

The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, July 25, 2006, 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 Chuck Horton

Commissioner Margaret Hale was absent.

Staff Present: Administrative Officer Alan Theriault
County Attorney Daniel Haygood
County Clerk Gina M. Lindsey

Jeff Benko, Finance Director
Harriette Browning, Tax Commissioner
Mike Leonas, Public Works Director
Amy Morrison, Stormwater Coordinator
B.R. White, Planning Director
Gary Dodd, Utility Director
Don Oliver, Interim Parks and Rec. Director

Media Present: Vinnie Williams, The Oconee Enterprise

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

Board of Tax Assessors: Chairman Davis announced J. David Carter and Ed Lord have submitted applications for appointment to the Oconee County Board of Tax Assessors to fill an unexpired term expiring March 31, 2012. Mr. Carter and Mr. Lord were unable to attend. The Board will take action on this appointment at the August 1, 2006 meeting.

2006 Tax Millage Levy – Schools: On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Luke, the Board unanimously confirmed the 2006 tax millage levy for county schools maintenance and operations of 16.50 and the school bond rate of 1.20 for a total of 17.70 mils. This was the amount levied by the Board of Education.

2006 Tax Millage Levy - County: On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Norris, the Board unanimously approved setting the 2006 gross millage rate for county government maintenance and operations for unincorporated areas at 12.19; 3.12 for sales tax rollback and .84 for insurance premium rollback; and the 2006 gross millage rate for county government maintenance and operations for incorporated areas at 12.19 and sales tax rollback of 3.12; for a net millage rate of 8.23 mils for unincorporated areas and a net millage rate of 9.07 mils for incorporated areas. ***See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 16.***

Tax Digest Error and Release Order for 1996-2006: On motion by Commissioner Norris and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board unanimously approved the Tax Digest Error and Release Order adjustments for 1996-2006 as submitted by Tax Commissioner Harriette Browning. ***See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 16.***

Water Conservation Update: Utility Director Gary Dodd reported that in June 2006, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division declared a Level One Drought across the state that requires residents to follow restrictions which include hourly limits on water usage as well as daily restrictions. The Oconee County Utility Department has made an effort to educate our local citizens on these restrictions by placing advertisements in the newspaper and its quarterly newsletter and distributing door hangers and “water drop” magnets. Mr. Dodd noted exemptions to the water restrictions apply for personal food plots and landscaping installed for under 30 days. Mr. Dodd said the water supply at the Bear Creek Reservoir is stable at this time.

Youth Baseball Complex – Change Order: Interim Parks and Recreation Director Don Oliver presented proposed change order #3 from F.E. Sims Enterprises to construct a Youth League Baseball Complex at the Oconee Community Complex. The proposal varies from the original bid alternate by modifying some items and features through a process of value engineering, including deleting the asphalt topping on the parking lot and substituting Bermuda grass seeding in lieu of sprigging. A \$50,000 allowance has been added to upgrade the back-stops for safety reasons. The change order amount is \$1,235,772.

Finance Director Jeff Benko stated funds are available in SPLOST 2000 and recommended using these funds to finance this expenditure. It was also noted the paving of the parking lot could take place with the county's bulk contract for paving and asphalt.

The Board placed this item on the agenda for August 1, 2006 for discussion and action.

Stormwater Ordinance: The Board of Commissioners held the First Reading of the Storm Drainage and Stormwater Management Ordinance. Stormwater Coordinator Amy Morrison and Public Works Director Mike Leonas presented a review of the ordinance. The ordinance addresses illicit non-stormwater discharges and illegal connection in all unincorporated portions of the county; maintenance of existing stormwater facilities in urbanized portions of the county; stormwater management in the urbanized area of the county; stormwater management in the non-urbanized area of the county; and, enforcement and penalties. It was noted a residential development in a non-urbanized area containing lot sizes of three acres or less and having five or more lots must follow the requirements for the urbanized area.

The Board opened the discussion for public comment. Rosemary Franklin advised she is working to protect the Apalachee River and felt the entire county should be regulated under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Phase II Permit. Michael Reuter said the regulations should apply county-wide to maintain consistency. Ellen Day presented a water sample from Robinson Creek and stated proactive steps are needed to save the county's remaining resources. Russ Page urged the Board of Commissioners to approve the ordinance as presented. Sarah Howell and Barbara Tesky said the county has done a good job with the ordinance and voiced their support. Richard Hatcher also presented a water sample from Robinson Creek and stated the enforcement and penalty aspect of the ordinance is weak. Tony Glenn, Dawn Boyd, Jim Rosebrook and John Cleveland endorsed a county-wide application of the stormwater standards. Beth Rivenbark said the Athens Area Homebuilders Association supports the ordinance as presented and asked that applicability be limited to the urbanized area of the county. Bob Kraeling and Karen Caberis recommended approving the ordinance as presented. Celia James encouraged strong enforcement of the ordinance.

There being no further discussion, the Board placed this item on the agenda for August 1, 2006 for a second reading and final action.

August 1, 2006 Agenda: The agenda for the August 1, 2006 meeting was reviewed by the County Clerk.

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

County Clerk

Chairman

Date