

**Board of Commissioners Agenda Meeting
Courthouse Commission Chambers
May 23, 2023 – 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
Tracye Bailey, Deputy County Clerk
Melissa Braswell, Finance Director
Kari Giddens, Assistant Finance Director
Justin Milligan, IT Director
Diane Baggett, Communications Manager
Lisa Davol, Parks & Recreation Director
Angie Elder-Johnson, Clerk of Court
Judge Eric Norris
Judge Lawton Stephens
Judge Patrick Haggard
Judge Lisa Lott

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

Chairman John Daniell called the FY24 Budget Public Hearing to order and stated that participants using Zoom may comment by using the raised-hand feature.

FY24 Proposed Budget Public Hearing:

Finance Director Melissa Braswell presented the proposed FY24 Budget, stating the Budget supports the mission of Oconee County and is designed to achieve the strategic goals set forth for the county.

The proposed FY24 General Fund Budget is \$38,834,959.00, which is an increase of 2.48% over the FY23 General Fund budget. This increase is attributed to the LOST revenue increases due to revenues and growth, but she does anticipate a decrease in property taxes with the one mill reduction with the passage of TSPLOST.

The proposed General Fund Revenues are \$38,834,959, which equal the proposed FY24 General Fund Expenditures for a balanced General Fund Budget. A breakdown of proposed revenue sources with proposed amounts along with proposed expenditures with proposed amounts was presented. This entire presentation can be found on the county website.

The total proposed budget for FY24 is \$75,018,615 to include SPLOST, capital, special revenue, and enterprise funds. This is a 13.87% decrease from prior year. The descriptions and recommended expenditures for these funds were presented.

The FY24 Budget supports the strategic goals of the county with a commitment to public safety, transportation maintenance & improvements, water and sewer infrastructure plan, and the fleet phase replacement program.

The 2nd Budget Hearing is scheduled for June 6, 2023 at 6pm. A Fee Schedule will be provided to the Board and will also be available on the website. A one-page summary of the FY24 Budget will be available in the Commissioner's Office, Library and posted on the County's website. In addition, her entire presentation will be posted on the website. The final approval of the budget along with uncommitting the remaining fund balance and consideration of the project length budget approvals will be considered on June 6, 2023.

The Public Comment Period was opened.

*There were no comments and no "raised hands" via Zoom.
The Public Hearing was closed.*

Call to Order: 6:19p.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:

Attorney Mike Pruitt led the Pledge after a moment of silence.

Approval of Agenda:

ACTION:

Motion:	Chuck Horton made a motion to approve the May 23, 2023 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 announced Oconee Veterans Memorial will be having a Memorial Day Service on May 29, 2023, at 11:00 am at Oconee Veterans Park. The Board of Commissioners next Town Hall will be June 15, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the Oconee County Civic Center. The main focus will be the FY24 budget. Georgia Department of Transportation will be hosting a Town Hall concerning the Hwy. 316 Corridor changes on Thursday, May 25, 2023, from 4-6 pm, at the Bogart Community Center.

Chief Judge Eric Norris:

Presented by: Chief Judge Eric Norris

Discussion: Judge Eric Norris presented to the Board a recommendation of increased supplemental pay for the judges. Judge Norris also recommended health benefits for Magistrate Judge Rich Connelly. Judge Norris stated that Oconee County was fortunate to have such a high caliber judge in the magistrate position. Judge Connelly is the only part-time magistrate judge in the State of Georgia.

Discuss the Award of the Contract for Athletic Turf Fields Award:

Presented by: Lisa Davol, Parks and Recreation Director

Discussion: Parks and Recreation Director, Lisa Davol, requested approval of an agreement for annual Athletic Turf Maintenance not to exceed \$156,486 from approved budget be awarded to Laserturf SE. Three contractors responded to the RFP and were graded by a review committee. Laserturf SE was the highest rated submittal unanimously.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the June 6, 2023 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 Oconee County 401a Plan Amendment:

Presented by: County Administrator Justin Kirouac

Discussion: County Administrator, Justin Kirouac, presented to the Board for their consideration of matching contributions equal to fifty percent of the first six percent on amount contributed by employees to their 401(a) plan. Commissioner Harden asked how many in the county contributed to this plan and what the cost to the county would be.

Melissa Braswell, Finance Director, stated that Oconee County had good participation in the plan but not a lot of the employees contributed at the six percent level. The cost would be approximately \$100,000.00.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the June 6, 2023 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 Joint Use Agreement with the Board of Education:

Presented by: Chairman John Daniell

Discussion: The Oconee County Board of Education and Oconee County Board of Commissioners Joint Use Agreement term will now be a five-year agreement beginning on July 1, 2023. Board of Commissioners agree not to charge no more than two percent taxation fee on collection of taxes and the Board of Education will not charge for the use of school facilities and the County will continue not charging for the use of County facilities.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the June 6, 2023 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 Equity and Merit Adjustments:

Presented by: Chairman John Daniell

Discussion: The county has maintained a very conservative approach to budgeting in the last few years, but in effort to remain current with the job market, there is a recommendation for an equity adjustment of \$1,000.00 for all full-time employees and \$500.00 for permanent part-time employees. Additionally, a one-time \$50,000.00 funding for merit over and above the other equity adjustment would be available to reward top performing employees who exceeded expectations in their performance review. The request includes any additional necessary budget amendments. The proposed payout date is June 9, 2023 if approved.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the June 6, 2023 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 Saxon made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition, personnel matters, and/or potential litigation.
Second: Chuck Horton
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: 6:56 p.m.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

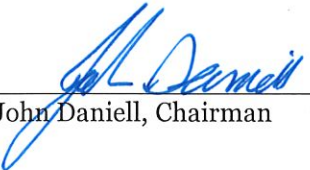
Executive Session Adjourned: 7:13 p.m.

Regular Session:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to adjourn back into Regular Session.
Second: Chuck Horton
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: 7:15 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Second: Chuck Horton
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**
Meeting Adjourned: 7:15 p.m.



John Daniell, Chairman

6-6-23
Date



Tracey Bailey, Deputy Clerk

6-6-23
Date