

**Oconee County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Administrative Building Commission Chambers
January 6, 2026 – 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
Jody Woodall, Public Works Director
Guy Herring, Planning and Code Enforcement Director
David Webb, Assistant Planning and Code Enforcement Director
Kyle Stephens, Planner
Ethan Perry, Planner
Captain Matt Towe, Jail Commander

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

Chairman John Daniell called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance:

County Administrator Justin Kirouac led the Pledge after a moment of silence.

Approval of Agenda:

ACTION:

Motion:	Chuck Horton made a motion to approve the January 6, 2026 Agenda.
Second:	Mark Saxon
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 John Daniell announced that Highway 316 at Jimmy Daniel Road is under construction for a full interchange, and a detour is being considered by GDOT. A Public Information Open House will be held on January 22, 2026 from 5-7 pm at Mars Hill Baptist Church. Comments can be made through the GDOT website, and there is a link to that site through the Oconee County website.
The New High Shoals Road at Union Church Road intersection is under construction and now in a roundabout traffic pattern.
The First Town Hall Meeting of 2026 will be February 10, 2026 at 6pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of December 2, 2025 Regular Meeting:

ACTION:

Minutes – January 6, 2026

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to approve the December 2, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes.
 Second: Chuck Horton
 Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
 Voted Against Motion: None
 Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

Rezone No. P25-0226:

Applicants:	Carter Engineering Consultants
Owners:	Townley Family Partnership, LLLP
Location:	2190 Clotfelter Road, 2280 Clotfelter Road, 2241 Malcom Bridge Road, 2291 Malcom Bridge Road and unaddressed Malcom Bridge Road
Acreage:	±242.27
Zoning:	AG (Agricultural District)
Request:	R-1 (Single Family Residential District)

Presented by: Guy Herring, Planning & Code Enforcement Director

Discussion: Mr. Herring briefed the Board regarding the request for the property, which is currently zoned AG (Agricultural District) in the Suburban Neighborhood Character Area. The applicant and owner request a rezone from AG (Agricultural District) to R-1 (Single Family Residential District) for residential development. The Planning Commission and Staff recommend approval with eight conditions.

The Public Hearing was opened.

Jeff Carter, Carter Engineering, applicant, requested approval of the rezone for Phase Two of Malcom Bridge Estates to be zoned R-1 which fits the area and land use designation. The request is for 119 lots, and the owner agrees with the ten-year moratorium.

Commissioner Harden confirmed with Mr. Hering that the two entrances satisfy the Fire Department's requirements.

Commissioner Horton confirmed if there were no moratorium the applicant could immediately pull permits. The moratorium will delay this for 10 years.

There were no further comments in favor of the request and no comments against the request.

The Public Hearing was closed.

ACTION:

Motion: Chuck Horton made a motion to approve Rezone No. P25-0226 for Townley Family Partnership, LLLP; AG to R-1; ±242.27 acres, 2190 Clotfelter Road, 2280 Clotfelter Road, 2241 Malcom Bridge Road, 2291 Malcom Bridge Road and unaddressed Malcom Bridge Road with eight conditions.

Second: Mark Thomas

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

Voted Against Motion: None

Final Action: **Motion Passed to approve Rezone #P25-0226 with eight conditions.**

(See documentation in Ordinance and Resolutions Book No. 26.)

Variance No. P25-0225:

Applicants:	Carter Engineering Consultants
Owners:	Industrial Properties Management, LLC
Location:	Aiken Road at the intersection of Pete Dickens Road
Acreage:	±52.8
Zoning:	OBP (Office-Business Park District)

Minutes – January 6, 2026

2 | Page

Request:	Special exception variance to reduce the required parking spaces and eliminate the curb and gutter requirement in the warehouse portion of the site.
-----------------	--

Presented by: Guy Herring, Planning & Code Enforcement Director
Discussion: Mr. Herring briefed the Board regarding the request for the property, which is currently zoned OBP (Office-Business Park District) in the Workplace Character Area. The applicant and owner request a Special Exception Variance from UDC Article 6, Section 604.01.b, Article 609.01.d, and Table 6.1 to reduce the required parking for warehouse space and to eliminate the requirement for curb and gutter in the warehouse portion of the site. The proposed reduction is 63 spaces: or 35% of the required 180 spaces for the proposed 228,250 square feet of buildings. Staff recommends approval of the request with four conditions.

