

The Budget Public Hearing of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of the Oconee County Courthouse.

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

Members Absent: Commissioner Mark Saxon

Staff Present: Justin Kirouac, County Administrator
Kathy Hayes, County Clerk
Tracye Bailey, Deputy Clerk
Wes Geddings, Finance Director
Melissa Braswell, Assistant Finance Director
Donna Norton, Finance Department
Paula Nedza, Information Technology Director
C.J. Worden, EMA Director
Bruce Thaxton, Fire Chief
Russ Henson, Fire Marshal
Lisa Davol, Parks & Recreation Director
Donald "Mickey" Baughcum, Water Resources Assistant Director
Sherry Seila, Human Resources
Alex Newell, Management Analyst

Media Present: Michael Prochaska, The Oconee Enterprise

Chairman John Daniell began the Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m.

Wes Geddings, Finance Director, presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Budget. Mr. Geddings stated that the FY19 Proposed Budget is balanced with no millage rate increase, and sales tax continues to maintain the millage rate. A Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) increase is included for employees in July 2018 and a step increase for eligible employees in January 2019. Health care costs will increase approximately 9% with the County absorbing the increase for those employees enrolled in the Wellness Program. The FY19 General Fund Budget shows an increase of 7.78% from the FY18 General Fund Budget. Total of the proposed FY19 General Fund Budget is \$29,041,823.00.

Mr. Geddings reviewed various components of the budget to include the Capital Budget (\$680,070.00); Personnel Services recommendations for additional staff (Communication Manager, Litter Work Detail and three part-time park assistants); Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) expenditures; and proposed expenditures of Special Funds and Enterprise Funds.

Total of the Proposed FY19 Budget (including all funds) is \$50,771,866.00, which is an increase of 1.7% or \$850,962.00 of the FY18 Approved Budget of \$49,920,904.00.

Chairman Daniell opened the Public Comment period.

Russ Page asked about historic and scenic preservation in the SPLOST funding. Chairman Daniell stated that funding for historic and scenic preservation is allocated in SPLOST funding.

There being no further business, the Public Hearing was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

John Daniell, Chairman

Kathy Hayes, County Clerk