

The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, October 31, 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 Margaret Hale
Commissioner Chuck Horton

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

Jeff Benko, Finance Director
Wayne Provost, Strategic Planning Director
Malinda Smith, Human Resource Director
B.R. White, Planning Director
Paula Nezda, IT Director
Jon Gentry, Recreation 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.

John McNally Recognition: The Board congratulated John McNally for being named “Executive Director of the Year” for Keep Georgia Beautiful. Mr. McNally has served as Executive Director of the Oconee County Clean & Beautiful Commission since November 1991. Chairman Davis expressed appreciation to Mr. McNally for his commitment to Oconee County, as well as his efforts to improve our community.

Animal Control Board Applicants: The Board interviewed David Silvan for appointment to the Oconee County Animal Control Board for an unexpired term, expiring June 30, 2007. Applicants Linda K. Griffith and Joyce E. Lambert were unable to attend. The Board will take action on this appointment at the November 7, 2006 meeting.

Cultural and Recreational Affairs Committee – Cultural & Tourism Subcommittee Applicant: The Board interviewed Ramona H. Lord for appointment to the Oconee County Cultural and Recreational Affairs Committee – Cultural & Tourism Subcommittee for an unexpired term, expiring September 30, 2008. The Board will take action on this appointment at the November 7, 2006 meeting.

Street Light Tax District – Pebble Creek: On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Luke, the Board unanimously approved the creation of Street Light Tax District No. C5-D-L1 for Pebble Creek Subdivision. ***See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 17.***

Unified Development Code Fees: On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board unanimously approved the Unified Development Code Fee Schedule as presented by Planning Director B.R. White, to be effective November 1, 2006.

Network Telephony – Voice over Internet Protocol: Information Technology Director Paula Nedza reported on the remaining needs for the Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) conversion. Ms. Nezda said she had evaluated all available options and presented the following recommendations for the completion of the VoIP conversion:

1. Purchase the hardware for the Library, Health Department, Government Annex, Road Department, Civic Center, Herman C. Michael Park and the Welcome Center at a cost of \$90,000;
2. Purchase the fiber backbone connecting the Courthouse, Library, Health Department, Frank Norris Building, EOC/E911 and the Jail at a cost of \$252,000; and,
3. Lease the fiber backbone connecting the Courthouse to the Government Annex, Road Department, Civic Center, Herman C. Michael Park and the Oconee Community Complex at a monthly rate of \$486/month per building with a one-time cost of \$33,000 for conduit.

Finance Director Jeff Benko noted \$38,000 is left in the FY2007 approved budget for the VoIP project. He recommended the remaining cost of \$367,000 be expended from Fund Balance.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for November 7, 2006.

Paperless Agendas: Information Technology Director Paula Nedza offered a proposal to provide the Commissioners with laptops and paperless documentation for the Board of Commissioners meetings. She demonstrated the process and explained how the County Clerk would load the agenda and corresponding documents on their laptop computers prior to the meeting. The Board was receptive to the proposal and agreed to try the new process at the December 19, 2006 agenda setting meeting.

Employee Compensation Plan: Administrative Officer Alan Theriault presented a proposed employee compensation plan as developed in discussions and meetings with the Constitutional Officers to address the issue of employee compensation and its impact on work force retention, recruitment and morale. Mr. Theriault highlighted the components of the proposed plan as follows:

1. Effective January 1, 2007, each full-time employee will receive a \$1,000 base salary increase. These employees will realize this increase on their January 19, 2007 payroll check.
2. Effective January 1, 2007, all other county employees (part-time and others) will receive a 4.1% increase. These employees will also realize this increase on their January 19, 2007 payroll check.
3. Effective January 1, 2007, the County pay grade classification scale for the minimum/mid-range/maximum for each pay grade will be increased by 4.1%. Any employee, who after receiving the \$1,000 base salary adjustment, is still below the new minimum pay level for his or her pay grade, will receive additional compensation to move that individual to the new minimum for his or her pay grade.
4. Effective January 1, 2007 and thereafter, the annual Federal Government Social Security cost of living adjustment is adopted as an “across the board” cost of living pay increase for all employees to be factored into the succeeding years’ fiscal budget beginning July 1, 2007. The pay grade classification scale will be adjusted for each pay grade by the same factor. That factor for FY 2008 budget planning, as published by the Federal Government on October 18, 2006, will be 3.3%.
5. Merit increases, over and above the 3.3% cost of living increase for FY 2008 and the cost of living increases thereafter, will be determined by the Board of Commissioners based on available information relating to the fiscal condition of the County at that point in time.

On motion by Commissioner Norris and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board unanimously approved the employee compensation plan as presented.

Lease Agreement for Dolvin Property: County Attorney Daniel Haygood reviewed a proposed lease agreement for the Dolvin Property located at 22 N. Main Street, directly across from the Courthouse. The property consists of two brick structures totaling 9,172 sq. ft. and would allow for needed government office expansion. Mr. Haygood stated the lease is for a period of five years, with a renewal option for five additional years. The rental payment for the first, second and third years of the initial term of the lease is \$6,428.33 per month. During the fourth and fifth years, the rental payment will be \$6,942.60 per month. The lease would be effective December 1, 2006.

On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board unanimously approved the agreement with 22 North Main, LLC, for the lease of the Dolvin Property, as presented.

November 7, 2006 Agenda: The agenda for the November 7, 2006 meeting was reviewed by the County Clerk.

Citizen Remarks: Russ Page reported the USDA has indicated the Ricky and Kay House farmland protection program is next in line for funding. He also noted the Georgia Land Conservation Program will make their determination on the grant for the Sam Mitchell by mid-November.

Mr. Page also spoke on the concept for a River Walk along the Apalachee River, from Heritage Park to Apalachee Beach.

Kate McDaniel congratulated the various county departments involved in the move of the Central School House.

Executive Session: On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation and personnel matters. No action was taken.

On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Norris, 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 Luke, the meeting was adjourned.

County Clerk

Chairman

Date