date