

**Board of Commissioners Agenda Meeting
Courthouse Commission Chambers
March 29, 2022 – 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
Melissa Braswell, Finance Director
Donna Norton, Finance Accountant
Alex Newell, Internal Services Director
Diane Baggett, Communications Manager
Tim Durham, Water Resources Director
Adam Layfield, Water Resources Engineer

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.

Approval of Agenda:

ACTION:

Motion:	Chuck Horton made a motion to approve the March 29, 2022 Agenda.
Second:	Mark Thomas
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:

None.

Statements and Remarks from Commissioners:

Chairman Daniell reminded citizens of the first quarter Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, March 31 at the Oconee County Civic Center. This gives the citizens an opportunity to meet with the Commissioners in person or via Zoom to voice comments, questions or concerns.

Discussion of the Acceptance of the Sanitary Sewer Easements, Assignment of Easements, and Right-of-Way deeds to Oconee County:

Presented by: Holly Stephenson, County Clerk
Discussion: County Clerk Holly Stephenson presented the Easements and Right-of-Way Deeds for acceptance by the Board.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the April 5, 2022 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 Caterpillar Tax Refund Settlement:

Presented by: Daniel Haygood, County Attorney
Discussion: Daniel Haygood, County Attorney, explained Caterpillar has been returning undue taxes for approximately ten years. State Law will only allow three years of recovery which is approximately \$1,080,000. Oconee’s share is \$614,689.21. The recommendation is for approval to pay the reimbursement in December.
Commissioner Harden confirmed the payment would be made at one time. Also, the school board is aware and their portion will come out of what Tax Commissioner Riddle collects.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the April 5, 2022 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 Calls Creek Plan Upgrade to 3 MGD Phase 1:

Presented by: Tim Durham, Water Resources Director
Discussion: Tim Durham, Water Resources Director, recommends awarding the Calls Creek Plan Upgrade to 3 MGD Phase 1 to Crowder Construction for a Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$6,519,241. Phase 1 includes: upgrades to the influent pump system, new RAS pumps, new NRCY pumps, blowers, new filtration system and disinfection system, and a new Solids Dewatering Screw Press.
Commissioner Harden questioned the time line on the Phase 1 upgrade which is which is approximately 18 months.
Water Resources Engineer Adam Layfield explained the route for Phase 2 which will require acquiring some easements.
Commissioner Thomas questioned using the state rights-of-way on Highway 441.
County Administrator Justin Kirouac recommends moving this discussion and vote to the May meeting to give time for further conversations with Crowder and not affect pricing.

Update on the Administrative Building:

Presented by: Justin Kirouac, County Administrator
Discussion: County Administrator Justin Kirouac gave an update on the Administrative Building construction. Guaranteed maximum pricing should be available by the April Agenda Setting Meeting. The anticipated ground breaking will be June 6. Mathias is currently working on procuring subcontractors and materials. Civil documents have been presented to the state for review for erosion control and to the county for land disturbance. A revised contract has been sent to GDOT on the round-a-bout. The proposal is for a 44,000 square foot building with a facilities shop.
Commissioner Harden asked about the timeline for a proposed ribbon cutting and the plan for remodeling the current courthouse. There is an anticipated twelve month build with a June 2023 ribbon cutting. Remodeling of the current courthouse would be considered the following year.

Update on the Upper Oconee Water Basin Authority Plan Expansion:

Presented by: John Daniell, Chairman
Discussion: Chairman John Daniell gave an update on the Upper Oconee Water Basin Authority Plan Expansion. Oconee is currently in a treatment plant with Barrow and Jackson Counties

considering a plan to almost double capacity. The Treatment Plant Expansion Committee will be meeting in the next few months to select a contractor and obtain pricing.

Update on the Cole Springs Road Closure:

Presented by: Chairman John Daniell

Discussion: Chairman John Daniell recommends a permanent closure of Cole Springs Road from Highway 53 to Snows Mill Road. He noted six crashes and five injury dispatches in the twelve months prior to closure; four accidents and one injury dispatch in twelve months after closure. Additionally, the intersection has a very unfavorable skew. A round-a-bout will be designed for Snows Mill and Highway 53 to handle additional traffic. Chairman Daniell suggests a 30-day comment period to include a comment form on the county website for citizen remarks prior to another discussion on May 3, 2022.

Commissioner Harden confirmed comments would be seen as they come in.

Executive Session:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss personnel and real estate.

Second: Mark Thomas

Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon

Voted Against Motion: None

Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**

Adjourn into Executive Session: 6:19 p.m.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

Executive Session Adjourned: 6:28p.m.

Regular Session:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to adjourn back into Regular Session.

Second: Mark Thomas

Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon

Voted Against Motion: None

Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**

Adjourned into Regular Session: 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion 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: 6:30 p.m.

John Daniell, Chairman

Date

Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

Date