

The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, November 27, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners 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
Rusty Haygood, Econ Develop Director
BR White, Planning Director
John Hatcher, Utility Director
Emil Beshara, Public Works Director
Wayne Provost, Strategic Planning Director
Steve Hansford, Code Enforcement 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.

Film Policy: Economic Development Director Rusty Haygood presented a Draft Policy for Commercial Media Productions in Oconee County Facilities. The Economic Development Director would serve as the single point of contact for requests to film in county facilities and both the director of the department and the Economic Development Director must approve a production before it may proceed. Mr. Haygood explained the policy would apply to any type of filming except meetings subject to open records laws.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the consent agenda for December 4, 2007.

Outdoor Water Use Ordinance: On motion by Commissioner Norris and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board unanimously approved the Oconee County Outdoor Water Use Ordinance. ***See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 17.***

Drought Update: Utility Director John Hatcher presented an update on the drought conditions and conservation efforts. He reported Oconee County has had an approximate 20% reduction in water usage. Mr. Hatcher stated all permitted wells in the county are in full production. The Utility Department is in the process of tying the well at the Bogart Recreation Complex into the water system and two private citizen wells are also being considered. Mr. Hatcher expressed his appreciation to the Oconee County citizens for their conservation practices.

Budget Amendment to Retro-fit Toilets & Urinals: Administrative Officer Alan Theriault recommended a budget amendment in the amount of \$25,000 from Fund Balance to retro-fit high flow toilets and urinals in older county facilities to reduce the flow required. Mr. Theriault explained this project is requested as a water conservation measure.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the consent agenda for December 4, 2007.

Street Light Tax District – The Landing at Parkside: On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Luke, the Board unanimously approved the creation of Street Light Tax District No. B-05N-L1 for The Landing at Parkside Subdivision. ***See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 17.***

2008 Commission Meeting Schedule: On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board unanimously approved the 2008 Commission Meeting Schedule.

December 4, 2007 Agenda: The agenda for the December 4, 2007 meeting was reviewed by the County Clerk.

Citizen Remarks: Sam Mitchell invited the Board of Commissioners to the dedication of the Mitchell Farm as a permanently protected conservation easement and expressed his appreciation for the Board's support of the Farmland Protection Program. Mr. Mitchell requested the Board explore the TDR Program and determine if it is feasible for Oconee County.

Lee Becker, representing Friends of Barber Creek, presented a resolution drafted by the Georgia Water Coalition relating to the Statewide Water Management Plan and interbasin transfers (IBTs). The resolution asks the General Assembly to provide full funding for water planning on a regional and state level and for legislation prohibiting future transfers of water across the 14 river basins in the state. Mr. Becker submitted a copy of the resolution for inclusion in the Minutes and requested action by the Board of Commissioners to approve the resolution. No action was taken.

Kate McDaniel suggested all water fountains in county facilities be turned off as a water conservation measure.

Gene Higginbotham encouraged the Board of Commissioners to make a thorough investigation of how TDRs could benefit the county. He noted this could be a tool to continue the preservation of farm land in Oconee County.

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

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

On motion by Commissioner Norris 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 Norris, the meeting was adjourned.

County Clerk

Chairman

Date