

**Board of Commissioners Agenda Meeting
Courthouse Commission Chambers
July 27, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.
Minutes**

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Daniel Haygood, County Attorney
Justin Kirouac, County Administrator
Holly Stephenson, County Clerk
Jody Woodall, Public Works Director
Merry Howard, Senior Services Director
Diane Baggett, Communications Manager
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:

Commissioner Mark Thomas led the Pledge after a moment of silence.

Motion to Amend the Agenda:

ACTION: Chairman Daniell asked the agenda be amended to add a discussion of Right of Way Abandonment for the Jennings Mill Extension as Item 5.5 on the agenda.

Motion: Mark Thomas motioned to amend the agenda.
Second: Chuck Horton
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**

Statements and Remarks from Citizens:

None.

Statements and Remarks from Commissioners:

Chairman Daniell announced a bond rating upgrade from AA2 to AA1, which reflects the fiscal stability and positive financial outlook for Oconee County. This is the second highest rating on the scale, and Oconee County is one of the smallest counties to receive the AA1 rating.
Chairman Daniell also congratulated the Coroner's office for receiving an accreditation after an audit from the Internal Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners recognizing them for high level service, timely and accurate death investigation and training. A grant paid for this accreditation process, so there was no cost to local tax payers.

Alcohol License Application – Oyishi:

Presented by: Holly Stephenson, County Clerk
Discussion: Oyishi has made the application for the sale of beer and wine. The registered agent, Yan J. Chen (Angela), has completed RASS Training. Oyishi is located at 2061 Experiment Station Road. The application is complete.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agent at the August 3, 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.*

Discussion of GDOT – Mars Hill Road Termination of Contract for Maintenance:

Presented by: John Daniell, Chairman
Discussion: The county has received the expected GDOT letter advising that Mars Hill Road has been turned back over to the county for maintenance. The previous contractor does have a few items to complete, but the road is back under county control.

Discussion of TSPLOST:

Presented by: John Daniell, Chairman

Discussion: The mayors of all cities in the county have an interest to continue to participate in TSPLOST. The additional sales tax dollars will pay for allowable expenses that are coming from the general fund now which would allow a millage rollback. If passed, the county's share will be approximately \$37-38 million to be used for planning, safety improvements, intersection improvements, and the majority of over \$20 million for paving projects. More details will be provided at next week's meeting where it will be presented to the Board for a vote.

Discussion of Bond Resolution - Georgia General Obligation Bonds, Series 21.:

Presented by: Justin Kirouac, County Administrator

Discussion: Request for a series of bonds to be sold to allow the front loading of \$12.5 million for the administrative building to be paid by the 2021 SPLOST and future SPLOST. This process is what resulted in the bond rating upgrade to AA1. Oconee County is the smallest county by both area and population to receive this high bond rating. Daniel Haygood, County Attorney, advised these bonds have already been validated as required.

Discussion of RFP #21-05-019 Waste Hauling Services:

Presented by: Jody Woodall, Public Works Director

Discussion: Request for approval of the renewal of a 5-year contract for waste hauling and recycling sanitation collection and disposal after a re-bid was completed. The county allowed for bids in three different areas: all services, just recycling collection, or just solid waste collection. Three vendors submitted bids. There were no bids for a contractor overseeing all services. Based on bids received, recommendation is for services to be split using Republic for recycling collection and disposal and Waste Management (formerly Advanced Disposal) for solid waste collection and disposal. This will be effective as soon as approved by the board.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agent at the August 3, 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.

Discussion of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission FY22 Aging Services Contract:

Presented by: Merry Howard, Senior Center Director

Discussion: Requesting the renewal of a funding contract with Northeast Georgia Regional Commission to provide an array of services under the provisions of the Older Americans Act of 1965 and the remaining federal emergency congregate meal funding from FY21. The contract period is for July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. The only difference this year is some emergency funding carried over due to Covid through federal grants.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agent at the August 3, 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.

Discussion of the FY22 Senior Center Coordinated Transportation Agreement with Northeast Georgia Regional Commission:

Presented by: Merry Howard, Senior Center Director

Discussion: Request for renewal of the FY22 Transportation Services Contract with the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission. Contract period is July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agent at the August 3, 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.

Discussion of Contract Modification with C.W. Matthews for FY21 Resurfacing:

Presented by: Jody Woodall, Public Works Director

Discussion: Request for contract modification for FY21 resurfacing contract with C.W. Matthews which is necessary to repair/repave sections of Union Church Road and Price Mill, and extending the overlay on Hog Mountain Road. This will allow for additional resurfacing while the contractor is working at the location to aid in future resurfacing plans. The additional cost of \$149,677.96 over previous approval is already in the budget and will be moved from one line item to another.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agent at the August 3, 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.

Discussion of Jennings Mill Extension Right of Way Abandonment:

Presented by: Daniel Haygood, County Attorney
Discussion: Request for a right of way abandonment on Jennings Mill Extension so business owner Tim Burgess can put in a new right of way as part of his development. Resolution would say that the abandonment will only be effective upon dedication on new right of way, which is in best public interest of the county. The only adjoining owner is Mr. Burgess and his LLC.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agent at the August 3, 2021 Regular Meeting.

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Meeting Adjourned:

Motion: Mark Saxon motioned to adjourn the meeting.
Second: Amrey Harden
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**
Meeting Adjourned: 6:22 p.m.

John Daniell, Chairman

Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

Date