The Public Hearing was opened.

Brian Kimsey, Carter Engineering, applicant, requested approval of the variance to reduce the required parking spaces due to a much smaller number of employees than the 180 required parking spaces currently required, in addition to visitor parking at the front office.

Additionally, curb and gutters will affect movement of forklifts and equipment in the warehouse area. The proposal is for ditches and inlets to collect stormwater in the warehouse area.

Jeremy Phillips, 3371 Barnett Shoals Road, owner, spoke in favor of the request.

There were no further comments in favor of the request and no comments against the request.

The Public Hearing was closed.

Commissioner Harden asked if additional parking requirements would change if subleased. Mr. Herring responded that additional spaces would not be required if subleased.

ACTION:

Motion: Chuck Horton made a motion to approve Variance No. P25-0225 for Industrial Properties Management, LLC; ±45.6 acres; 1355 Aiken Road with four conditions.
Second: Mark Saxon
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Final Action: **Motion Passed to approve Variance #P25-0225 with four conditions.**
(See documentation in Ordinance and Resolutions Book No. 26.)

Variance No. P25-0229:

Applicants:	Patrick Perry
Owners:	Adam and Christie Rickabaugh
Location:	4674 Whitlow Creek Dr.
Acreage:	±1.35
Zoning:	AR (Agricultural-Residential)
Request:	Special exception variance to reduce the required side yard setback from 15 feet to 8.8 feet.

Presented by: Guy Herring, Planning & Code Enforcement Director
Discussion: Mr. Herring briefed the Board regarding the request for the property, which is currently zoned AR (Agricultural-Residential) in the Country Estates Character Area. The applicant and owner request a Special Exception Variance from UDC Article 4, Section 410.01.c(2) and Table 4.1 to reduce the required side yard setback from 15 feet to 8.8 feet for an accessory structure. Staff recommends approval of the request with one condition.

The Public Hearing was opened.

Patrick Perry, Perry Planning, applicant, requested approval of the variance due to placement of the structure due to septic lines.

*There were no further comments in favor of the request and no comments against the request.
The Public Hearing was closed.*

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to approve Variance No. P25-0229 for Adam and Christie Rickabaugh; reduce the required building setback; ± 1.35 acres; 4674 Whitlow Creek Dr. with one condition.

Second: Amrey Harden

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

Voted Against Motion: None

Final Action: **Motion Passed to approve Variance #P25-0229 with one condition.**
(See documentation in Ordinance and Resolutions Book No. 26.)

Rezone No. P25-0230:

Applicants:	Pittman and Greer Engineering
Owners:	KBB, LLC, Robert G. Bishop, William T. Bishop and Oconee Shepard Properties, LLC
Location:	Experiment Station Road
Acreage:	± 17.82
Zoning:	AG (Agricultural District) and AR-3 (Agricultural Residential Three Acre District)
Request:	B-1 (General Business District) and AR-3 (Agricultural Residential Three Acre District)

Presented by: Guy Herring, Planning & Code Enforcement Director

Discussion: Mr. Herring briefed the Board regarding the request for the property, which is currently zoned AG (Agricultural District) and AR-3 (Agricultural Residential Three Acre District) in the Civic Center Character Area. The applicant and owner request a rezone of ± 4.82 acres from AR-3 (Agricultural Residential Three Acre District) to B-1 (General Business District) and a rezone of ± 10.0 acres from AG (Agricultural District) to AR-3 (Agricultural Residential Three Acre District). Staff and the Planning Commission recommend approval of the request with six conditions.

The Public Hearing was opened.

Frank Pittman, Pittman and Greer Engineering, applicant, requested approval of the rezone for development of a neighborhood grocery store with restaurant. The Bishop Family will retain the additional lots and would like to divide it among family. The applicant has completed a traffic study.

