

The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 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 W.E. "Bubber" Wilkes
Commissioner Mark Saxon

Staff Present: Justin Kirouac, County Administrator
Daniel Haygood, County Attorney
Kathy Hayes, County Clerk
Paula Nedza, IT Director
Tracye Bailey, Deputy Clerk
Wayne Haynie, Water Resources Director
Donald "Mickey" Baughcum, Water Resources
Alex Newell, Management Analyst
Emil Beshara, Public Works Director

Media Present: Michael Prochaska, Editor, The Oconee Enterprise

Chairman John Daniell began the Board Meeting at 6:02 p.m. with a moment of silence, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by County Attorney Daniel Haygood.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Statements and Remarks from Citizens:

Russ Page provided a publication entitled "Oconee's Hidden Treasures." He invited the Board to attend a presentation at the Historical Society's meeting on March 20, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Oconee Library.

Statements and Remarks from Commissioners:

Chairman Daniell stated that he had received the State of Georgia Notice that Oconee County's Audit was accepted with no comments.

Chairman Daniell reminded the audience that the Comprehensive Plan Committee will have a meeting on March 14, 2018 at Oconee Veterans Park at 6:30 p.m. and a Public Forum at the Planning Commission on April 16, 2018. The Comprehensive Plan will be presented to the Board for approval of the final draft on April 24, 2018 at its Agenda Setting Meeting. Chairman Daniell encouraged everyone to review the plan on the website.

Applicants for the Board of Elections and Registrations:

Fran Davis, applicant for the Board of Elections and Registrations, was interviewed by the Board for the Chair appointment. Matthew Fletcher, applicant, was unable to attend the Board meeting. The appointment to the Board of Elections and Registrations will be made at the March 6, 2018 Regular Meeting.

Applicants for the Board of Tax Assessors:

Charles Baugh, Ed Lord and Jim Luke, applicants for the Board of Tax Assessors, were interviewed by the Board for one appointment to begin April 1, 2018 for a six-year term that will expire March 31 2024. The appointment to the Board of Tax Assessors will be made at the March 6, 2018 Regular Meeting.

Alcohol License Application – Olive Basket:

County Clerk Kathy Hayes presented to the Board an alcohol license application for Olive Basket located at 8851 Macon Highway, Suite 401, Athens, with Charles Edward Hay as the Registered Agent. Ms. Hayes stated that the Olive Basket plans to sell by the package (bottle) beer and wine, and Mr. Hay is scheduled for RASS Training on March 6, 2018.

Chairman Daniell asked for public comment and there was none.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda of the March 6, 2018 Regular Meeting.

Request for Qualifications/Proposal – ISO Fire Hydrant Flow Testing and Maintenance Program:

Water Resources Director Wayne Haynie stated that a Request for Qualifications/Proposal had been advertised and six submittals were received. Two firms will be interviewed within the next week with a final recommendation at the March 6, 2018 Regular Meeting of the Board.

Abandonment – Epps Bridge Centre II, 0.183 Acres and 0.027 Acres:

Public Works Director Emil Beshara stated that the rights-of-way of two drainage easements at Epps Bridge Centre II no longer serve a substantial public purpose. During development, the easements were needed to maintain drainage structures. The property totals 0.027 acre, known as the Oconee Connector Tract, and 0.183 acre, known as the Plaza Parkway Tract. The developer has agreed to maintain the property.

Chairman Daniell asked for public comment and there was none.

On motion by Commissioner Saxon and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board unanimously declared that the rights-of-way of the drainage easements, totaling 0.027 acre (Oconee Connector Tract) and 0.183 acre (Parkway Plaza Tract), no longer serve the best interest of the public. The appropriate advertisements will be submitted to the legal organ and a Public Hearing will be held at a future Board meeting.

Quit Claim Deed – Board of Education, 0.763 Acres, Dewey Road and V.M. Osborne Road:

County Attorney Daniel Haygood stated that the Board of Education has provided to the County a Quit Claim Deed for 0.763 Acres of the Dove Creek Elementary School Project at the intersection of Dewey Road and V.M. Osborne Road for the purpose of the County constructing a water tower. Acceptance of the property is required by the County.

Chairman Daniell asked for public comment and there was none.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda of the March 6, 2018 Regular Meeting.

2019-2020 Strategic Plan:

County Administrator Justin Kirouac presented a draft of the 2019-2020 Strategic Plan to the Board. Mr. Kirouac explained that the plan proposes four strategic goals, and the Departments have developed projects using the strategic goals as a guideline. Included in the Strategic Plan is Oconee County's Mission Statement, an updated version of the Comprehensive Plan's Vision Statement and four strategic goals with sub-objectives under each goal. Mr. Kirouac asked that the Board adopt the Strategic Plan as presented with its mission, vision, goals and objectives. *(Draft 2019-2020 Strategic Plan is attached to the minutes.)*

Chairman Daniell asked for public comment.

Russ Page stated that approximately half of the County is zoned agriculture, but agriculture was not included in the Plan. He would like to see agriculture and the preservation of agriculture included.

Chairman Daniell closed the public comment period.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda of the March 6, 2018 Regular Meeting.

Executive Session:

On motion by Commissioner Wilkes and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn into Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. to discuss personnel, land acquisition, and/or potential litigation.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

On motion by Commissioner Wilkes and second by Commissioner Saxon, the Board adjourned Executive Session at 7:10 p.m.

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

There being no further business, on motion by Commissioner Wilkes and second by Commissioner Thomas, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

County Clerk

Chairman

Date