

The Agenda Setting Meeting of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, March 30, 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  
Deputy Clerk Kathy Hayes  
County Attorney Daniel Haygood

John Gentry, Interim Parks & Recreation Director  
Wayne Provost, Planning Director  
William White, Project Coordinator  
Gary Dodd, Utility Director  
Dan Wilson, Assistant County Engineer  
Leonard Myers, Acting Financial Director  
Malinda Smith, Human Resources Director  
Tricia Smith, Community Relations  
Janine Lynn, Parks & Recreation  
Harriette Browning, Tax Commissioner  
Angela Watson, Clerk of Courts  
Bob Whitehead, Public Works  
Alicia Soto, Sheriff's Department  
Donna Norton, Budget Officer, Finance

Media Present:

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

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

**Clean and Beautiful Commission Applicants:** The Board interviewed applicants Matthew Fletcher and Kate McDaniel for appointment to the Oconee County Clean & Beautiful Commission to fill four unexpired terms, expiring June 30, 2007. Applicant David Porter was unable to attend. The Board will take action on these appointments at the April 6, 2004 meeting.

**Board of Elections and Registration Applicants:** The Board interviewed applicants Gene Lyon, Edward Page and James Morris for appointment to the Oconee County Board of Elections and Registration to fill one unexpired term, expiring December 31, 2005. Applicant Jay Hanley withdrew his application. The Board will take action on these appointments at the April 6, 2004 meeting.

**Animal Control Advisory Board Applicants:** The Board interviewed applicants Ed Kennedy, Gene Lyon and Lorelei Prichard for appointment to the Oconee County Animal Control Advisory Board to fill two expiring terms expiring June 30, 2006. The Board will take action on these appointments at the April 6, 2004 meeting.

**Family and Children Services Board:** The Board interviewed applicant Dianne Wright for appointment to the Oconee County Family and Children Services Board to fill one expiring term expiring June 30, 2009. The Board will take action on this appointment at the April 6, 2004 meeting.

**Employee Pension Plan:** The Employee Benefit Committee presented recommendations to the Board for revisions in the Oconee County Employee Pension Plan. Members of the Committee are Chairman Don Norris, Commissioner; Janine Lynn, Parks & Recreation, and spokesperson for the Committee; Harriette Browning, Tax Commissioner; Angela Watson, Clerk of Courts; Malinda Smith, Human Resources; Bob Whitehead, Public Works; and Alicia Soto, Sheriff's Office.

Currently, the Employee Pension Plan provides one percent of an employee's average salary over their five highest consecutive years times the number of employment years. The Benefit Committee, as advised by ACCG, determined three basic components of an effective retirement plan. The components are as follows: 1) Defined Benefit Program, such as the current County Pension Plan; 2) Defined Contributions Program which consists of contributions from employee; 3) Social Security.

*(Employee Pension Plan-Continued)*

The Employee Benefit Committee requests that the employee retirement program be amended as follows: 1) Increase the pension rate to 1.6% times the years of service; 2) Implement a 50% match of employee contributions up to 6% of the employee's salary to a Defined Contribution Plan; 3) Current retirees' benefits be adjusted by an appropriate amount; 4) Special consideration be given to employees approaching retirement age; 5) Rule of 75 option be removed and related premiums used to fund a portion of the recommendations from the Employee Benefit Committee.

**Parks Plan:** John Gentry, Interim Director, Parks & Recreation, presented four requests to the Board to include: 1) Approval of the Parks Master Plan; 2) Approval of Phase I construction recommendations of the New Park; 3) Approval to issue Request for Qualification (RFQ) for design and construction management of Phase I of the New Park; 4) Approval for completion of the Log Cabin renovation/preservation at Heritage Park (Phase II-V).

Ed Czyscon, Project Manager for W.K. Dickson & Company, presented revisions to Phase I of the Parks Master Plan with preliminary cost estimates. The Parks Master Plan-Phase I Construction includes the main park infrastructure, three fields in the Soccer Complex, three fields in the Softball/Baseball Complex, three fields in the Little League Complex, eight courts in the Tennis Complex, Community Center Complex consisting of one gym and a 15,000 sq. ft. building, Senior Center Complex consisting of a 10,000 sq. ft. building and the Maintenance Area consisting of a 3,200 sq. ft. building. The total cost of Phase I, as revised, with contingency, would be approximately \$9.5 million. A CDBG grant application has been submitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs to assist with the costs of the Senior Center Building.

This item will be placed on the April 6, 2004, agenda for further discussion and approval consideration.