Cissy Watson, 1171 Hammond Creek Trail, developer of Market Station, spoke in favor of the request to allow for a destination store that will showcase local vendors and provide high quality coffee and foods.

Meredith Bishop Marlowe, family owner, spoke in favor of the request based on the concept.

There were no further comments in favor of the request.

Kirsten Magee, 1120 Loch Lomond Circle, spoke against the rezone due to traffic and safety concerns at the intersection and along Experiment Station Road.

There were no further comments against the request.

Rebuttal:

Frank Pittman, Pittman and Greer Engineering, applicant, spoke in favor of the smaller grocery store concept for the area. The developer has met with UNG personnel who are excited for the students to have a place to get drinks and snacks without leaving the area. The new traffic light and widened road do support the traffic.

The Public Hearing was closed.

Commissioner Horton asked about the current traffic count at the intersection and the number of students at UNG.

Ms. Watson responded that UNG has a student body of 4,000–5,000 students.

Commissioner Harden asked Mr. Herring to explain the condition #4 for a Level of Service C.

Mr. Herring explained that studies would be completed and the light adjusted as required by the traffic studies.

Commissioner Horton stated the recent road work has already positively impacted the traffic and safety of the area. He encourages the growth of UNG and states that traffic is already in this area due to UNG.

ACTION:

Motion: Amrey Harden made a motion to approve Rezone No. P25-0230 for KBB, LLC, Robert G. Bishop, William T. Bishop, and Oconee Shepard Properties, LLC; AG and AR-3 to AR-3 and B-1; ±178.82 acres; Experiment Station Road with six conditions.

Second: Mark Saxon

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

Voted Against Motion: None

Final Action: **Motion Passed to approve Rezone #P25-0230 with six conditions.**
(See documentation in Ordinance and Resolutions Book No. 26.)

Variance No. P25-0231:

Applicants:	Pittman and Greer Engineering
Owners:	KBB, LLC and William T. Bishop
Location:	Experiment Station Road
Acreage:	±4.82
Zoning:	AR-3 (Agricultural Residential Three Acre District) with request for B-1 approved
Request:	Special exception variance to reduce the required buffer from 50 feet to 20 feet.

Presented by: Guy Herring, Planning & Code Enforcement Director

Discussion: Mr. Herring briefed the Board regarding the request for the property, which is currently zoned AR-3 (Agricultural Residential Three Acre District) in the Civic Center Character Area. The applicant and owner request a special exception variance from UDC Article 8, Section 806 and Table 8.1 to reduce the required buffer width from 50 feet to 20 feet. Staff recommends approval of the request with three conditions.

Variance No. P25-0232:

Applicants:	Pittman and Greer Engineering
Owners:	KBB, LLC and William T. Bishop
Location:	Experiment Station Road
Acreage:	±4.82
Zoning:	AR-3 (Agricultural Residential Three Acre District) with request for B-1 approved
Request:	Special exception variance to allow a flat roof with pitched accents on a grocery store.

Presented by: Guy Herring, Planning & Code Enforcement Director

Discussion: Mr. Herring briefed the Board regarding the request for the property, which is currently zoned AR-3 (Agricultural Residential Three Acre District) in the Civic Center Character Area. The applicant and owner request a special exception variance from UDC Section 205.09.c.3.a (Special provisions applicable to the B-1 zoning district) and to Section 206.04.d.7.a (Mars Hill Overlay Architectural requirements) to allow a flat roof with pitched accents instead of the required gable or hip style with a minimum roof pitch of 4 in 12 or steeper for a multistory building and to modify the required roofing materials. Staff recommends approval of the request with three conditions.

Variance No. P25-0290:

Applicants:	Pittman and Greer Engineering
Owners:	KBB, LLC and William T. Bishop
Location:	Experiment Station Road
Acreage:	±4.82
Zoning:	AR-3 (Agricultural Residential Three Acre District) with request for B-1 approved
Request:	Special exception variance to allow a two-story building to have a footprint larger than 6,000 SF and tenant space larger than 10,000 SF in the B-1 zoning district.

