

The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, January 25, 2005, 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:

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

Bruce Thaxton, Fire Chief
Mike Leonas, Public Works Director
Gary Dodd, Utility Director
Chris Thomas, Assistant Utility Director
John Gentry, Parks & Recreation Director
Wayne Provost, Director of Long-Range Planning
Jeff Benko, Finance Director
William White, Projects Coordinator

Media Present:

Vinnie Williams, The Oconee Enterprise

Chairman Davis welcomed members of Boy Scout Troops No. 80 and No. 388.

Chairman Davis began the meeting with a Moment of Silence. Boy Scouts Tyler and Kyle Beckett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clean and Beautiful Commission Applicants: The Board interviewed applicants Cathy Heembrock and Ira H. Rehmel for appointment to the Oconee County Clean and Beautiful Commission for two unexpired terms, expiring June 30, 2006 and June 30, 2007. The Board will take action on these appointments at the February 1, 2005 meeting.

Land Application System – Permitting and Engineering: Assistant Utility Director Chris Thomas reviewed the Request for Proposals received from engineering firms to assist the county with the preparation of permits and reports as required by EPD to upgrade the Rocky Branch Land Application System from 0.4 MGD capacity to a 1.0 MGD water reclamation facility capable of producing re-use quality water. By consensus, the Board authorized the Utility Department to negotiate a “not to exceed” price with the Precision Planning/Jordan Jones & Goulding engineering team and return to the February 22, 2005 BOC meeting with a recommendation.

Water Re-use Standards: Assistant Utility Director Chris Thomas proposed an amendment to the Water and Wastewater Standards to include standards and specifications for re-use water systems. Mr. Thomas will proceed with advertising for a First Reading of the amendment on February 22, 2005 and Final Action on March 1, 2005.

Mini-Pumper: Fire Chief Bruce Thaxton presented the bid received from Danko Emergency Equipment Company for a Mini-Pumper for South Oconee Fire Station. The purchase of a Mini-Pumper was approved in the FY2005 budget. Chief Thaxton recommended awarding the bid of \$118,828.00. By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for February 1, 2005.

Fire Equipment Bids: Fire Chief Bruce Thaxton presented the bulk fire equipment bids for the Fire Department. All fire equipment is budgeted in the FY2005 budget. Chief Thaxton recommended awarding the bids of \$19,578.00 to Municipal Equipment Company, \$2,875.49 to NAFECO, \$631.00 to Fire Line, Inc. and \$1,382.64 to T&B Fire Protection Company. By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for February 1, 2005.

USDA Easement Transfer (Lampkin Branch Business Park): On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board voted unanimously to accept the transfer of the USDA easement of Lampkin Branch Business Park to Oconee County.

2004 Northeast Georgia Multi-jurisdictional Solid Waste Management Plan: Administrative Officer Alan Theriault reported the Georgia Department of Community Affairs has completed its review of the 2004 Northeast Georgia Multi-jurisdictional Solid Waste Management Plan and has determined the Plan meets the minimum standards. All jurisdictions participating in the Plan must adopt the plan by resolution before DCA will reinstate the jurisdiction’s eligibility to receive solid waste permits, grants and loans. By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for February 1, 2005.

Subdivision Regulations – Revisions to Pavement Specifications and Construction Standards:

Public Works Director Mike Leonas presented the results of a review of the pavement specifications and construction standards contained in the current Land Subdivision Regulations. The review revealed a need for changes in regulations due to new accepted design standards and motor vehicle laws allowing higher weights on trucks. By consensus, the Board authorized the Public Works Department to develop a preliminary draft of amendments to the Land Subdivision Regulations with respect to design and construction standards.

Heritage Park Rental Fee Schedule: Parks and Recreation Director John Gentry presented the proposed Rental Fee Schedule for Heritage Park to include rental fees for the new feeder barn. By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for February 1, 2005.

New Park Update: Parks and Recreation Director John Gentry and Ed Czyscon of WK Dickson presented an update on the design development stage of the new park project. Mr. Czyscon reported the overall scheme for Phase 1 had not changed significantly. A wetland area was discovered near the baseball/softball complex, the veterans memorial area has been relocated to the left side of the park entrance and paving patterns were created for the walking trail. The county will be installing the sewer system. It was noted Phase 1 is still within budget. The bid opening for the initial clearing and grubbing of the new park site will occur on January 27, 2005. Groundbreaking for the new park is tentatively scheduled for the July 4, 2005 weekend. Construction of Phase 1 is projected to be completed in July, 2006.

Jail and E-911/Emergency Operations Center: Jimmy Parker and Liz Hudson of Precision Planning, Inc. presented a power point overview on the Needs Assessment and Conceptual Design for the Oconee County Jail and E-911/Emergency Operations Center.

Ms. Hudson reported eight conceptual alternatives had been evaluated and two viable schemes were identified: Scheme A – Construct a new Jail Housing Pod and renovate the current Administrative/Jail space; and, Scheme B – Construct a completely new Jail on the current site. Both alternatives would include the construction of a new E-911/Emergency Operations Center on the current Jail site.

Although the initial capital costs for Scheme A are approximately \$900,000 less than Scheme B, Ms. Hudson noted the disadvantages of increased long-term operation and maintenance costs, long-term mechanical problems, soil issues, building settlement and difficult construction phasing. It was the consensus that Scheme B would be the most cost effective long-term option. The annual labor savings of Scheme B would provide a 5-year return on the additional capital investment and would also provide superior operational capabilities and increased efficiency, and greatly reduce the short and long term maintenance costs.

Finance Director Jeff Benko and Sheriff Scott Berry will report on possible funding sources at the February 22, 2005 meeting.

February 1, 2005 Agenda: The agenda for the February 1, 2005 meeting was reviewed.

Executive Session: On motion by Commissioner Norris and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board adjourned into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation and personnel matters.

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

On motion by Commissioner Norris and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board voted to go 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