Oconee County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Administrative Building Commission Chambers
April 29, 2025 – 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 Director
Melissa Braswell, Finance Director
Kari Giddens, Assistant Finance Director
Donna Norton, Budget Officer
Jody Woodall, Public Works Director
Guy Herring, Planning and Code Enforcement Director
Adam Layfield, Water Resources Director
Whitney Sperlik, Civic Center Director
Justin Milligan, IT Director

Call to Order: 6:00 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 April 29, 2025 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 the next Town Hall Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 13th at 6pm at the Administrative Building.
The roundabout at Lane Creek Road at Snows Mill Road is ready for construction, so there will be detour requirements coming out soon.
The Jimmy Daniel Recycling Center will be closing permanently on July 30th as part of the Highway 316 interchange project.

Discuss the Design Services Bid for a Roundabout at Cole Springs Road/Clotfelter Road at Highway 53:

Presented by: Jody Woodall, Public Works Director

Discussion: Public Works Director Jody Woodall requested the award of design services for a roundabout at Highway 53 at Cole Springs Road/Clotfelter Road to Southeastern Engineering, Inc with a price not to exceed $175,000. The request includes authorizing the Chairman to execute necessary documents and approving any future budget amendments up to the contract amount for the life of the project. The funding will be through TSPLOST.

Commissioner Harden asked the timeframe for the design and construction.
Mr. Woodall explained the project will move much quicker than the going the federal aid route, and he will provide more specific information by next week.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the May 6, 2025 Regular Meeting.

Discuss Replacement of the OVP Pump Station for Irrigation:

Presented by: Justin Kirouac, County Administrator

Discussion: County Administrator Justin Kirouac explained that the OVP pump station that irrigates all the athletic fields is inoperable due to age. After an RFP, the recommendation is to award the replacement to Shoemaker Irrigations, LLC for an amount not to exceed $277,500. The request includes authorizing the Chairman to execute necessary documents and approving any future budget amendments up to the contract amount for the life of the project.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the May 6, 2025 Regular Meeting.

Discuss the Award of the RFP for Civic Center Repairs:

Presented by: Whitney Sperlik, Civic Center Director

Discussion: The Civic Center issued an RFP for various repairs and received three proposals. Director Whitney Sperlik explained some clarifications will be needed from the proposals before presenting a recommendation. She will present their recommendation at the May 6, 2025 meeting.

Commissioner Horton asked if the school system was aware of the upgrades.
Ms. Sperlik responded that some of their board members were in favor of the repairs.

County Administrator Justin Kirouac added that upgrades to the lighting and sound systems will also be considered in the future.

Discuss the Bid Award for the 441 Scale House:

Presented by: Jody Woodall, Public Works Director

Discussion: The Public Works Department issued an RFP for replacement of the 441/Macon Highway Collection Site scale house and received three responses. The recommendation is to award the project to Riley Contracting, Inc at not to exceed amount of $271,060 to include construction and a $25,000 contingency. The request includes authorizing the Chairman to execute necessary documents and approving any future budget amendments up to the contract amount for the life of the project.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the May 6, 2025 Regular Meeting.

Discuss the Bid Award for Construction Manager at Risk for the Courthouse Renovation Project:

Presented by: Justin Kirouac, County Administrator

Discussion: County Administrator Justin Kirouac explained that the Courthouse is currently under preliminary design and an RFP was issued for a construction manager at risk with seven proposals submitted. The recommendation is to award the contract to Kevin Price Construction for a total cost of $242,577 and a 3.9% construction fee, along with any necessary budget amendments for the life of the project up to the contract amount A guaranteed maximum price will be developed and brought back to the BOC for final approval.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the May 6, 2025 Regular Meeting.

3rd Quarter FY25 Financial Update:

Presented by: Melissa Braswell, Finance Director

Discussion: Finance Director Melissa Braswell presented the financial update for the 3rd quarter of FY25 which is through March 31, 2025:

- General Fund revenues and expenditures as compared to budget
- LOST, SPLOST, and TSPLOST distributions as compared to prior fiscal year
- Capital and SPLOST budgeted expenses update
- Water Resource Department revenues and expenses as compared to budget

Commissioner Harden asked the status of a sewer line near Tanglebrook neighborhood.
Mr. Kirouac responded that a section has been identified for replacement.
Commissioner Horton asked how tax revenues now compared to those around five years ago.
Ms. Braswell responded that substantial increases have resulted from commercial growth.

