Oconee County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Administrative Building Commission Chambers
August 26, 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
Melissa Braswell, Finance Director
Donna Norton, Budget Officer
Adam Layfield, Water Resources Director
Jody Woodall, Public Works Director
Guy Herring, Planning and Code Enforcement Director
Justin Milligan, IT Director
Clay Christian, IT Specialist

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.
Chairman John Daniell called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance:
County Attorney Daniel Haygood led the Pledge after a moment of silence.

Approval of Agenda:
ACTION:

Motion:	Chuck Horton made a motion to approve the August 26, 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:
None.

Discuss the Bid Award for the Courthouse Generator:

Presented by:	Justin Kirouac, County Administrator
Discussion:	As part of the Courthouse renovations, the recommendation is to replace the existing generator with a 600KW unit that would allow for full power for Courthouse functions during an outage. The current generator could then be repurposed and installed at the Animal Shelter, which is currently in need of a generator replacement. The request is to approve J&T Service Center Inc, the lowest bidder, in the amount of $345,490 for the new generator and installation, along with an additional $22,580 to relocate the existing generator. The recommendation for approval includes all budget amendments for the life of the project.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the September 9, 2025 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Discuss a Budget Amendment for Water Resources Design Projects with Precision Planning, Inc.:

Presented by: Adam Layfield, Water Resources Director

Discussion: Water Resources has multiple projects on-going with PPI that have specific purchase orders prior to FY26. The request is to roll forward any open PO's to FY26 and approve three projects that will exceed $100,000 in design costs. These are the Brookshire Pump Station for an additional $46,14, the Calls Creek WWTP/WRF 3.0 Phase 3 for an additional $59,870, and the Epps Bridge Pump Station Upgrade for an additional $108,090. The total request is for $214,100 and includes all necessary budget amendments up to the contract amounts for the life of the projects.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the September 9, 2025 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Discuss the US 441 Sanitary Sewer Diversion Easement Budget Amendment.:

Presented by: Adam Layfield, Water Resources Director

Discussion: Water Resources would like to revise the design contract for the US 441 sanitary sewer diversion project to include easement acquisition. The recommendation is for approval of an additional $31,500 for the acquisitions for a total of $220,635 and 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 September 9, 2025 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Discuss a Budget Amendment for a Portion of the LAS Decommissioning Projects:

Presented by: Adam Layfield, Water Resources Director

Discussion: In relation to the decommissioning of LAS and construction of Dawson Park, Water Resources requests approval for Po Boys Plumbing, Inc. under its demand services contract with Oconee County to complete the necessary work for a total of $2,458,501. The County would be reimbursed up to $500,000 from Westland Development for construction of the new Rocky Branch lift station. The request includes all necessary budget amendments up to the contract amount for the life of the projects.

Commissioner Harden questioned thew time length of the project.
Mr. Layfield responded the project would be done in multiple stages but should be completed by April, 2026.
Commissioner Thomas asked if expansion is considered as the new lift stations are built.
Mr. Layfield responded that expansion increases are considered.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the September 9, 2025 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Discuss the UOWBA Contract/Budget Amendment for the Design of the Bear Creek Water Treatment Plant Expansion:

Presented by: Adam Layfield, Water Resources Director

Discussion: On July 23, 2025, the Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority approved an amendment for an additional $89,300 to Jacob's Engineering for design services of the Bear Creek WTP expansion. The request is for Oconee County's portion of the payment of 23.81% payment or $21,262.33. 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 September 9, 2025 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Discuss the UOWBA Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System Assessment for the Bear Creek Water Treatment Plant:

Presented by: Adam Layfield, Water Resources Director

Discussion: Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority has contracted with Jacob's Engineering to assist with the SCADA system improvements to include cybersecurity implementation plan development, conversion of HMI software, implementation of initial cybersecurity features and preparation for expanding WTP programming. The total cost will be $261,590, with Oconee County's share being $62,281.96. The recommendation is to approve payment to Jacob's Engineering for $62,281.96 and includes all necessary budget amendments up to the contract amount for the life of the project.

