

OTCVB Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 9, 2021 | 5:30 pm
Oconee State Bank Operations Center

In attendance: Dean Bright, Candice Meeler, Deesha Hagwood, Jeff Hood, Sarah Cumuze, and Casey Deming

Absentees: Stephanie VanDyck

Staff: Kristy Curtis, Joann Hubert

Guests: NA

Casey Deming called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Deesha Hagwood moved to approve the January meeting minutes, Dean Bright seconded – none opposed.

1. Financial Update – Candice Meeler reported no concerns with the current financials and reported that current year income and expenses are in-line with projections. Candice said a request for the final \$15,000 draw against the Hotel/Motel tax during the current fiscal year has been submitted. No big expenses in the final quarter of the current fiscal year (April thru June) is expected. Kristy that she anticipates us being billed by Explore Georgia in July for services provided. Kristy said we are starting to sell out of merchandise, specifically hats, shirts and candles. It was also reported that funds from the Hotel/Motel tax is “starting to pick up.” Candice did add that next year’s budget will be similar to this year’s budget.

Sarah Cumuze moved to approve the financial report; Jeff Hood seconded – none opposed.

2. Directors Report

Kristy provided everyone in attendance a copy of the new Oconee County Visitor’s Guide. Kristy said she and Joann recently shipped copies of the new guide to all visitor centers on the Interstates throughout Georgia. The guide will also be available at the Welcome Center in downtown Watkinsville.

Kristy announced that she and Joann had created two banners promoting the Visit Oconee County website and erected them on fences at Oconee Middle School and Oconee Veterans Park.

Kristy said the county wants our board to consider putting together a committee to come up with a plan on the future of the historical school building located on the south side of the county on Highway 441 at Heritage Park. This topic was discussed for about 10 minutes but it was decided to continue the conversation at our next meeting.

Kristy said renovation work on the Eagle Tavern has not yet started.

There was discussion about artwork in the form of a mural to go on the new water tower on the Highway 441 bypass. This conversation will also continue at a future meeting.

Kristy reported a possible need for us to look for new office for the Welcome Center in the near future space due to space limitation and a rodent issue in the building.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday May 11th at 5:30 p.m. at the historic schoolhouse at Heritage Park.

Candice Meeler moved to adjourn; Deesha Hagwood seconded – none opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.