

**Oconee County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Administrative Building Commission Chambers
June 25, 2024 – 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
Diane Baggett, Communications Manager
Melissa Braswell, Finance Director
Guy Herring, Planning and Code Enforcement Director
Jody Woodall, Public Works Director
Justin Milligan, IT Director
Anna Leigh Hardigree, IT Support Specialist

Call to Order: 6:29 p.m.

Chairman John Daniell called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance:

County Clerk Holly Stephenson led the Pledge after a moment of silence.

Approval of Agenda:

ACTION:

Motion:	Chuck Horton made a motion to approve the June 25, 2024 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 Water Resources Outdoor Watering regulations in effect: For odd-number addresses, outdoor watering is allowed on Tuesdays, Thursdays or Sundays from 12am to 10am. For even-number addresses, watering is allowed on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 12am to 10am.

Chairman Daniell announced that the millage rate will be set on July 9, 2024. The roll back millage rate will once again be presented for approval, so no tax increase hearings will be required. This is the fourth year of reduction in the millage rate and the third year of a full roll back.

Discuss and Consider Equity and Merit Adjustments:

Presented by: John Daniell, Chairman

Discussion: The county has additional funds from the FY24 budget due to open positions, so there is a recommendation for an equity adjustment of \$1,000.00 for all full-time employees and \$500.00 for part-time employees which will require a budget amendment of \$261,052 to include payroll taxes. Additionally, a one-time 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 in the amount of \$62,196 to include payroll taxes. The request includes any additional necessary budget amendments. The proposed payout date is July 5, 2024 if approved.

Commissioner Harden asked how this compared to prior years.

Chairman Daniel explained this is the third year for merit increase and fourth year for equity adjustments, but there were years when no raises could be approved.

ACTION:

Motion: Chuck Horton made a motion to approve the Equity and Merit Adjustments as presented.

Second: Mark Saxon

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

Voted Against Motion: None

Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

Commissioner Horton recused himself for the following item.

Discuss Renewal of the Chamber of Commerce Memorandum of Understanding:

Presented by: Justin Kirouac, County Administrator

Discussion: County Administrator Justin Kirouac explained that the county has used the Oconee Chamber of Commerce for economic development services for five years under a Memorandum of Understanding and provides \$100,000 annually for these services. The request is to renew to MOU for another five-year term with same scope and funding.

Commissioner Harden questioned the time line of reports from the Chamber to the Board and to whom the financial reports are sent. Mr. Kirouac responded that reports are given as requested, and the Finance Department receives the financial reports.

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to approve the Chamber of Commerce MOU as presented.

Second: Mark Thomas

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

Voted Against Motion: None

Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

Discuss and Consider the Contractor Agreement for Juvenile Court Legal Services:

Presented by: Justin Kirouac, County Administrator

Discussion: County Attorney Daniel Haygood requests approval of a contract with Virginia Nell Morris Law, LLC to continue providing legal services for Juvenile Court for \$30,000 annually.

ACTION:

Motion: Chuck Horton made a motion to approve the Contractor Agreement for Juvenile Court Legal Services.

Second: Mark Thomas

Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

Discuss and Consider the Public Defender FY25 Indigent Defense Services Agreement for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025:

Presented by: Chairman John Daniell
Discussion: The Contract for Indigent Defense under Public Defender John Donnelly is an annual contract that is up for renewal effective July 1, 2024. The recommendation is for the approval of the contract for the July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025 term.

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to approve the Public Defender FY25 Indigent Services Agreement for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.
Second: Mark Thomas
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

Discuss and Consider the Probation Services Contract Amendment:

Presented by: John Daniell, Chairman
Discussion: Chairman John Daniell discussed two additional requests from the Superior Court judges since the Probation Services Contract was approved by the BOC on June 4, 2024 and requested approval of these amendments. The kick off meeting will be held June 26, 2024.

ACTION:

Motion: Chuck Horton made a motion to approve the Probation Services Contract Amendments.
Second: Mark Thomas
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

Discuss and Consider Planning and Code Enforcement Fee Sheet Amendment:

Presented by: Guy Herring, Planning and Code Enforcement Director
Discussion: Due to House Bill 461 limiting the methods by which local governments can determine regulatory fees, the request is to adopt the proposed changes to the fee schedule for compliance. These changes will be revenue neutral.

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to approve the Planning and Code Enforcement Fee Sheet Amendment.
Second: Chuck Horton
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

Discuss and Consider Snows Mill Road and Hwy 53 Land Acquisitions:

Presented by: Melissa Braswell, Finance Braswell
Discussion: Finance Director Melissa Braswell explained there are three parcels ready for closing as part of necessary land acquisition for the Hwy 53 at Snows Mill Roundabout project. The request is to approve these acquisitions using Fund Balance of \$200,550 along with necessary budget amendments.
Additionally, County Attorney Daniel Haygood requests approval of the four contracts necessary for right-of-way acquisition.

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Thomas made a motion to approve the Land Acquisition budget amendments and contracts.
Second: Chuck Horton
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

Executive Session:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition, personnel matters, and litigation.
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: 6:16 p.m.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

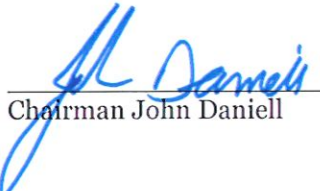
Executive Session Adjourned: 6:57 p.m.

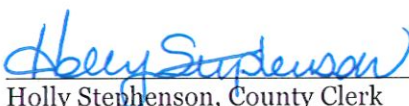
Regular Session:

Motion: Mark Thomas made a motion to adjourn back into Regular Session.
Second: Mark Saxon
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: 6:57 p.m.

Adjourned:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Second: Mark Thomas
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**
Meeting Adjourned: 6:57 p.m.


Chairman John Daniell


Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

7-9-24
Date