Presented by: Guy Herring, Planning & Code Enforcement Director
Discussion: Mr. Herring briefed the Board regarding the request for the property, which is currently zoned AR-3 (Agricultural Residential Three Acre District) in the Civic Center Character Area. The applicant and owner request a special exception variance from UDC Section 205.09.c.3.h (Special provisions applicable to the B-1 zoning district) to allow a building with 23,000 SF total on 2 floors to exceed the limitation of 12,000 SF on 2 floors with a 6,000 SF footprint or 20,000 SF with a single-story building. Staff recommends approval of the request with three conditions.

The Public Hearing was opened.

Frank Pittman, Pittman and Greer Engineering, applicant, requested approval of the three variances, two of which would have been allowed in B-2 zoning, but B-1 zoning seemed to fit the area better. Additionally, if the AR-3 zoning owned by the same owner is ever changed to B-1, no buffer will be required.

*There were no further comments in favor of the request and no comments against the request.
The Public Hearing was closed.*

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to approve Variance No. P25-0231 for KBB, LLC and William T. Bishop; reduction in required buffer; ±4.82 acres; Experiment Station Road with three conditions.
Second: Amrey Harden
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Final Action: **Motion Passed to approve Rezone #P25-0231 with three conditions.**
(See documentation in Ordinance and Resolutions Book No. 26.)

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to approve Variance No. P25-0232 for KBB, LLC and William T. Bishop; allow a flat roof on a grocery store; ±4.82 acres; Experiment Station Road with three conditions.
Second: Chuck Horton
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None

Final Action: **Motion Passed to approve Rezone #P25-0232 with three conditions.**
(See documentation in Ordinance and Resolutions Book No. 26.)

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to approve Variance No. P25-0290 for KBB, LLC and William T. Bishop; allow a two-story building to have a footprint larger than 6,000 SF and tenant space larger than 10,000 SF in the B-1 zoning district; ±4.82 acres; Experiment Station Road with three conditions.

Second: Chuck Horton

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

Voted Against Motion: None

Final Action: **Motion Passed to approve Rezone #P25-0290 with three conditions.**
(See documentation in Ordinance and Resolutions Book No. 26.)

Rezone P25-0223:

Applicants:	Oconee County Board of Commissioners
Owners:	Deferred Tax, LLC
Location:	1291 Virgil Langford Road
Acreage:	±33.65
Zoning:	B-1 PUD (General Business District Planned Unit Development) and B-2 (Highway Business District)
Request:	Modify the conditions of existing rezones #8340 and #043 and to rezone from B-1 (General Business District Planned Unit Development) and B-2 (Highway Business District) to OIP (office Institutional Professional), B-1 (General Business District), and B-2 (Highway Business District).

Presented by: Guy Herring, Planning & Code Enforcement Director

Discussion: Mr. Herring briefed the Board regarding the request for the property, which is currently zoned B-1 PUD (General Business District Planned Unit Development) and B-2 (Highway Business District) in the Regional Center Character Area. The applicant requests a Rezone to modify the conditions of existing rezones #8340 and #043 and to rezone from B-1 (General Business District Planned Unit Development) and B-2 (Highway Business District) to OIP (Office Institutional Professional), B-1 (General Business District), and B-2 (Highway Business District. Staff recommends approval of this request with seventeen conditions.

The Public Hearing was opened.

Jennifer Walker, 1201 Daandra Drive, thanked the Commissioners for consideration of the neighbors and traffic in presenting this revised proposal.

There were no further comments in favor of the request.

Larry Walton, 3681 Mars Hill Road, spoke of traffic and safety concerns in the area, along with the agricultural and neighborhood integrity of the area.

Jeff Deloach, 1571 Crystal Hills Drive, attorney for the owner, spoke in opposition to the rezone. He gave a history of negotiations with the county, traffic studies, and opposition to downzoning the property to OIP, as it has been zoned B-2 since 1988. He agrees to the rezone of the other parcel but opposes the conditions. He stated approval of this rezone would be unconstitutional and require litigation. He requests denial of this rezone.

