

The Regular Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Thursday, February 8, 2007, at 7:00 p.m., in the Commissioners Meeting Chambers, Oconee County Courthouse.

Members Present:

Chairman Melvin Davis  
Commissioner Jim Luke  
Commissioner Donald H. Norris  
Commissioner Margaret S. Hale  
Commissioner Chuck Horton

Staff Present:

County Attorney Daniel Haygood  
County Clerk Gina M. Lindsey

Jeff Benko, Finance Director  
Gary Dodd, Utility Director  
Chris Thomas, Assistant Utility Director  
Wayne Provost, Strategic Planning Director  
Steve Hansford, Interim Code Enforcement Director  
William White, Projects Coordinator  
Paula Nedza, IT Director  
Mike Leonas, Public Works Director  
BR White, Planning Director

Media Present:

Merritt Melancon, The Oconee Enterprise  
Lee Shearer, Athens Banner-Herald

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

**Minutes:** On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Horton, Minutes of the January 2 and January 30, 2007 meetings were approved as distributed.

**Future Water Sources:** Finance Director Jeff Benko, Utility Director Gary Dodd and Assistant Utility Director Chris Thomas made a presentation on Future Water Sources for Oconee County. Mr. Thomas reported the year 2014 is projected to be the critical year for water supply and demand. Mr. Benko gave a financial analysis and recommended an affordability factor of \$60 to \$70 million.

The pros and cons of several alternative water sources, Jack's Creek, Hard Labor Creek, Barnett Shoals Reservoir and Bear Creek, were evaluated by Mr. Benko and Mr. Thomas and an overview was presented. The following options were recommended to the Board: (1) Do nothing, (2) Hard Labor Creek only, (3) Barnett Shoals Reservoir only, (4) Hard Labor Creek and Barnett Shoals Reservoir and, (5) Bear Creek and Barnett Shoals Reservoir.

Kate McDaniel noted many county residents are on individual wells. Charles Baugh suggested building a filtration plant at Lake Oconee and urged the Commissioners to move slowly on a decision. Johnny Lay stated he does not want to see rapid growth in the county to pay for new water sources and recommended the Barnett Shoals Reservoir as the best alternative. Tom Breedlove commended the Board for looking at the water issue now and said this was an example of smart planning.

Chairman Davis announced a Called Meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Wednesday, February 20, 2007, for further discussion on future water sources for Oconee County. He invited citizens to write their questions on note cards and turn them in at the end of the meeting or submit them by email. Answers to the questions will be posted on the county's web site.

**Variance Request #10075 – Manley Land Design (Chick-fil-A):** On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board unanimously approved Variance Request No. 10075 by Manley Land Design (Chick-fil-A), ± 0.97 acres, located on Epps Bridge Parkway, to replace two of the required over story trees with six under story Wax Myrtles. **See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 17.**

**Joint Comprehensive Plan Stakeholders Advisory Committee:** The Board interviewed the following applicants for appointment to the Joint Comprehensive Plan Stakeholders Advisory Committee: Sarah Bell, Karl Berg, Dennis Calbos, Travis Marshall, Daniel J. Matthews, Jr., Becky McCaskey, Ed Perkins, Jonathan Veit, Rick Waller, Frank Watson and Chuck Williams. Applicants Chuck Johnson, Frances Cochran, William Ramsey and Robert Wood were unable to attend.

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

- **Tax Adjustment:** Approved a request for a 2005 homestead exemption tax adjustment on Tax Parcel #B-04H-011D.
- **E911 Wireless Telecommunication Surcharge:** Approved a wireless enhanced 911 charge of \$1.50 per month per wireless connection.
- **Oconee Community Complex – WK Dickson:** Approved extending the contract with WK Dickson for Construction Administration of the Oconee Community Complex project for 1 year at a not to exceed cost of \$54,384.
- **Jail/E911/EOC – Purchase Requests:** Approved budget amendment items totaling approximately \$322,000 to purchase an electronic integrated records management system to be installed at the new jail (\$121,000), cell phone antennae/repeaters for the new Jail/E911/EOC facilities (\$45,000), an emergency information management software system (WebEOC) to be installed at the new E911/EOC facility (\$130,000) and additional servers and data storage hardware (\$26,000),

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

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

On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board adjourned back into Regular Session.

**Joint Comprehensive Plan Stakeholders Advisory Committee:** On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Norris the Board voted unanimously to appoint Abe Abouhamdan, Sarah Bell, Dennis Calbos, Jay Campbell, Frances Cochran, Chuck Johnson, Becky McCaskey, Penny Mills, Sam Mitchell, Russ Page, Ed Perkins, William (Bill) Ramsey, William C. (Bill) Ross, Rick Waller, Frank Watson, Chuck Williams and Robert Wood to the Joint Comprehensive Plan Stakeholders Advisory Committee. Dr. John Jackson was appointed to serve as a representative from the Board of Education.

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

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County Clerk

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Chairman

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Date