

The Regular Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, June 3, 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 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
Krista Gridley, Planner
Jason Gantt, Planner
Steve Hansford, Code Enforcement Director
William White, Project Coordinator
Wayne Provost, Strategic Planning Director
Rusty Haygood, Economic Development Director
Allen Skinner, Chief Tax Assessor
John Gentry, Parks & Recreation Director
Emil Beshara, Public Works Director

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.

Minutes: On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Luke, Minutes of the May 6 and May 27, 2008 meetings were approved as distributed.

FY 2009 Budget: Chairman Davis reported the final recommendation for the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget was the same as presented at the Public Hearing on May 27, 2008. He asked for public comment and hearing none, asked for comment from the Board.

Commissioner Horton requested a postponement of the vote, stating he was not yet comfortable with the estimated tax millage rollback and its impact on property reassessments. Commissioner Luke also requested a postponement of the vote, explaining that due to family commitments he had not had time to fully examine the last changes made to the proposed budget.

Finance Director Jeff Benko said based on discussions with the Tax Commissioner and the Chief Tax Assessor, he used an estimated .25 mill rollback and \$200,000 for Senior Citizens Tax Relief to calculate the budget. He said he would not know the exact amount of the rollback until tax appeals are settled and the tax digest is finalized on July 31st. Mr. Benko noted if the actual rollback ends up being more than one-quarter-mill, he would come back to the Board to amend the budget.

Chief Tax Assessor Allen Skinner said 670 appeals had been received in his office. He noted the large number of appeals was somewhat due to individual property reassessments and developers making "blanket appeals". He explained it is normal for values to appreciate every year and in 2007 property values were still appreciating. Mr. Skinner said the staff is working as quickly as possible to process the appeals, but he expects this will cause a delay in finalizing the tax digest. He said he is anticipating a nine percent (9%) increase in the digest.

Commissioner Hale said she would like more time to look at the numbers and asked Mr. Skinner to take the appealed values and calculate the percentage of the difference. She suggested this may give a better estimate of what the rollback amount should be.

The Board discussed the impact of delaying the adoption of the FY 2009 Budget. Mr. Benko said that for implementation purposes, he preferred it not be delayed until the end of the month.

On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board voted unanimously to postpone the adoption of the FY 2009 Budget to a Called Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on June 16, 2008.

Rezone Request #5711 – RJC Land Development: The Board held a public hearing on Rezone Request No. 5711 by RJC Land Development, Inc., ±307.59 acres, located on Price Mill Road and Gober Road, from A-3 and FP to A-1.

Planner Krista Gridley presented the staff report.

Jim Bob McElroy, representing the applicant, said the rezone is being requested to accommodate the development of the property as allowed under the A-1 zoning classification of subdivision of lots.

Russ Page spoke in favor of the rezone request, noting the property is located among primarily agricultural properties.

On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board unanimously approved Rezone Request No. 5711, by RJC Land Development, Inc., from A-3 and FP to A-1, with one condition. ***See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 18.***

Transfer of Development Rights Study Committee: On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Luke, the Board voted unanimously to appoint the following members to the Transfer of Development Rights Study Committee: Clay Bryant, Melba G. Cooper, Delmar Finco, Philip D. Freshley, Edward P. Gardiner, James Albert Hale, Sr., Gene Higginbotham, C. Wayne Jordan, Charles H. (Chuck) Lee, Sam Mitchell, Russ Page, Ed Perkins, Linda Carol Porterfield, Bob Smith, Brian Tomlinson and Thomas Verner.

Well Lot Bid: On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board voted unanimously to accept the bid of \$150.00 by Thomas T. Folger, III, for the purchase of the abandoned well lot located on Creek Hollow Run (Tramlin Acres Subdivision).

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

- **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 FY 2009.
- **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, 2008 through June 20, 2009, at \$400 per month.
- **Tax Refund:** Approved the refund of intangible tax in the amount of \$816.00 and transfer tax in the amount of \$302.00 to McCalla, Raymer, LLC, due to two Clarke County deeds being recorded in Oconee County in error.

Executive Session: On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter.

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

On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Luke, 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