

**Board of Commissioners Agenda Meeting
Courthouse Commission Chambers
August 30, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.
Minutes**

Members Present:

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

Elected Officials Present:

Judge Mike Hunsinger, Probate Court

Staff Present:

Daniel Haygood, County Attorney
Justin Kirouac, County Administrator
Alex Newell, Internal Services Director
Holly Stephenson, County Clerk
Guy Herring, Planning and Code Enforcement Director
Melissa Braswell, Finance Director
Diane Baggett, Communications Manager
Bruce Thaxton, Fire Chief
Jody Woodall, Public Works Director
Tim Durham, Water Resources Director
Jill Faulkner, Human Resources Director
Beth Armstrong, Human Resources Generalist
Tracye Bailey, Deputy Clerk
Jennifer Stone, Elections Assistant Director

Call to Order:

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 Chuck Horton led the Pledge after a moment of silence.

Approval of Agenda:

Chairman John Daniell requested an addition to the agenda under Section 6, Item 3: Hard Labor Creek Update.

ACTION:

Motion:	Amrey Harden made a motion to approve the August 30, 2022 Agenda with the addition of the Hard Labor Creek Update.
Second:	Chuck Horton
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 that the last day to complete the online survey will be Thursday, September 1 to help identify issues that should be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan update. Chairman Daniell also announced the new appointments coming up for Citizens Advisory Boards: Chair of the Board of Elections and Registration and a position on the Tourism and Visitors Bureau. Deadline for applications is Friday, September 9th at noon. Applications are available on the county website.

First Reading of the Proposed Property Maintenance Code:

Presented by: Guy Herring, Planning and Code Enforcement Director
Discussion: The proposed changes to the Property Maintenance Code, Section 38-13 of the Oconee County Code of Ordinances would require that the exterior of all nonresidential developments and major subdivisions be maintained in a clean, safe, secure and sanitary condition. Some minor typing errors will be corrected.
Commissioner Harden questioned the definition of a major subdivision which is defined in the UDC as over five lots. He clarified this would not apply to an individual residence not in a subdivision. Questions arose as to time frame on burned down structures which will be discussed with the County Attorney.

*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 Resolution for the Reduction of the Ad Valorem Millage Rate upon Passage of a One Percent TSPLOST:

Presented by: John Daniell, Chairman
Discussion: A one percent TSPLOST sales tax will be placed on the November ballot. If approved, the Commission has agreed to reduce the millage rate by one mill. County Attorney Daniel Haygood drafted a Resolution to confirm this property tax relief. Chairman Daniell read the Resolution which will be voted on at the September 13, 2022 meeting.

Court Collections Services Agreement – 13 Verticals and Oconee County Probate Court:

Presented by: Judge Mike Hunsinger, Probate Court
Discussion: Probate Court is requesting to renew an agreement made last year with current vendor, 13 Verticals, for collection services for unpaid fines. The average monthly collection for last year was approximately \$3,000 per month. The Probate Court requests to use this service for at least another year.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the September 13, 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 GDOT Title VI Non-Discrimination Agreement:

Presented by: Jody Woodall, Public Works Director
Discussion: Public Works recommends approving and executing the annual renewal of the GDOT Title VI Non-Discrimination Agreement which is required by GDOT annually.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the September 13, 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.*

Discuss the Water Resource On Demand Services Contract:

Presented by: Tim Durham, Water Resources Director

Discussion: Water Resources recommends amending the On Demand services contract with Po Boys Plumbing to upgrade the Daniels Bridge force main from six-inch to ten-inch in the amount of \$963,495. The request includes all necessary budget amendments up to the contract amount for the life of the project.

County Administrator Justin Kirouac also requests approval of pipe procurement where three quotes were obtaining, but not sealed bids due to the difficulty in obtaining pipe and price volatility in the current market.

Commissioner Harden confirmed the pipe price of \$193,536 is in addition to the \$963,495 for the contract amendment.

Commissioner Thomas questioned whether twelve-inch pipe was considered. Tim Durham responded that it was substantially more expensive than ten-inch pipe.

On consensus, the On Demand Contract with Po Boys will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the September 13, 2022 Regular Meeting.

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

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Thomas made a motion to approve the purchase of the pipe for \$193,536.

Second: Chuck Horton

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

Voted Against Motion: None

Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

Discuss Updating the Existing Water Lease to an Additional 1.5 MGD with Barrow

County:

Presented by: Tim Durham, Water Resources Director

Discussion: Oconee County currently has a 4 million gallon per day (MGD) allotment of finished water through the Bear Creek project. The current IGA with Barrow County leases the county an additional 0.5 MGD. Due to increased usage during summer dry periods, Water Resources is requesting a new IGA for an additional 1.0 MGD for a total of 1.5 MGD with a yearly lease amount of \$238,064.25 to be made in monthly installments of \$19,838.68.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the September 13, 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.*

Discuss GDOT Agreements for Roundabout Lighting Assistance for the SR 53 and Snows Mill/Rocky Branch Road and SR 53 and Rays Church/Malcom Bridge Road:

Presented by: Jody Woodall, Public Works Director

Discussion: Public Works recommends approving and executing the GDOT lighting agreements for the two roundabouts currently under design at SR 53 at the Snows Mill/Rocky Branch intersection and the Rays Church/Malcom Bridge intersection, including authorizing the Chairman to execute the necessary documents. The county will pay for the monthly maintenance of the lights with the monthly power bill.