There were no further comments against the request.
The Public Hearing was closed.

ACTION:

Motion: Chuck Horton made a motion to approve Rezone P25-0223 for Deferred Tax, LLC; modify existing conditions of rezones #8340 and #043; ±33.65 acres; 1291 Virgil Langford Road, with seventeen conditions.

Second: Mark Saxon

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

Voted Against Motion: None

Final Action: **Motion Passed to approve Rezone #P25-0223 with seventeen conditions.**
(See documentation in Ordinance and Resolutions Book No. 25.)

Discuss and Consider Jail Walk-In Cooler/Freezer Replacement:

Presented by: Melissa Braswell, Finance Director

Discussion: Finance Director Melissa Braswell explained the need for replacement of the Jail's walk-in cooler/freezer as the current one is 20 years old and original to the jail. She recommends replacement by Manning Brothers, the lowest bidder, for \$76,095.66; rental of mobile units to use during the replacement period for \$2,560; and removal and reinstallation of the sprinkler head in the cooler/freezer for a cost not to exceed \$1,000. The request is for a budget amendment for the life of the project in the amount of \$79,656 using assigned fund balance in the Capital Projects Fund for cooler/freezer replacement.

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

ACTION:

Motion: Chuck Horton made a motion to approve the replacement of the Jail walk-in cooler/freezer.

Second: Amrey Harden

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 Project Framework Agreement for SR53 at Rays Church Road/Malcom Bridge Road Roundabout Project:

Presented by: Justin Kirouac, County Administrator

Discussion: Public Works recommends approving the Project Framework Agreement with GDOT for funding support for the design activities of the SR53 at Rays Church Road/Malcom Bridge Road roundabout where GDOT agrees to contribute \$500,000 toward the design. The request includes authorizing the Chairman to execute the necessary documents.

Discuss and Consider a Contract Modification for the Design of SR53 at Rays Church Road/Malcom Bridge Road Roundabout Project and SR53 at Snows Mill Road/Rocky Branch Road Roundabout Project:

Presented by: Justin Kirouac, County Administrator

Discussion: Public Works recommends approving a contract modification adding \$133,580 to the design of SR53 at Snows Mill Road/Rocky Branch Road and \$411,077 for a total of \$544,657 to the design of SR53 at Rays Church Road/Malcom Bridge Road and SR53 at Snows Mill Road/Rocky Branch Road. The Project Framework Agreement just discussed will offset \$500,000 of these costs from GDOT. The request is to approve the modifications for \$544,657, authorizing the Chairman to execute the necessary documents, and approving future budget amendments up to the contract amount for the life of the project.

Chairman Daniell recommends acceptance of \$500,000 from GDOT and only allowing that amount to be paid to the design consultant due to a lower original bid. Currently the Rays

Church/Malcom Bridge Project is on schedule for summer construction. Mr. Kirouac stated all right-of-way parcels have been acquired. Commissioner Thomas asked if part of the increase was due to the county request for speed limit reviews coming into the roundabout. Discussions continued about the original bids, costs of each roundabout design, and the difference in price.

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

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to approve the Project Framework Agreement for SR53 at Rays Church Road/Malcom Bridge Road Roundabout Project to accept \$500,000 from GDOT.

Second: Chuck Horton

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

Voted Against Motion: None

Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

ACTION:

Motion: Amrey Harden made a motion to approve the contract modification not to exceed \$500,000 for design of SR53 at Rays Church Road/Malcom Bridge Road Roundabout Project and SR53 at Snows Mill Road/Rocky Branch Road Roundabout Project.

