

**Board of Commissioners Agenda Meeting
Courthouse Commission Chambers
June 29, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.
Minutes**

Members Present:

Chairman John Daniell
Commissioner Mark Thomas
Commissioner Amrey Harden
Commissioner Mark Saxon

Elected Officials Present:

Judge Mike Hunsinger, Probate Court

Staff Present:

Daniel Haygood, County Attorney
Justin Kirouac, County Administrator
Holly Stephenson, County Clerk
Wes Geddings, Finance Director
Jody Woodall, Public Works Director
Diane Baggett, Communications Manager
Alex Newell, Internal Services Director
Tracye Bailey, Deputy County Clerk

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

Chairman John Daniell called the meeting to order and stated that participants using Zoom may comment by using the raised-hand feature.

Pledge of Allegiance:

County Administrator Justin Kirouac led the Pledge after a moment of silence.

Motion to Amend the Agenda:

ACTION:	Chairman Daniell asked the agenda be amended to add discussion of the proposed Purdue bankruptcy plan as Item 6.6 on the agenda.
Motion:	Mark Thomas made the motion to amend the agenda adding Item 6.6.
Second:	Amrey Harden
Voted in Favor of Motion:	Mark Thomas, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion:	None
Final Action:	Motion Passed.

Statements and Remarks from Citizens:

None.

Statements and Remarks from Commissioners:

Chairman Daniell reminded citizens that Government offices will be closed Monday July 5th in observance of Independence Day.

Public hearings for millage rate will be held July 6th at 6pm, July 27th at 6pm and August 3rd at 5:30pm at the Courthouse, with the adoption of the 2021 millage rate to follow at the August 3rd board meeting at 6pm. The judicial order mandating masks in the Government building will expire June 30th at midnight. Please do not come to the building if you are sick or running a fever. All advisory committee meetings will be in person. Virtual attendance still available for citizens.

Discussion of FY21 Merit Adjustment:

Presented by: Chairman John Daniell

Discussion: The goal is to be able to reward top performing employees with a merit increase. Thanks to County Administrator Justin Kirouac a good rating system for employee performance is now in place. Chairman Daniell recommends declaring a one-time \$40,000 funding for merit pay, plus taxes and benefits, which would be over and above any annual increase and based completely on the prior year's performance of employees. Based on the rating system, 14% of the County's workforce achieved the "excels" mark. The \$40,000 plus taxes and benefits would be divided out based on office's number of employees: \$14,902 to the Sheriff's Office, \$1,569 to the Clerk of Court's Office, \$784 to the Probate Office, \$784 to the Tax Commissioner's Office and \$21,961 to the BOC offices to be distributed based on how the director assesses their employees. Funds would come out of the FY21 General Fund with the proposed payout on July 9th. Justin Kirouac thanked the Commissioners and Constitutional Officers for their support on this item.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agent at the July 6, 2021 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Chairman Daniell asked if there were "raised hands" via Zoom and there were none.

Court Collections Services Agreement – i3 Verticals and Oconee County Probate Court:

Presented by: Judge Mike Hunsinger, Probate Court

Discussion: Probate Court is requesting to enter into an agreement with current vendor, i3 Verticals, to add a collection service in addition to their services already utilized by Probate Court. Probate has not done collections for unpaid fines since 2006, with currently 328 overdue tickets on file and an additional 20 unpaid tickets per month. With this service, i3 would handle all fines from the onset and all fees would come out of what is collected so the service would pay for itself.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agent at the July 6, 2021 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Chairman Daniell asked if there were "raised hands" via Zoom and there were none.

FY22 Family Connection Contract for FY22:

Presented by: Wes Geddings, Finance Director

Discussion: Wes Geddings, Finance Director, requests a signed renewal of the FY22 Family Connection Contract to continue support for families and children of Oconee County through the Oconee Area Resource Council (OARC). The contract will remain at \$50,000 with State funding approved at \$48,000.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agent at the July 6, 2021 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Chairman Daniell asked if there were "raised hands" via Zoom and there were none.

FY22 Public Defender Indigent Defense Services Contract:

Presented by: Wes Geddings, Finance Director

Discussion: The Contract for Indigent Defense under Public Defender John Donnelly is a yearlong contract that is up for renewal effective July 1st. Oconee County's portion will be \$193,979 for the July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 term of contract. The joint agreement has already been ratified by Athens-Clarke County.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agent at the July 6, 2021 Regular Meeting.

*The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.
Chairman Daniell asked if there were "raised hands" via Zoom and there were none.*

GDOT LAP Certification and Title VI Non-discrimination Agreement:

Presented by: Jody Woodall, Public Works Director
Discussion: As part of the GDOT LAP Certification, request for the annual renewal of the Title VI Non-discrimination Agreement which is required to manage certain aspects of GDOT projects.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agent at the July 6, 2021 Regular Meeting.

