

The Regular Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, June 5, 2007, at 7:00 p.m., in Courtroom No. 1, Oconee County Courthouse.

Members Present:

Chairman Melvin Davis
Commissioner Jim Luke
Commissioner Donald H. Norris
Commissioner Margaret S. Hale
Commissioner Chuck Horton

Staff Present:

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

Jeff Benko, Finance Director
BR White, Planning Director
Brad Callender, Planner
Sandy Thursby, Design Services Engineer
Steve Hansford, Code Enforcement Director
William White, Project Coordinator
Wayne Provost, Strategic Planning Director
Rusty Haygood, Economic Development Director
Gary Dodd, Utility Director

Media Present:

Vinnie Williams, The Oconee Enterprise
Christopher Butler, Athens Banner Herald

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

Minutes: On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Norris, Minutes of the May 1, May 22 and May 29, 2007 meetings were approved as distributed.

FY 2008 Budget Adoption: Chairman Davis shared the major items proposed for the FY 2008 Budget:

1. The budget for all funds is balanced in accordance with all applicable state laws.
2. The overall budget reflects a 13.01% decrease over the FY07 budget with the property tax millage rate reduced by 1.25 mils.
3. As has been the case the past several fiscal years, emphasis has been placed in the areas of Law Enforcement and Public Safety. Two (2) additional Deputies and five (5) additional Jailer positions are included for the Sheriff's Office, as are a number of vehicles in keeping with our ongoing life-cycle management program with patrol vehicles. For the Fire Department, a second standardized prototype pumper has been approved as have various station renovations.
4. The updated County Salary Classification Schedule previously approved by the Board of Commissioners is carried forward into FY08, with a 3.3% cost of living increase and a 2% (merit) increase for county employees.
5. The increased cost of health care insurance for full-time employees (single coverage) will continue to be absorbed by the County in the FY08 budget; increased defrayment of the cost of employee dependent coverage and improved plan features are also included.
6. With the completion of the new Jail Complex, E-911, EOC and the anticipated completion of the Oconee Community Complex during FY08, the increased cost of operation and maintenance of those facilities have also been included in the FY08 budget.
7. In an effort to assist the Board of Education, a reduction in the amount of commission charged to the Board of Education for tax collections is included in an approximate amount of \$100,000.
8. Aggressive road resurfacing and road maintenance minimization through our TIM Plan have been budgeted, as is \$770,000 in road improvements to assist the Board of Education and the City of North High Shoals for the planned new Elementary School.
9. Historic preservation and continued Farmland Protection provisions are also included in the FY08 budget.

Finance Director Jeff Benko reported on the changes in the final recommendation from what was presented at the Public Hearing held on May 29, 2007.

There was discussion on the commission charged to the Board of Education for tax collections and consideration of timely notification of the charge to coincide with the budget process. It was the consensus to determine the amount of commission charged to the Board of Education in April of each year.

On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board unanimously approved the FY 2008 Budget and Fee Schedule as proposed and submitted. ***See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 17.***

Street Light Tax District – Avalon Subdivision: On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board unanimously approved the creation of Street Light Tax District No. B-2M-L1 for Avalon Subdivision. ***See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 17.***

Rezone Request #5317 – Silver Mill Farms, LLC: On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board voted unanimously to postpone action on Rezone Request No. 5317 by Silver Mill Farms, LLC, ±1.648 acres, located on Virgil Langford Road, from A-1 to B-2, to the September 4, 2007 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Variance Request #11962 – Robert and JoAnne Fine: The Board held a public hearing on Variance Request No. 11962 by Robert and JoAnne Fine, ±57.673 acres, located on Branch Road, to subdivide the property into two lots on an unpaved road.

Robert and JoAnne Fine stated they plan to subdivide the property into one 28.0 acre tract and one 29.673 acre tract for single family residential use. Mr. Fine explained they no longer live on the property and medical conditions have diminished their ability to maintain it. No one spoke in opposition to the Variance Request.

On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Luke, the Board unanimously approved Variance Request No. 11962, to subdivide the property into two lots. ***See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 17.***

Citizens Advisory Committee on Cultural and Recreational Affairs: On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Norris, the Board voted unanimously to rescind the resolution creating the Citizens Advisory Committee on Cultural and Recreational Affairs and approved the creation of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Cultural Affairs and Tourism and the Citizens Advisory Committee on Recreational Affairs to succeed the rescinded committee. ***See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 17.***

Street Light Poles: On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Norris, the Board unanimously approved financing the retirement costs for street light tax district poles by leaving the current annual pole charge portion of the tax in place for four more years.

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

- **Lea Haven Subdivision Right of Way Deeds:** Accepted the road right-of-way and right-of-way deeds for Lea Haven Subdivision.
- **Bear Creek 24-inch Connector, Phase II:** Approved the “not to exceed” low bid of \$1,657,000 by Mid South Builders, Inc., for construction of the Bear Creek 24-inch connector, Phase II, to be funded with SPLOST funds.
- **Human Resources Policies and Procedures:** Approved an amendment to the Human Resources Policies and Procedures relating to salary increases for promoted employees.
- **Employee Health Insurance:** Approved the renewal of the County’s Employee Health Insurance Program with Health Plan Select and authorized remaining with the current POS p-253 Plan and changing to the HMO H-353 Plan.
- **Surplus Pumper Truck:** Approved the sale of the surplus 1983 Ford C800 Pumper Truck to the City of Winterville, GA at a price of \$5,500 to be paid over two fiscal years.
- **Pumper Truck Purchase:** Awarded the bid for a new pumper truck to the Sutphen Corporation, at a cost not to exceed \$314,950.
- **Indigent Defense Services Agreement:** Approved the Indigent Defense Services Agreement between the Circuit Public Defenders Office of the Western Judicial Circuit, the Oconee County Board of Commissioners and the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County for FY08.
- **Hwy. 53 Collection Center Lease:** Approved the renewal of the Lease Agreement with Allen Hunter for the Highway 35 Collection Center Site for the period July 1, 2007 through June 20, 2008, at \$400 per month.

- **Jail/E911/EOC Facility Financing:** Authorized using the remaining project construction funds from the Jail/E-911/EOC Facility to retire outstanding installment sales agreement principal.
- **Meal Service for Inmates:** Approved the contract with Valley Services to provide meals for jail inmates.

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

On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Luke, the Board adjourned Executive Session.

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

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

County Clerk

Chairman

Date