

The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, July 26, 2005, 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
Harriette Browning, Tax Commissioner
Wayne Provost, Strategic & L.R. Planning
B.R. White, Assistant Planning Director
Malinda Smith, H.R. Director
Don Oliver, Interim Parks and Rec. Director

Media Present:

Sara Thuerk, The Oconee Enterprise
Merritt Melancon, Athens Banner-Herald

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

2005 Tax Millage Levy – Schools: On motion by Commissioner Horton and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board unanimously confirmed the tax millage levy for county schools maintenance and operations of 15.50 and the school bond rate of 1.40 for a total of 16.90 mils. This was the amount levied by the Board of Education.

2005 Tax Millage Levy - County: On motion by Commissioner Norris, second by Commissioner Luke, and endorsed by Commissioners Hale and Horton, the Board unanimously approved a .25 reduction in the county mill rate, setting the gross millage rate for county government maintenance and operations for unincorporated areas at 12.59; 3.44 for sales tax rollback and .92 for insurance premium rollback; and a gross millage rate for county government maintenance and operations for incorporated areas at 12.59 and sales tax rollback of 3.44; for a net millage rate of 8.23 mils for unincorporated areas and a net millage rate of 9.15 mils for incorporated areas. Commissioners Norris, Luke, Hale and Horton and Chairman Davis all voted their unanimous support.

A .25 mil was levied for the State.

The Board of Commissioners authorized the Chairman to execute the necessary documents for transmittal to the Georgia State Department of Revenue. ***See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 15.***

Northeast Georgia Aging Services Advisory Council: The Board interviewed Mary Ellen Quinn for appointment to the Northeast Georgia Aging Services Advisory Council. The Board will take action on this appointment at the August 2, 2005 meeting.

Oconee County Cultural & Recreational Affairs Committee – Recreation Subcommittee: The Board interviewed William A. Baker and reviewed the application of Jessica B. Kirk for appointment to the Oconee County Cultural & Recreational Affairs Committee – Recreation Subcommittee to fill two expiring terms, expiring September 30, 2007. Ms. Kirk was unable to attend. The Board will take action on these appointments at the August 2, 2005 meeting.

Oconee County Land Use & Transportation Planning Committee: The Board reviewed the applications of Flynn Warren, Wayne Bagley and Joe Dunagan for appointment to the Oconee County Land Use & Transportation Planning Committee to fill three expiring terms, expiring September 30, 2007. The Board will take action on these appointments at the August 2, 2005 meeting.

Unified Development Code Update: Strategic and Long Range Planning Director Wayne Provost and Consultant Bill Ross reported on the development of the Unified Development Code and the schedule for its completion. The Reorganization Draft has been finalized and an Internal Draft is now being prepared that will address those areas of our current codes that we think need to be changed. Mr. Ross described the public review and public hearing process. He expects to be coming back to the Commissioners on a regular basis for policy direction. The Unified Development Code is expected to be ready for adoption by May 2006.

Comprehensive Plan Update: Mr. Provost and Mr. Ross reported the 10-year update to the County's Comprehensive Plan is due by July 2007. The Department of Community Affairs has adopted procedures and minimum standards that are different than what we have done in the past. The process involves a community assessment, public input and the final adoption of a Community Agenda. A proposal for updating the Plan will be brought to the Board at the August 30, 2005 meeting.

There was discussion on the need for an updated Land Use Map. Mr. Ross explained the various methods in which the Land Use Map could be amended and noted it could be done at any time by county staff with the GIS system we have in place. The Strategic and Long Range Planning Department will bring their recommendations for updating the Land Use Map to the August 30, 2005 Commission meeting.

Property Tax Collections – City of Bishop and City of Watkinsville: Tax Commissioner Harriette Browning requested the Board enter into contracts with the City of Bishop and the City of Watkinsville and the Office of the Tax Commissioner for overseeing the collection of tax monies on behalf of Bishop and Watkinsville. The County, through the Office of the Tax Commissioner, would bill for and collect all City property taxes levied by the Cities, prepare the tax digest for the Cities and invoke any remedy allowed to the Cities in collection of the City taxes. Bishop and Watkinsville will pay \$1.00 to the County and \$1.50 to the Tax Commissioner for each tax bill issued. Ms. Browning stated there would be minimum cost to provide this service to the Cities.

By consensus, this item will be placed on the consent agenda for August 2, 2005.

Tax Digest Error and Release Order for 1996-2004: On motion by Commissioner Norris and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board unanimously approved the Tax Digest Error and Release Order adjustments for 1996-2004 as submitted by Tax Commissioner Harriette Browning. **See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 15.**

Tennis Program: Interim Parks and Recreation Director Don Oliver reported one bid was received by Tennis For Life, Inc. in the amount of \$5,000 for the Parks and Recreation Tennis Program. By consensus, this item will be placed on the consent agenda for August 2, 2005.

Employee Classification Study: On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Norris, the Board unanimously approved a proposal by The Archer Company to update the Employee Classification and Compensation Plan, at a cost of \$17,840, to be completed by December 30, 2005.

Cable Transfer – Adelphia Cable TV to Comcast: Administrative Assistant Alan Theriault reported Adelphia Cable is currently in Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings. In order to complete its reorganization, Adelphia has entered into contract with Time Warner Cable and Comcast Corporation. Oconee County has been asked to consent to the assignment and change of control of Adelphia's cable television franchise to Comcast Corporation. By consensus, this item will be placed on the consent agenda for August 2, 2005.

Staggered Terms: The Board discussed and expressed their support for a change to staggered terms for County Commissioners. Chairman Davis has encouraged the Board of Education to discuss staggered terms and possibly create a joint resolution to send to the state legislature for approval.

The Commissioners all stated they were opposed to switching to district representation. Commissioner Luke said he would like to see two additional commissioners added to the Board.

County Attorney Daniel Haygood was directed to prepare a resolution requesting legislative approval for a change to staggered terms.

August 2, 2005 Agenda: The agenda for the August 2, 2005 meeting was reviewed by the County Clerk.

Citizens for Ethical Government vs. Oconee County: County Attorney Daniel Haygood reported Superior Court Judge Sweat had ruled in favor of the County in the Citizens for Ethical Government vs. Oconee County lawsuit.

Statements and Remarks from Citizens: Russ Page encouraged the Board to continue discussions with the cable companies regarding televised Commission meetings. Kate McDaniel expressed appreciation for the .25 reduction in the county's millage rate. Mary Mellein asked if the UDC draft will be available to the public. (Yes) Sonya Adsit said the tennis program contractor should be required to carry insurance. (It is required) Jerry Studdard commented the Board of Education should receive the same rate for collecting taxes as the cities and expressed his concern for out-of-county residents using the tennis courts.

Executive Session: On motion by Commissioner Luke and second by Commissioner Horton, the Board adjourned into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and future acquisition of real estate. 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 Hale, 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