**Jail Expansion and the E.O.C./E-911 Center:** Alan Theriault, Administrative Officer, presented a proposal from Precision Planning, Inc., for engineering services to include Task 1-Field Topographic Survey, Task 2-Assess Existing Facility and Site, Task 3-Draft Concept Plan, and Task 4-Final Concept Plan. Total Project Fee for these services is \$16,850.00. By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for April 6, 2004.

**Drought Contingency Plan-2004:** Dr. Jim Kundell, Chairman of the Oconee County Drought Contingency Plan Committee, presented the 2004 Drought Contingency Plan for the Oconee County Utility Department to the Board for approval. Mildred Bell, committee member, was present for the presentation. Other committee members include Sonia Adsit, Donald Doster, John Glisson, Mack Guest, Henry Hibbs, Chris McClintock, Charles Osborne and Bill Ross. By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for April 6, 2004.

Oconee County Commission Chairman Melvin Davis presented Certificates of Appreciation to Dr. Jim Kundell and Mildred Bell for their work on the Drought Contingency Plan Committee. Certificates of Appreciation will be given to the other committee members by Gary Dodd, staff liaison to the committee.

**Georgia Bioscience Joint Development Authority:** Alan Theriault, Administrative Officer, presented to the Board three individuals as appointments to represent Oconee County on the Georgia Bioscience Joint Development Authority. Those individuals are Amrey Harden, Chairman of the Oconee Industrial Development Authority, for a three-year term; Russell Lee, Past President of the Oconee County Chamber of Commerce, for a two-year term; and Commissioner Don Norris, as the Chairman's designee, for a four-year term. By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for April 6, 2004.

**Orkin Tract Development Project-Phase I:** Alan Theriault, Administrative Officer, presented a request to the Board for approval of an expenditure of \$12,500 as Oconee County's 50% share of Phase I costs of developing an Intergovernmental Agreement with Athens-Clarke County for service delivery for the Orkin Tract. Total of \$25,000 each was previously approved by the Oconee County Board of Commissioners and Athens-Clarke County toward the project. Another phase will follow. By consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for April 6, 2004.

**Cable Franchise Audit:** Alan Theriault, Administrative Officer, presented a proposal from Telecommunications Consulting Associates (TCA) to provide services to Oconee County to include review of Oconee County's Cable Franchise Ordinance; review transfer/assignment documents; review existing franchise agreements/correspondence and conduct a non-compliance audit and franchise fee audit with regards to Charter, Adelphia and Galaxy Cable Companies. Cost of the services to be performed will not exceed \$3,000. By consensus, this item was placed on the Consent Agenda for April 6, 2004.

**Street Light Tax District – Willowynd Subdivision:** On motion by Commissioner Norris and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board unanimously approved the creation of Street Light Tax District No. C-4L-L1 for Willowynd Subdivision. ***See Documentation in Ordinances and Resolutions Book No. 13.***

**Rocky Branch L.A.S. Site-Hay Harvesting:** Gary Dodd, Director, Utility Department, reported no bids were received and this item may be re-advertised for bid.

**Bob Godfrey Road & Barber Creek Road-E.R. Snell Change Order:** Dan Wilson, Assistant County Engineer, presented to the Board a Change Order from E.R. Snell Contractors for LARP road repairs prior to resurfacing. The cost increase to the contract will be \$172,366.36. By consensus, this item was placed on the Consent Agenda for April 6, 2004.

**Simonton Bridge Road-Bridge Painting:** Dan Wilson, Assistant County Engineer, presented to the Board the results of the sealed bids received for painting the bridge on Simonton Bridge Road over the Middle Oconee River. Mr. Wilson recommended that the bid be awarded to the lower bid of \$110,966 from Industrial Painting Services, Buford, Georgia. By consensus, this item was placed on the Consent Agenda for April 6, 2004.

**April 6, 2004, Agenda:** The agenda for the April 6, 2004, meeting was reviewed.

**Citizen Remarks:** Mr. Russ Page thanked Alan Theriault, Administrative Officer, for presenting a proposal to have Telecommunications Consulting Associates conduct a cable franchise audit. Mr. Page commented that possibly funds from the cable companies could be used to televise the Board of Commissioners' meetings.

**Executive Session:** On motion by Commissioner Wilkes and second by Commissioner Hale, the Board adjourned into Executive Session to discuss real estate, personnel and litigation matters. No action was taken.

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

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

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Deputy Clerk

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Chairman

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Date