

The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, May 25, 2004, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Chambers at the Oconee County Courthouse.

Members Present:

Chairman Melvin Davis
Commissioner Johnny Pritchett
Commissioner Donald H. Norris
Commissioner Margaret Hale

Commissioner William E. Wilkes was absent.

Staff Present:

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

Wayne Provost, Planning Director
Matt Forshee, Senior Planner
William White, Project Coordinator
Gary Dodd, Utility Director
Chris Thomas, Assistant Utility Director
Mike Leonas, Public Works Director
Malinda Smith, Human Resources Director
Nicki Crews, Purchasing Officer
Melissa Henderson, Code Enforcement Director
Bruce Thaxton, Fire Chief
John Gentry, Interim Parks & Recreation Director

Media Present:

Vinnie Williams, The Oconee Enterprise

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

Sheriff's Dept. Recognition: Sheriff Scott Berry reported the Oconee County Sheriff's Department was honored by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety for its leadership in the statewide program, "Operation Zero Tolerance". Sheriff Berry commended the Traffic Unit Deputies, Griffin Attaberry, Craig Bryant and Stephen Guest, for their efforts throughout the program.

Proclamation – WWII Service: Mr. Bill Gilmore accepted a Proclamation from the Board honoring those who served in World War II, "The Greatest Generation". Mr. Gilmore, a resident of Bishop, serves as Commander of the Athens AmVets and was instrumental in the erection of a World War II memorial in Bishop.

FY 2005 Budget Hearing: The Board held a public hearing on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2005. Administrative Officer Alan Theriault reported the departmental budget requests came in at approximately \$15.7 million dollars. Those requests, coupled with cutbacks in state funding and a continuation of unfunded mandates, were the basis from which the development of the proposed budget began. There were numerous conferences with department heads and others to clarify goals and objectives to define strategies for departmental missions and to insure a level of service for the citizens of the county.

Chairman Davis presented the following major items proposed for the FY 2005 Budget:

1. The budget for all funds is balanced.
2. The overall budget reflects a 5.12% increase over the FY 2004 Budget, which is slightly less than the 5.44% increase the previous fiscal year. The property tax millage rate of 8.48 mills in unincorporated Oconee County and 9.45 mills in the incorporated areas of the county is budgeted to remain unchanged.
3. Emphasis again this year was placed in the areas of Law Enforcement and Public Safety. Two additional Traffic Unit Deputies, an Investigator, a new position in the Jail and an Assistant Director for E-911 has been funded. Additionally, the Sheriff's Department fleet is again being updated and adding much needed communication equipment. A new mini-pumper for the Fire Department and an additional First Responder vehicle is being acquired.
4. Positions were added in Planning, Building Inspection, Parks and Recreation, the Finance Department and the Clerk of Courts Office.
5. The Parks and Recreation bond payment will be through SPLOST 2004 as approved by the voters.
6. An aggressive resurfacing and maintenance minimization program for our roads in Public Works will continue as will work on our bridges throughout Oconee County.
7. New water mains, valves in the City of Watkinsville and continued improvement to our sewer system have been budgeted.
8. Indigent Defense has been funded throughout the court system as required by the State.

There being no public comment, the Public Hearing was closed. The Board will take final action on the FY 2005 Budget at the June 1, 2004 regular meeting.

Unified Development Code Update: Planner Wayne Provost reported there would be at least two community meetings for input into the Unified Development Code. The first of these meetings is scheduled for June 15, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. at the Oconee County Civic Center. This meeting will be divided into three phases: education and updates by Public Works, Planning and the Utility Department; input on the future direction of Oconee County's ordinances; and, public input and comments.

Family and Children Services Board Applicant: The Board interviewed applicant Bonnie Butler for appointment to the Oconee County Family and Children Services Board to fill an unexpired term, expiring June 30, 2005. The Board will take action on this appointment at the June 1, 2004 meeting.

Zoning Ordinance Amendment - Buffers: The Board held the First Reading of an Amendment to the Oconee County Zoning Ordinance to delete conflicting buffer issues in the A-1 zoning district. The Board will hold a Public Hearing and take final action on this amendment at the June 1, 2004 meeting.

Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Zoning Text & Zoning Use Matrix: The Board held the First Reading of an Amendment to the Oconee County Zoning Ordinance to correct inconsistencies between the zoning text and the zoning use matrix. The Board will hold a Public Hearing and take final action on this amendment at the June 1, 2004 meeting.

Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Official Zoning Maps: The Board held the First Reading of an Amendment to the Oconee County Zoning Ordinance to revise how the Official Zoning Maps of Oconee County are adopted and amended. The Zoning Maps were available at the meeting for viewing. The Board will hold a Public Hearing and take final action on this amendment at the June 1, 2004 meeting.

Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Code Enforcement: The Board held the First Reading of an Amendment to the Oconee County Zoning Ordinance to revise how the document references the Code Enforcement Department. The Board will hold a Public Hearing and take final action on this amendment at the June 1, 2004 meeting.

Subdivision Regulations Amendment – Code Enforcement & Health Dept. Requirements: The Board held the First Reading of an Amendment to the Oconee County Subdivision Regulations to revise how the document references the Code Enforcement Department, final plat approval by the Code Enforcement Director and preliminary plat and preliminary site plan requirements relating to Health Department requirements. The Board will hold a Public Hearing and take final action on this amendment at the June 1, 2004 meeting.

Sign Ordinance Amendment – Code Enforcement: The Board held the First Reading of an Amendment to the Oconee County Sign Ordinance to revise how the document references the Code Enforcement Department. The Board will hold a Public Hearing and take final action on this amendment at the June 1, 2004 meeting.

Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance: The Board held the First Reading of the Oconee County Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance. The Board will hold a Public Hearing and take final action on this amendment at the June 1, 2004 meeting.

Employee Pension Plan Revisions: Human Resources Director Malinda Smith presented the following revisions to the Oconee County Employee Pension Program for consideration:

- 1) The Defined Benefit Plan will increase to 1.6% times the years of service.
- 2) The Rule of 75 is to be removed for new participants. Employees currently participating will have an election to keep or drop the rule of 75.
- 3) A Defined Contribution Plan will be implemented with the county matching 50% of the employee's contributions up to 6% of the employee's salary.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for June 1, 2004.

Surplus Fire Pumper: On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Norris, the Board unanimously approved the disposal of a 1971 surplus fire pumper by placing it out for a minimum bid of \$1,250. If no bids are received, the surplus fire pumper will be donated to the Georgia Burn Foundation to be used in a fund raising raffle for the Foundation.

Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Services: Public Works Director Mike Leonas recommended the Board renew the contract with Roll Off Systems for the collection and disposal of solid waste and recycling for Fiscal Year 2005. If approved, this would be the 4th consecutive contract with Roll Off Systems for solid waste disposal and recycling. Mr. Leonas stated the Consumer Price Index reflects an increase of 2%, which will be added to the base rate of the contract. By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for June 1, 2004.

Pest Control: Purchasing Officer Nicki Crews presented the bids for the Fiscal Year 2005 Pest Control Contract. The low bid was received from Tracker Pest Control in the amount of \$3,240. Ms. Crews was directed to verify that Tracker Pest Control had met all certifications and business license requirements. By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for June 1, 2004.

Lawn Maintenance: Purchasing Officer Nicki Crews presented the bids for the Fiscal Year 2005 Lawn Maintenance Contract. The low bid was received from Total Maintenance in the amount of \$9,600. By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for June 1, 2004.

Roadside Spraying: Public Works Director Mike Leonas presented the bid by DeAngelo Brothers, Inc. for the Fiscal Year 2005 Right-of-Way Spraying Contract for 165 miles of paved county roads, at a cost of \$28,710, to control vegetation growth in lieu of mowing. By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for June 1, 2004.

Pump Station Replacement - Daniels Bridge Road/Epps Bridge Road: Assistant Utility Director Chris Thomas presented the bids for Engineering Design Services for the Daniels Bridge Road/Epps Bridge Road Pump Station Replacement Project. The low bid was received from Precision Planning, Inc. in the amount of \$19,800. By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for June 1, 2004.

Triple Surface Treatment – Still Road, Brown Chapel Road and Adams Road: Public Works Director Mike Leonas presented a change order to the Triple Surface Treatment Contract with Carnes Construction Co. in the amount of \$119,286.96, to include triple surface treatment on Still Road, Brown Chapel Road and Adams Road. By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for June 1, 2004.

Bridge Painting: Public Works Director Mike Leonas presented a change order to the Bridge Painting Contract with Industrial Painting Services, Inc. in the amount of \$17,566, to include painting the pilings on the Daniels Bridge Road Bridge over Barber Creek and the bearings on the Old SR 15 (Epps Bridge Parkway) Bridge over McNutt Creek. By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for June 1, 2004.

Mars Hill Road/SR 53 Widening Project: Public Works Director Mike Leonas presented a change order to the Mars Hill Road/SR 53 Widening Contract with Moreland-Altobelli in the amount of \$105,488, based on an increase in the scope of work to meet GA DOT requirements. By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for June 1, 2004.

Barnett Shoals Road – Right-of-Way Agreement: Public Works Director Mike Leonas reported the GA DOT-County Agreement for resurfacing Barnett Shoals Road provided for 1.25” of F-mix. Mr. Leonas recommended that GA DOT revise their agreement to replace F-mix with 2” E-mix due to the greater strength of the road base. By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for June 1, 2004.

Conflict of Interest: County Attorney Daniel Haygood reported his legal opinion that 1) Being the Chairman of the Board of Directors of a Bank does not constitute a conflict under the Conflict of Interest in Zoning Actions Law (O.C.G.A. § 36-67A-1, *et seq.*), nor does it constitute a conflict under the provisions of Section 1706 of the Oconee County Zoning Regulations; and 2) Being the Chairman of the Board of Directors of a Bank which makes a loan to a developer on a piece of property which is the subject of the rezoning does not qualify as a conflict of interest as stated by the case law in the State of Georgia.

June 1, 2004 Agenda: The agenda for the June 1, 2004 meeting was reviewed.

Citizen Remarks: Russ Page spoke on the issue of chicken litter being dumped on the lot adjoining Northwest Woods Subdivision. He noted most farmers are following standard and best management practices and should not be affected by any decisions from the Board.

After a tour of the wastewater treatment facility and consultation with Utility Director Gary Dodd, Kate McDaniel complimented the county on its wastewater treatment plan. She asked for discussion on the effects of Master Planned Developments at the June 15 public meeting on the Unified Development Code.

Sherry Burns noted that homes on 30-year old septic tanks would want to hook on to sewer. Utility Director Gary Dodd reported the Wastewater Master Plan includes a study of neighborhoods that are on septic tanks.

Executive Session: On motion by Commissioner Norris and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board adjourned into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. No action was taken.

On motion by Commissioner Norris and second by Commissioner Pritchett, the Board adjourned back into Regular Session.

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

County Clerk

Chairman

Date