

The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, July 27, 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

Staff Present:

Administrative Officer Alan Theriault  
Jeff Benko, Finance Director  
Deputy Clerk Kathy Hayes  
County Attorney Daniel Haygood  
Harriette Browning, Tax Commissioner  
Wayne Provost, Planning Director  
Matt Forshee, Senior Planner  
Gary Dodd, Utility Director  
Chris Thomas, Assistant Utility Director  
Mike Leonas, Public Works Director

Media Present:

Vinnie Williams, The Oconee Enterprise  
Mike D'Avria, Athens Banner/Herald

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

**2004 Tax Millage Levy:** On motion by Commissioner William Wilkes and second by Commissioner Margaret Hale, the Board unanimously approved setting the gross millage rate for county government maintenance and operations for unincorporated areas at 12.95; 3.52 for sales tax rollback and .95 for insurance premium rollback; and a gross millage rate for county government maintenance and operations for incorporated areas at 12.44 and sales tax rollback of 3.52; for a net millage rate of 8.48 mils for unincorporated areas and a net millage rate of 9.43 mils for incorporated areas.

The Board confirmed the millage for county schools for maintenance and operations at 15.50 and the school bond rate of 1.60 for a total of 17.10 mils. This was the amount levied by the Board of Education. 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. 14.***

**Tax Digest Error and Release Order for 1995-2003:** On motion by Commissioner Margaret Hale and second by Commissioner William Wilkes, the Board unanimously approved Tax Digest Error and Release Order adjustments for 1995-2003 as submitted by Tax Commissioner Harriette Browning. ***See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 14.***

**Oconee County Planning Commission:** The Board interviewed the following applicants for appointment to the Oconee County Planning Commission to fill two expiring terms, expiring September 30, 2008: John Duffett, James Griner, Joe Hayes, Ashley Hood, Brett Maddux, Michael Maxey, Kate McDaniel and John Morrison. Applicant William Ramsey was unable to attend. The Board will take action on these appointments at the August 3, 2004 meeting.

**Oconee County Cultural & Recreational Affairs Committee – Cultural/Tourism Subcommittee:** The Board interviewed applicant Jerry Studdard for appointment to the Oconee County Cultural & Recreational Affairs Committee – Cultural/Tourism Subcommittee to fill three expiring terms, expiring September 30, 2006, and two unexpired terms, expiring September 30, 2005. Applicant Vicky Moody was unable to attend. The Board will take action on these appointments at the August 3, 2004 meeting.

**Oconee County Cultural & Recreational Affairs Committee – Recreation Subcommittee:** The Board interviewed the following applicants for appointment to the Oconee County Cultural & Recreational Affairs Committee – Recreation Subcommittee to fill four expiring terms, expiring September 30, 2006: Matt Alexander, Kimberly Argo, Randall Booth and Mike Streetman. Applicant Ryan House was unable to attend. The Board will take action on these appointments at the August 3, 2004 meeting.

**Oconee County Land Use & Transportation Planning Committee:** The Board interviewed the following applicants for appointment to the Oconee County Land Use & Transportation Planning Committee to fill six expiring terms, expiring September 30, 2006: Abe Abouhamdan, Joe Hayes, Robert Isaac, Keith Maxey, George Rodrigues, Bob Sanders, Frank Watson and Henry Norman. Applicant James Morris was unable to attend. The Board will take action on these appointments at the August 3, 2004 meeting.

**Oconee County Development Authority:** The Board interviewed the following applicants for appointment to the Oconee County Development Authority to fill one unexpired term, expiring December 31, 2005: Joe Hayes, John Morrison and Chuck Williams. Applicant Cody William Lyon was unable to attend. The Board will take action on these appointments at the August 3, 2004 meeting.

**South Oconee Water Supply Update from Jordan, Jones & Goulding:** Bill Defoor and Wayne Haynie of Jordan, Jones & Goulding presented an update on possible water supply alternatives available to Oconee County. JJ&G projects that by the year 2050 Oconee County will have a peak day treated capacity shortfall of 18 MGD that will need to be supplied from an additional source. Alternative water sources were evaluated and the findings presented to the Board.

The *Expanded High Shoals Alternative* will require an extensive and costly permitting effort due to the impacts from constructing a new higher dam on the Apalachee River at High Shoals.

The *Lake Oconee Alternative*, which is owned and operated by Georgia Power, will require additional approvals from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Since Lake Oconee is completely out of Oconee County's jurisdiction, the County would have little or no control over activities and decisions regarding Lake Oconee that could affect the County's water system.

Project planning was initiated on the *Hard Labor Creek Reservoir Alternative* by the Walton County Water & Sewer Authority in 1996. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division has encouraged utilities to pursue regional alternatives for long-term water supplies. Considering the potential project yield and time line of the project, this is presently the most desirable alternative and Oconee County is investigating participation in this project.

**Update on Status of the Hard Labor Creek Reservoir Project:** Jimmy Parker of Precision Planning, Inc., presented an update of the Hard Labor Creek Reservoir Project. This project has been approved and permitted by the EPD and Army Corps of Engineers and is expected to be completed by the year 2014. Water consumption projections indicate Oconee County will need another water source by the year 2020.