Discuss a Change Order for Utility Relocation for Highway 53 at Snows Mill/Rocky Branch Road:

Presented by: Adam Layfield, Water Resources Director

Discussion: Water Resources Director Adam Layfield explained that ER Snell is in the process of moving the water lines for the roundabout project, but an additional 160 feet of 12-inch iron pipe is needed due to existing lines not all within the right of way. The request is to approve the contract amendment of $22,880, bringing the county's total responsibility to $616,030 for the relocation project. The request includes all necessary budget amendments up to the contract amount for the life of the project.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the May 6, 2025 Regular Meeting.

Discuss the Heritage Park Easement Plat Agreement:

Presented by: Justin Kirouac County Administrator

Discussion: County Administrator Justin Kirouac explained there is currently limited emergency access to the backside of Heritage Park. The proposed easement plat agreement between Oconee County and Mr. Charles Roland, Sr. would provide access from Branch Road for a cost of $1.

Commissioner Thomas asked about additional site work requirements.
Mr. Kirouac responded that some ditches, culverts, and minor grading may be required, plus a gate to limit access to the property.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the May 6, 2025 Regular Meeting.

Discuss the 2025 Local Road Assistance Application:

Presented by: Jody Woodall, Public Works Director

Discussion: Public Works requests approval to complete the 2025 Local Roads Assistance application for supplemental funding for FY2025 with no required match. The amount of funding for Oconee County is $927,866.12 and would be utilized toward roundabout construction at Union Church Road/New High Shoals Road and Colham Ferry Road/Astondale Road. The recommendation is to authorize the 2025 LRA application submittal to GDOT, authorizing the Chairman to execute any necessary documents, and approving any future budget amendments up to the contract amount for the life of the project.

Commissioner Thomas asked when these roundabout projects would begin.
Mr. Woodall responded that Union Church at New High Shoals bid opening will be May 30th. Right of way acquisition is underway for Colham Ferry at Astondale, which will likely be an FY26 project.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the May 6, 2025 Regular Meeting.

Discuss Replacement of the Jail Server:

Presented by: Melissa Braswell, Finance Director

Discussion: The Sheriff's Office has requested a new server to store security footage for the jail and courthouse due to the age of the current server, along with four new CCTV workstations to support the new software. The request is for a budget amendment not to exceed $54,368 for server replacement. There is currently $50,000 available in the Capital Assigned Fund Balance budget with a requested $4,368 to come from FY25 year revenues.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the May 6, 2025 Regular Meeting.

Discuss FY25 Civic Center Vehicle:

Presented by: Melissa Braswell, Finance Director

Discussion: The Civic Center requests a revenue neutral budget amendment to transfer funds from the Fleet budget (General Fund) to the Civic Center budget (Enterprise Fund) to purchase a vehicle at a cost not to exceed $20,000. The current 2019 Ford Transit Van does not meet their needs and can be utilized by the Operations Department.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the May 6, 2025 Regular Meeting.

Discuss FY25 Senior Center Van Purchase:

Presented by: Melissa Braswell, Finance Director

Discussion: The Senior Center requests replacement of two existing vans which are nearing their life expectancy. The request is for a budget amendment for the Senior Center to purchase two 2025 Champion Challenger vans through state contract at a cost of $234,300 from the Senior Center fund balance.

Commissioner Harden asked the seating capacity of the vehicles.
Chairman Daniell explained both must have access for several wheelchairs.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the May 6, 2025 Regular Meeting.

Executive Session:

Motion:	Mark Thomas made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition, personnel matters, and 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:	6:30 p.m.

No action was taken in Executive Session.
Executive Session Adjourned: 7:20 p.m.

Regular Session:

Motion:	Chuck Horton 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:	7:21 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:	7:21 p.m.

JL Daniell
Chairman John Daniell

Holly Stephenson
Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

5-6-25
Date