Commissioner Thomas asked whether land lines or microwaves will be used.
Mr. Layfield explained the studies will determine the best and most secure option.
Chairman Daniell explained that the project will include implementation of all new software.
Commissioner Horton asked if the members would be affected.
Chairman Daniell responded there should be no effects other than allowing access.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the September 9, 2025 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Discuss the Civic Center Roof Professional Design Services:

Presented by: Melissa Braswell, Finance Director

Discussion: Finance Director Melissa Braswell requests approval to use Precision Planning, Inc. for design services for a new roof for the Civic Center to provide the necessary drawings and specifications for the competitive bid process. The recommendation is for approval of a revenue-neutral budget amendment, for the life of the project, for $41,000 with funding provided through the 2021 SPLOST referendum for general facilities.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the September 9, 2025 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Discuss and Consider a GDOT Traffic Signal Application for Mixed Use Development at US 78 at Clotfelter Road:

Presented by: Jody Woodall, Public Works Director

Discussion: Public Works requests approval for completion of a traffic signal application with GDOT at SR 10/US 78 at Clotfelter Road as part of a mixed-use development. The request includes authorizing the Chairman to execute required documents. The developer would be responsible for the installation cost; the county would be responsible for the monthly power charges.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Thomas made a motion to approve the GDOT Traffic Signal Application for Mixed Use Development at US 78 at Clotfelter Road.
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 the FY26 Resurfacing and LMIG Application:

Presented by: Jody Woodall, Public Works Director
Discussion: Public Works requests approval of the annual LMIG grant through GDOT to provide funding for the FY26 resurfacing program, authorizing the FY26 LMIG submittal to GDOT, authorizing the Chairman to sign necessary documents, and approve any necessary budget amendments for the life of the project up to the contract amount for the life of the project. The grant does require a 30% match of resurfacing funds received. The resurfacing program proposes to resurface 33.02 miles of roadway and patch 5.57 miles of roadway for an estimated total cost of $9,872,515.35. The FY26 LMIG budget is $750,000. The LMIG grant of $857,866.18 exceeds the expenditure budget by approximately $107,866.18. Also, a budget amendment in the amount of $1,014,649.17 is needed to re-allocate FY 2024 funds to FY 2026.

Commissioner Harden asked the status of the 2025 resurfacing program.
Mr. Woodall responded that it has been completed.
Commissioner Horton and Chairman Daniell both pointed out the benefits of TSPLOST.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the September 9, 2025 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Discuss a Contract Modification for the Hog Mountain Road Multi-Use Path:

Presented by: Jody Woodall, Public Works Director
Discussion: Public Works requests approval of a contract modification to reconcile actual quantities placed during construction of the Hog Mountain Road Multi-Use path. The modification would add $9,168.82 to the contract for a total of $2,440,804.82 and include a budget amendment to allocate those funds from FY 2025.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the September 9, 2025 Regular Meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

Executive Session:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition and litigation.
Second: Amrey Harden
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:	6:25 p.m.

No action was taken in Executive Session.
Executive Session Adjourned: 7:26 p.m.

Regular Session:

Motion:	Mark Thomas 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:	7:27 p.m.

Discuss and Consider Opioid Settlement with Publix:

Presented by: Daniel Haygood, County Attorney

Discussion: County Attorney Daniel Haygood recommends the Board accept the opioid settlement with Publix, a very limited participant, for $12,200. After expenses, the county would receive $9,607.97. The request includes authorizing the Chairman to sign the settlement paperwork.

The Public Comment Period was opened and there was no Public Comment.

ACTION:

Motion:	Mark Saxon made a motion to approve the Opioid Settlement with Publix.
Second:	Mark Thomas
Voted in Favor of Motion:	Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion:	None
Final Action:	**Motion Passed.**

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:	7:30 p.m.

J L Daniell
Chairman John Daniell

Holly Stephenson
Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

9-9-25
Date