

The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, September 25, 2007, 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 Attorney Daniel Haygood
County Clerk Gina M. Lindsey

Jeff Benko, Finance Director
BR White, Planning Director
John Hatcher, Assistant Utility Director
Steve Hansford, Code Enforcement Director
Wayne Provost, Strategic Planning Director
John Gentry, Parks and Recreation Director

Media Present:

Vinnie Williams, The Oconee Enterprise

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

Development Authority: The Board interviewed Pattie Ivy for appointment of a constitutional member to the Oconee County Industrial Development Authority to fill an unexpired term, expiring December 31, 2009. Applicants Lee Becker, Marion Butler, Steve Hollis and Rick Waller were unable to attend. The Board will interview these applicants at their October 4, 2007 meeting.

Variance Request No. 12636 – Irvin L. Alhadeff: On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board voted unanimously to postpone action on Variance Request #12636 by Irvin L. Alhadeff, ±14.47 acres, located on Whippoorwill Road, to the November 6, 2007 Board of Commissioners meeting, as requested by the applicant.

Budget Amendment – Tax Commissioner: On motion by Commissioner Norris and second by Commissioner Luke, the Board unanimously approved a request by Tax Commissioner Harriette Browning for a budget amendment in the amount of \$19,500 to amend a part-time position to a full-time position.

Water Report: Assistant Utility Director John Hatcher presented an update on the outdoor watering ban and water conservation activities. Due to the increasingly lower water levels in the Bear Creek Reservoir, the Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority Operations Committee declared a Level 4 Drought Response and issued a total ban on outdoor watering in all four of its member counties effective September 17, 2007. Mr. Hatcher reported drought conditions are expected to continue and possibly worsen.

Because of water conservation efforts by county residents, Mr. Hatcher said Oconee County has experienced a 30% reduction in water usage from the previous month. He also noted the county's largest well, Hillcrest, is being used as much as possible.

The Board discussed the possibility of pumping water in containers from ground and surface water sources, if conditions worsen.

Gary Dodd, Chairman of the Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority Operations Committee, said a meeting was held last week with EPD where the committee requested a variance to pump water into the Bear Creek Reservoir from the Middle Oconee River. With approval of the variance, Mr. Dodd said the increased water levels would supply the member counties through the end of December. He noted the committee is also researching the possibility of getting water from Gwinnett County through Walton County.

Joint Comprehensive Plan – Partial Plan Update: Strategic and Long-Range Planning Director Wayne Provost reported on the Partial Plan Update for the Joint Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Provost discussed the remaining schedule, including the adoption of the Partial Plan Update on October 4, 2007 and the Joint Public Hearing to forward the Community Agenda to the NEGARDC and DCA on October 30, 2007. He noted the approval of the Partial Plan Update by DCA will insure Oconee County's Qualified Local Government status.

October 4, 2007 Agenda: The agenda for the October 4, 2007 meeting was read by County Clerk Gina M. Lindsey.

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

County Clerk

Chairman

Date