Tommy Craig, Attorney, presented an update of the Intergovernmental Agreement Draft for the Hard Labor Creek Reservoir Project. Ownership of the project shall be in accordance with entitlement shares and will provide for administration of the partnership. The draft agreement is being prepared for review and consideration by the County. A public information forum will be held on August 17, 2004 at 7:00 pm at the Oconee County Civic Center regarding the Hard Labor Creek Project. Copies of the draft agreement will be available at the forum.

**Wastewater Master Plan:** Bill Martello, Jordan, Jones & Goulding, presented to the Board a Wastewater Master Plan for Oconee County. The Plan represents alternatives and outlines a recommended strategy for the extension and development of the Oconee County wastewater collection and treatment system through the year 2025. A public information forum will be held on August 24, 2004 at 7:00 pm at the Oconee County Civic Center regarding the Wastewater Master Plan for Oconee County.

**Gunter Property Security Interest Release Agreement:** On motion by Commissioner Don Norris and second by Commissioner Johnny Pritchett, the Board unanimously approved a Release of Lien Agreement with Athens First Bank & Trust Company for a Ford Truck and a 95XT Case Uniloader in the amount of \$13,500.00 previously owned by David G. Gunter. (See attached agreement.)

**Oconee County Government Annex Courtroom Renovation:** On motion by Commissioner William Wilkes and second by Commissioner Margaret Hale, the Board unanimously approved renovation of the courtroom at the Oconee County Government Annex. Construction will consist of dividing the courtroom in half. Adult Literary will occupy one side of approximately 900 square feet. The unoccupied side will be available for meetings of citizen groups and a polling precinct.

**NE GA Regional Development Center – Contract to provide transportation services for senior citizens:** Administrative Officer Alan Theriault presented to the Board a contract with NE GA Regional Development Center for Senior Center transportation services. By consensus, this item will be placed on the consent agenda for August 3, 2004. (See attached contract.)

**City of Bogart Sewer Request:** Administrative Officer Alan Theriault advised the Board that a request for sewer capacity has been received from the City of Bogart. The Board received the request and asked staff to evaluate the request and bring a recommendation to the Board.

**Heritage Park Feeder Barn:** Administrative Officer Alan Theriault presented a proposal from the Parks & Recreation Department for construction of a feeder barn at Heritage Park and recommended that the County initiate contract negotiations with Morton Buildings, Inc., for construction with a base bid of \$227,700 to be funded by SPLOST. By consensus, this item will be placed on the consent agenda for August 3, 2004.

**Heritage Park Improvements – Discuss Design Consultant:** Administrative Officer Alan Theriault presented a proposal from the Parks & Recreation Department recommending that negotiations be conducted with HDR, Williams & Associates and W.K. Dickson to refine the scope of work and receive a revised fee proposal from each consultant. By consensus, this item will be placed on the consent agenda for August 3, 2004.

**New Park-Phase I – Discuss Design Consultant:** Administrative Officer Alan Theriault presented a recommendation from the Parks & Recreation Department to initiate contract negotiations with W.K. Dickson to design Phase I of the New Park with a base bid of \$423,460 to be funded by the G.O. Bond. By consensus, this item will be placed on the consent agenda for August 3, 2004.

**New Park – Rent Pasture Land:** On motion by Commissioner Don Norris and second by Commissioner Margaret Hale, the Board unanimously approved a request by Dr. Mike Streetman to rent approximately 20 acres of open fields in the New Park for the purpose of cutting hay. The rental amount shall be \$15.00 per acre per year.

**Herman C. Michael Park – Discuss Agreement with Monroe Utilities Network for Natural Gas Service:** Assistant Utility Director Chris Thomas presented a recommendation to enter into an agreement with Monroe Utilities Network to provide natural gas service to Herman C. Michael Park. By consensus, this item will be placed on the consent agenda for August 3, 2004.

**Barnett Shoals Road Resurfacing – Discuss E.R. Snell Change Order:** County Engineer Dan Wilson presented a Contract Change Order to the E.R. Snell FY 2004 Road Resurfacing Program Contract to include an increase in the amount of \$218,605.36 to be funded by SPLOST for resurfacing 15.8 miles of Barnett Shoals Road. By consensus, this item will be placed on the consent agenda on August 3, 2004.

**Barnett Shoals Road – Bids for Full Depth Reclamation:** County Engineer Dan Wilson presented a recommendation to accept the low bid of Blount Construction in the amount of \$320,462.97 to be funded by SPLOST for the Full Depth Reclamation of Barnett Shoals Road. By consensus, this item will be placed on the consent agenda for August 3, 2004.

**August 3, 2004 Agenda:** The agenda for the August 3, 2004 meeting was reviewed.

**Statements and Remarks from Citizens:**

- Mary Mellein asked that water and sewer proposals/plans be placed on the Oconee County website for citizens to view.
- John Duffett stated his disappointment that a moratorium on MPDs has not been instated.
- Kate McDaniel stated she appreciated the efforts of the BOC to make the presentations easier to view by using a large screen behind the Commissioners table.

**Executive Session:** On motion by Commissioner William Wilkes and second by Commissioner Don Norris, the Board adjourned into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and future acquisition of real estate. No action was taken.

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

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

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Deputy Clerk

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Chairman

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Date