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 Guaranteed Maximum Price for the Courthouse Upgrade:

Presented by: John Daniell, Chairman

Discussion: Chairman John Daniell discussed the Courthouse Upgrade Project which will include security upgrades, build out of new offices, two additional courtrooms, expansion of the Clerk's offices and Probate Judge's offices, and freshening up of other areas. Kevin Price Construction was awarded the project and finalized plans with a guaranteed maximum price of \$4,715,000, which is set aside in the Capital Fund and SPLOST. There is \$200,000 for contingency included in the price. The request is for acceptance of the maximum guaranteed price of \$4,715,000 with all necessary budget amendments for the life of the project.

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

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to approve the guaranteed maximum price of \$4,715,000 for the Courthouse Upgrade Project.

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 FY27 Budget Submittal Plan:

Presented by: Melisa Braswell, Finance Director

Discussion: FY27 Budget Submittal Plan is as follows:

- January 6, 2026: FY27 Budget Submittal Plan Adoption by Board of Commissioners.

- January 7, 2026: Budget Request to Offices and Departments
- February 13, 2026: Budget Request Deadline
- March 2-13, 2026: Recommendation Back to Departments
- March 16-18, 2026: Recommendation Review Meeting as Requested
- March 19-April 10, 2026: Budget Consolidation
- April 13-17, 2026: Commissioner Review of Recommendations
- May 5, 2026: First Public Hearing
- May 19, 2026: Second Public Hearing
- June 2, 2026: Budget Adoption

ACTION:

Motion to Confirm: Mark Thomas made a motion to approve the FY27 Budget Submittal Plan.
 Second: Mark Saxon
 Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
 Voted Against Motion: None
 Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**

Discuss and Consider a Memorandum of Agreement with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for the Plan First Designation:

Presented by: Daniel Haygood, County Attorney
 Discussion: County Attorney Daniel Haygood requested approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs as part of the Plan First Designation.

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

ACTION:

Motion: Chuck Horton made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for the Plan First Designation
 Second: Amrey Harden
 Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
 Voted Against Motion: None
 Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

Discuss and Consider a Settlement Agreement with Publix in the Oconee Opioid Litigation:

Presented by: Daniel Haygood, County Attorney
 Discussion: County Attorney Daniel Haygood explained that Publix was a small entity in this settlement who chose to settle directly with parties. The settlement agreement of \$9,662.34, less attorney fees, is for release of all opioid related claims with no admission in fault. The recommendation by the attorneys is for approval.

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

ACTION:

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

Discuss and Consider SPLOST 2027 IGA:

Presented by: John Daniell, Chairman

Discussion: Chairman John Daniell explained the proposed IGA with the cities of Bishop, Bogart, North High Shoals, and Watkinsville for the distribution of proceeds from the 2027 SPLOST for capital outlay projects. Chairman Daniell met with Mayors on December 15, 2025. The consideration for a Call for Referendum will be on January 27, 2026 at which time all Mayors are expected to have signed the IGA. The expected revenue from SPLOST 2027 will be between \$75 million and \$90 million, with collections from October 1, 2027 to September 30, 2033. The split with the cities would be at the following percentages if approved:

Watkinsville – 7.77%

Bogart 3.17%

North High Shoals – 1.32%

Bishop – 0.79%

Oconee County – 86.95% to be used to pay off all debt for OVP and the Administrative Building, along with Capital Projects for Water Resources, Farmland Protection, Oconee County Fire Rescue, Historic Properties, Radio System Upgrades Water Resources, General Facilities, Law Enforcement Vehicles, and the largest percentage to Parks and Recreation.

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

ACTION:

Motion:

Mark Saxon made a motion to approve the SPLOST 2027 IGA.

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:

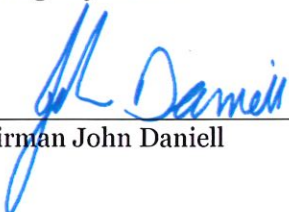
None

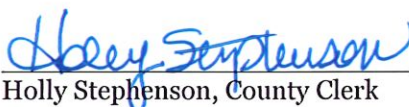
Action/Motion:

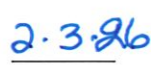
Motion Passed.

Meeting Adjourned:

7:39 p.m.


Chairman John Daniell


Holly Stephenson, County Clerk


Date