

**Board of Commissioners Agenda Meeting
Courthouse Commission Chambers
October 26, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.
Minutes**

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Daniel Haygood, County Attorney
Justin Kirouac, County Administrator
Holly Stephenson, County Clerk
Wes Geddings, Finance Director
Adam Layfield, Water Resources Engineer
Merry Howard, Senior Center Director
Diane Baggett, Communications Manager
Tracye Bailey, Deputy Clerk
Paula Nedza, IT Director

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.

Approval of Agenda:

ACTION:

Motion:	Mark Saxon motioned to approve the October 26, 2021 Agenda.
Second:	Amrey Harden
Voted in Favor of Motion:	Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion:	None
Final Action:	Motion Passed.

Statements and Remarks from Citizens:

No public comment.

Statements and Remarks from Commissioners:

Chairman Daniell reminded citizens that November 2 is the county wide election for TSPOST, and early voting continues through the end of this week.

Chairman Daniell congratulated the Oconee County Water Resources Department for earning the 2021 Georgia Association of Water Professionals Gold Collection System Excellence Award and Gold Distribution System Excellence Award.

The next Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2021.

Discussion of the Amendment to the CARES Act Contract with the NEGA Regional Commission for the Senior Center:

Presented by: Merry Howard, Senior Center Director

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Discussion: The CARES Act funding is an additional funding for nutrition services through the senior center. NEGRC requests an amendment to the original contract of \$38,612.16 for emergency home delivered congregant meals and home delivered meals, extending the expiration date to September 30, 2022.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agent at the November 2, 2021 Regular Meeting.

Discussion of the Amendment to the FFCRA Contract with the NEGA Regional Commission for the Senior Center:

Presented by: Merry Howard, Senior Center Director

Discussion: The FFCRA Contract provides additional funding for nutrition service programs which are all federal funded contracts and require no additional funding from the county. NEGRC requests an amendment to the original contract for home delivered congregant meals and home delivered meals to extend the expiration date to September 30, 2022.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agent at the November 2, 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.*

Budget Amendment for the Issuance of FY21 Financial Statements:

Presented by: Wes Geddings, Finance Director

Discussion: Wes Geddings, Finance Director, requests authorization of year end budget amendments to amend and revise the FY21 budget for the issuance of FY21 financial statements. State law requires a balanced budget, and this will allow preparation of the final statements for the state audit.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agent at the November 2, 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.*

Farmland Preservation Committee Recommendation:

Presented by: Thomas Verner, Farmland Preservation Committee Chairman

Discussion: The Farmland Preservation Committee recommends the Steve and Paula Nedza Farm on Colham Ferry Road for the conservation easement. This farm met all the USDA requirements, and this is the only farm recommended. This farm will move on to compete at the state level against other farms in Georgia. SPLOST 2021 funds are used to fund the conversation easement in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 and funded in FY24.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agent at the November 2, 2021 Regular Meeting.

*The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.
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Discussion of Potential Broadband Agreement:

Presented by: Justin Kirouac, County Administrator

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Discussion: Justin Kirouac, County Administrator, provided an update on broadband after termination of the previous contract. Having interviewed several providers and reviewing a grant opportunity, recommendation is for a direct contract with Charter for broadband coverage throughout the county. A county map was presented showing areas where there is little to no broadband coverage and opportunity areas where Charter has already received a grant to provide coverage. The project will require \$1.37 million from Oconee County and include 1377 unserved addresses. Charter will create a portal where citizens requesting service can be identified. Charter has been active in the county recently, particularly in the Lane Creek subdivision. Grant funds are now becoming available throughout the state and country for broadband, so the contract should be finalized this week to take advantage of the timing opportunity to get project moving. Additional funding will come from ARP funds. Catherine Fleming with Charter advised they will begin with a 90-day field walk out study to identify residences with no service, provide 250 miles of fiber across the county, and service 2131 locations. The goal is to serve the residents who don't have coverage now. Commissioner Saxon questioned the colors on the map for locations of where service exists and does not. Charter stressed that all will be verified in the field. Approximately 60% of lines will be above ground and 40% underground. Commissioner Harden asked questions about Charter's percentage of service, offices and other direct agreement projects completed.

Discuss New Edition of the Oconee County Water and Wastewater Standards and Specifications:

Presented by: Adam Layfield, Water Resources Engineer

Discussion: In April, a summary of proposed changes for updating the Water and Wastewater Standards was presented to the Board. Since April, feedback was requested from contractors and consultants with none given and no changes to be made. Request for approval of the new Specifications Book which will ensure high quality water and wastewater infrastructure installation in Oconee that meets current industry standards. The last adoption of the Water and Wastewater Standards and Specifications was in 2011.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agent at the November 2, 2021 Regular Meeting.

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

Discussion of Wastewater Grant Application:

Presented by: Justin Kirouac, County Administrator

Discussion: A grant application will be submitted this week to assist with funding of four major objectives:

- 1 - Upgrading Calls Creek facility from 1.5 mgd to 3.0 mgd to increase capacity
Cost: \$13,857,000 plant upgrade with 50% state level grant funding and 50% local funding
- 2 - Decommission the LAS (land application system) to transform the land to a park
Cost: \$250,000 with 100% local funding
- 3 - Development of a Greywater Reuse System for park irrigation
Cost: \$5,720,000 with 75% state grant funding and 25% local funding
- 4 - Biosolid composting program to limit use of landfills
Cost: \$10,000,000 with 100% state level grant funding

Local funding would come from capacity fees, ARP funds, 2015 SPLOST funds and 2021 SPLOST funds. No funds would need to be borrowed. The project would be beneficial for many generations. The submission deadline is October 31, 2021.

*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.*

Meeting Adjourned:

Motion:

Second:

Voted in Favor of Motion:

Voted Against Motion:

Action/Motion:

Meeting Adjourned:

Mark Saxon motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Amrey Harden

Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon

None

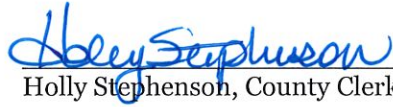
Motion Passed.

6:45 p.m.



John Daniell, Chairman

11-2-21
Date



Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

11-2-21
Date