*The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.
Chairman Daniell asked if there were "raised hands" via Zoom and there were none.*

Right-Of-Way Deed for 1300 Hodges Mill Road:

Presented by: Daniel Haygood, County Attorney
Discussion: At some point decades ago, an error was made by surveyors at the intersection of Hodges Mill Road and Malcom Bridge Road to include a portion of the house in the right of way. The house actually pre-dates the right of way zoning due to its age. Request for approval for the Chairman to sign the survey showing the corrected right of way line at this intersection for property owned by James Hunter.

*The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.
Chairman Daniell asked if there were "raised hands" via Zoom and there were none.*

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Saxon made the motion to approve the Right of Way Deed for James Hunter.
Second: Amrey Harden
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

FY22 ACCG-IRMA Property and Liability Insurance Renewal:

Presented by: Holly Stephenson, County Clerk
Discussion: Request for approval for the Property and Liability Insurance proposal with ACCG-IRMA (Association County Commissioners of Georgia – Interlocal Risk Management Agency) in the amount of \$290,462.00 less credits of \$14,523 (safety credit) and \$34,101 (dividend credit) for a total due of \$241,838.00.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agent at the July 6, 2021 Regular Meeting.

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Chairman Daniell asked if there were "raised hands" via Zoom and there were none.*

Alcohol License Application – Cracker Barrel:

Presented by: Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

Discussion: The Cracker Barrel Corporation has made the application for the sale of beer and wine. The registered agent, Mr. James Barber, has completed RASS Training. The Cracker Barrel is located at 1913 Epps Bridge Parkway. The application is complete.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agent at the July 6, 2021 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Chairman Daniell asked if there were “raised hands” via Zoom and there were none.

Speed Zone Ordinance Discussion:

Presented by: Jody Woodall, Public Works Director

Discussion: Discussion of current Speed Zone Ordinance in response to requests for lowering speed limits on certain county roads. Using mobile radar signs, GDOT tracks results and analyzes data to recommend speed limits for roads. The County ordinance is approved for a 3-year cycle and expires December 2022. Mr. Woodall recommends continued study and submission of any modification requests with the next renewal prior to December 2022. GDOT would need to approve a permit change which could affect all county roads; any change in ordinance would change signage. Roads currently studied include: Choyce Johnson, Lavista, New High Shoals, Oliver Bridge, Union Church and Whippoorwill Roads with speed limits ranging from 30mph to 55mph currently. Lowering the speed limits now would affect the ability of the Sheriff's Office to enforce speed limit on all County roads. Commissioner Harden recommended reviewing the school zone ordinance for Union Church Road to see if it may affect speed limit.

Update of Off System Safety Grant:

Presented by: Jody Woodall, Public Works

Discussion: GDOT has off system grant money available for use to fund improvements on county-maintained roads. Simonton Bridge and Rocky Branch Roads were submitted for shoulder widening, approved, and construction should start in September-October. GDOT will cover all expenses except for moving signs and mailboxes, which the county will handle as needed. If the Board approves funding, resurfacing these roads after the shoulder widening will be considered in future paving programming.

Discussion of TSPLOST Referendum:

Presented by: Chairman John Daniell

Discussion: A TSPLOST referendum of \$56,000,000 is proposed, with a budgeted 79-80% collection rate. The numbers are slightly lower than SPLOST because gasoline is not taxed. Breaking down the percentages based on population: Bishop would receive .68%, Bogart 2.72%, North High Shoals 1.98%, and Watkinsville 8.63%. These percentages are the same as for SPLOST. The cities are bound by the same spending laws as the County. The remaining \$48,154,400 for Oconee County would be spent for related services, multi-use paths, safety/intersections and the largest portion to paving

A July 1st meeting is scheduled with the mayors; the election would be on November 2nd; and 5-year collections would begin in April 2022.

Discussion of Purdue Pharma 5th Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization:

Presented by: Daniel Haygood, County Attorney

Discussion: Oconee County is a small part of the multi-district opioid litigation for Purdue Pharma bankruptcy to receive funds from reorganization. Mr. Haygood asks for approval to vote in favor of this new plan at the recommendation of the attorneys working with the counties and the State to implement this plan.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agent at the July 6, 2021 Regular Meeting.

*The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.
Chairman Daniell asked if there were "raised hands" via Zoom and there were none.*

Executive Session:

Motion: Mark Thomas motioned to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters, land acquisition and potential litigation.
Second: Mark Saxon
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**
Adjourn into Executive Session: 6:53 p.m.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

Executive Session Adjourned: 7:42 p.m.

Regular Session:

Motion: Mark Thomas motioned to adjourn back into Regular Session.
Second: Mark Saxon
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**
Adjourned into Regular Session: 7:43 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned:

Motion: Mark Saxon motioned to adjourn the meeting.
Second: Mark Thomas
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**
Meeting Adjourned: 7:43 p.m.



John Daniell, Chairman

7-8-21
Date



Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

7-8-21
Date