Commissioner Harden asked the status of the two roundabouts. Both are moving toward Right of Way approval with Rays Church on schedule for authorization around year end, and Snows Mill a little behind that.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agent at the September 13, 2022 Regular Meeting.

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

Discuss Automatic Aid Agreements for Additional Fire Protection in Southern Oconee County:

Presented by: Bruce Thaxton, Fire Chief

Discussion: Oconee County Fire Department has two types of agreements with other counties: mutual aid and automatic aid. Mutual aid agreements are with all surrounding counties who Oconee County calls when assistance is needed. Automatic aid allows other counties to respond at the same time a call comes in with Oconee County. The automatic aid agreement with Greene County is to protect the Southern end of Oconee County and will include the fire departments of City of Greensboro, Greshamville, and Greene County Fire Rescue. Commissioner Horton confirmed coverage is in place until this agreement is signed.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the September 13, 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.*

Discuss Budget Amendment for Body Worn Cameras for the Jail:

Presented by: Melissa Braswell, Finance Director

Discussion: Finance Director Melissa Braswell requests approval of a \$48,345 budget amendment for body worn cameras and axillary equipment for the jail. Excess revenue from budgeted prisoner housing fees are anticipated to cover this amendment.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the September 13, 2022 Regular Meeting.

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

Discuss the Acceptance of Westland Deed of Conservation Easement:

Presented by: County Attorney Daniel Haygood

Discussion: County Attorney Daniel Haygood recommends approval by the Board for the required conservation easement for Westland Subdivision.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the September 13, 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 Calls Creek Plant Upgrade to 3 MGD Phase II:

Presented by: Tim Durham, Water Resources Director

Discussion: Water Resources requests the award of Phase II to Crowder Construction for the Calls Creek upgrade. A GMP will be provided before consideration at the September 13, 2022 meeting. Water resources recommends construction be funded from capacity fees, SPLOST 2015, and an approved GEFA loan for twenty years at 0.13% interest rate. Commissioner Thomas confirmed the at fault line to the river would be included later in Phase III. Water Resources hopes pipe pricing will come down before bidding out the pipe in a few months. The anticipated timeframe is twenty-four months for Phase III.

Hard Labor Creek Update:

Presented by: Chairman John Daniell

Discussion: Walton County wants to move forward with the treatment plant at the Hard Labor Creek Reservoir as water needs for their county increase. Oconee County currently has three large water projects under consideration: expanding capacity at the Upper Oconee Water Basin Treatment Plant, Calls Creek, and the Hard Labor Creek Treatment Plant. Both Oconee and Walton counties have secured a \$42 million grant to go towards the plant. Oconee's portion was defined at \$20 million. After discussion, Walton has agreed to cover \$8 million of this, with Oconee County's maximum commitment being capped at \$12 million regardless of the cost of the plant. Hard Labor Creek will have a called meeting to discuss the following: RFQ for design services which are currently at 50 percent, proposal for Construction Manager at Risk, source water assessment by EPD, and to ratify Walton County to seek funding for their portion of the project through bonds.

Executive Session:

Motion: Mark Thomas made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition, personnel matters and potential litigation.
Second: Chuck Horton
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden
Voted Against Motion: None
Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**
Adjourn into Executive Session: 6:41 p.m.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

Executive Session Adjourned: 7:13 p.m.

Regular Session:

Motion: Chuck Horton made a motion to adjourn back into Regular Session.
Second: Amrey Harden
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden
Voted Against Motion: None
Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**
Adjourned into Regular Session: 7:15 p.m.

Discuss and Consider a New Elections Director:

Chairman Daniell recommended Sharon Gregg as the new Director of Elections. Sharon brings over fifteen years of elections experience to the position.

ACTION:

Motion: Amrey Harden made a motion to appoint Sharon Gregg as the new Director of Elections of Oconee County.
Second: Chuck Horton
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden

Voted Against Motion:
Final Action:

None
Motion Passed.

Meeting Adjourned:

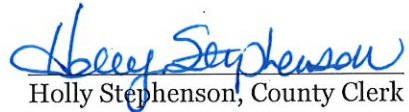
Motion:
Second:
Voted in Favor of Motion:
Voted Against Motion:
Action/Motion:
Meeting Adjourned:

Mark Thomas made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Chuck Horton
Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden
None
Motion Passed.
7:16 p.m.



John Daniell, Chairman

9-13-22
Date



Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

9-13-22
Date