

The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, September 19, 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
Malinda Smith, Human Resource Director
Dan Wilson, County Engineer
Quinton Still, Emergency Management Director
Paula Nezda, IT Director
Gary Dodd, Utility Director
Chris Thomas, Assistant Utility Director

Media Present:

Vinnie Williams, The Oconee Enterprise
Merritt Melancon, Athens Banner-Herald

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

Library Manager: Janet Stratton, representing Athens-Clarke Library Director Kathryn Ames, and Library Board Chair Doris Firth introduced Clare Auwarter as the newly appointed Oconee County Libraries Manager. Ms. Auwarter expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve her community and said she was looking forward to continuing the excellent library service in Oconee County.

Development Authority: The Board interviewed John Morrison and Pattie W. Ivy for appointment to the Oconee County Development Authority. Four 2-year terms will expire on December 31, 2006. Applicants Larry Benson and Rick Waller were unable to attend, but provided letters explaining their absence and expressing their desire to be appointed. The Board will take action on these appointments at the October 3, 2006 meeting.

Elections and Registration Board: The Board interviewed Pat Hayes for appointment to the Oconee County Board of Elections and Registration. One 4-year term will expire on December 31, 2006. The Board will take action on this appointment at the October 3, 2006 meeting.

Library Advisory Board: The Board interviewed Eris Gaul, Brian D. Hawkins and Art Zimmerman for appointment to the Oconee County Library Advisory Board. Two 5-year terms will expire on December 31, 2006. The Board will take action on these appointments at the October 3, 2006 meeting.

Homeland Security Grant – Casualty Vehicle: Emergency Management Director Quinton Still reported a mass casualty truck and equipment has been purchased with a \$179,589 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The funding, administered by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, is part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Grants and Training grant program.

The truck will serve 24 counties in northeast Georgia (GEMA Area 1), but will be stationed in Oconee County. Mr. Still said the unit can handle up to 100 casualty patients and serve as a triage station if needed. The truck will respond to emergency incidents in Oconee County involving numerous injuries and to situations where mass casualties could develop.

Right-of-Way Exchange – Goat Farm Road: County Attorney Daniel Haygood explained portions of Goat Farm Road lie within the proposed commercial area of Westland Subdivision. In order to receive final plat approval for Westland Phase One Subdivision, this property will need to be exchanged for newly constructed road right-of-ways in Phase One of the development.

On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board unanimously approved the exchange of right-of-way of portions of Goat Farm Road adjacent to U.S. Hwy. 78.

Pension Plan Amendment: Human Resource Director Malinda Smith presented Amendment No. 2 to the ACCG Defined Benefit Plan for Oconee County employees. The GEBCorp Board of Trustees has amended the Defined Benefit Model Plan Document to address the collection of overpayments, regardless of who is at fault, from future payments due from the Trust to the participant or his beneficiary. By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for October 3, 2006.

Network Telephony – Voice over Internet Protocol: IT Director Paula Nedza reported on the implementation status of the Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), also known as network telephony.

Ms. Nezda stated Phase I is now fully deployed and operating. A new phone system and internet service was provided for the Oconee County Courthouse Campus (Courthouse, Code Enforcement, Extension Service, Planning and Buildings and Grounds).

Phase II will provide voice and data network to the County's outlying buildings (Government Annex, Health Department, Library, Jail, Frank Norris Building, Civic Center, Herman C. Michael Park, Oconee Community Complex, Welcome Center, Road Department and EOC/E911). Ms. Nezda noted that while these facilities currently have internal networks, there is no fiber backbone installed to provide connectivity to the Courthouse. Also, each building will call for the installation of basic voice hardware and an evaluation of the internal wiring.

Ms. Nedza reported one bid was received for Phase II. The bid is currently being evaluated for the most cost effective solution (providing county-owned fiber, leased fiber or a hybrid fiber backbone) and to insure adequate cabling for the new Jail/EOC Complex and the new Oconee Community Complex. Ms. Nedza will be prepared to make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners at the October 3, 2006 meeting.

Intersection Improvements – Daniels Bridge Road/Government Station Road/Hog Mountain Road: Engineer Dan Wilson presented the bids for intersection improvements and signalization at Daniels Bridge Road, Government Station Road and Hog Mountain Road. This project is in conjunction with the Georgia Department of Transportation, with a maximum contribution by GDOT of \$86,789.51. Mr. Wilson recommended the contract be awarded to the E.R. Snell Contractor, Inc., in the amount of \$335,304.55.

On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board unanimously approved the bid of \$335,304.55 by E.R. Snell Contractor, Inc. for intersection improvements and signalization at Daniels Bridge Road, Government Station Road and Hog Mountain Road.

Road Patching and Resurfacing Program 2006-2007: Engineer Dan Wilson presented the bids for the 2007-2008 County Road Patching and Resurfacing Program. Approximately 26 miles of county roads will be patched and/or resurfaced. Mr. Wilson recommended the contract be awarded to the low bidder, E.R. Snell Contractor, Inc., in the amount of \$1,724,085.00.

Mr. Wilson noted this would be an "Open Ended" contract that will enable the County to authorize additional work until July 1, 2007.

On motion by Commissioner Norris and second by Commissioner Luke, the Board unanimously approved the bid of \$1,724,085.00 by E.R. Snell Contractor, Inc. for the 2007-2008 County Road Patching and Resurfacing Program.

Birchmore Hills Water System: Administrative Officer Alan Theriault presented the bids for the construction and installation of fire protection and water lines in Birchmore Hills Subdivision. Mr. Theriault noted the County has received a Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) loan to construct the water system improvements and Birchmore Hills has been established as a Special Tax District to repay the associated costs. Mr. Theriault recommended the contract be awarded to the low bidder, Heritage Construction in the amount of \$345,047.00.

On motion by Commissioner Hale and second by Commissioner Horton the Board unanimously approved the bid of \$345,047.00 by Heritage Construction for the construction and installation of fire protection and water lines in Birchmore Hills Subdivision, to be funded with a loan from the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority.

October 3, 2006 Agenda: The agenda for the October 3, 2006 meeting was reviewed by the County Clerk.

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

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

On motion by Commissioner Norris and second by Commissioner Horton, 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