

**Oconee County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Administrative Building Commission Chambers
January 27, 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
Donna Norton, Budget Officer
Adam Layfield, Water Recourses Director
Whitney Sperlik, Civic Center Director
Lisa Davol, Parks and Recreation Director
Clay Christian, IT Specialist

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

Chairman John Daniell called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Commissioner Mark Thomas led the Pledge after a moment of silence.

Approval of Agenda:

ACTION:

Motion:	Mark Thomas made a motion to approve the January 27, 2026 Agenda.
Second:	Chuck Horton
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 has a request has been made to withdraw Rezone request P25-0273 and Variance request P25-0274 for property located at 2100 Daniells Bridge Road. Historically, the Board of Commissioner has not denied a request to withdraw zoning requests and will consider these requests on February 3, 2026.

The next Town Hall Meeting will be held on February 10, 2026 at 6pm at the Administrative Building.

Discuss Changes to Oconee County 457(b) Plan to Allow Conversion from Pre-tax 457(b) to Roth 457:

Presented by: Justin Kirouac, County Administrator

Discussion: County Administrator Justin Kirouac explained that the retirement plan through ACCG currently allows employees to contribute to a 457 (b). The request is to allow contribution to a Roth 457, which is an option that ACCG also can provide.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agent at the February 3, 2026 Regular Meeting.

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

Discuss the Civic Center Re-Roof and Exterior Restoration Projects:

Presented by: Whitney Sperlik, Civic Center Director

Discussion: The Civic Center needs a new roof after many leaks and patching repairs. An RFP was issued, and seven bids were received. The recommendation is to award the re-roof project to Watertight Roofing Services with a contract not to exceed \$578,500. Additionally, it was highly recommended that exterior restoration and repairs be done prior to the re-roof project. A vendor was found on State contract, and the recommendation is to hire Garland Company at a not to exceed price of \$298,959. The complete request is to approve a budget amendment for the life of the project in the amount of \$947,459 which does include a project contingency of \$70,000.

Commissioner Harden asked what amount the school board would be responsible for. Chairman Daniell responded they will reimburse 50% of the cost from their ELOST.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agent at the February 3, 2026 Regular Meeting.

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

Discuss a Scope Modification for the US 441 Sanitary Sewer Diversion Design Services:

Presented by: Adam Layfield, Water Resources

Discussion: Oconee County Water Resources would like to revise the design contract for the US 441 sanitary sewer diversion to include acquisition services and a slight route revision for an additional \$32,050, bringing the overall total cost of design services to \$252,685. 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 Agent at the February 3, 2026 Regular Meeting.

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

Discuss FY26 Mid-Year Budget Amendments:

Presented by: Melissa Braswell, Finance Director

Discussion: Finance Director Melissa Braswell requests authority for a mid-year budget amendment to adjust revenue and expenditures in order to meet the emerging needs for government operations in the period ending June 30, 2026. She listed the budget amendments, revenue neutral amendments, and transfers for the General Fund and other funds.

Commissioner Harden questioned the transfer to EMS.
Chairman Daniell responded it is for a potential upcoming project.

The item will be considered at the February 3, 2026 BOC meeting.

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

Discuss and Consider the FY26 VOCA Grant Award Allocation:

Presented by: Melissa Braswell, Finance Director
Discussion: Finance Director Melissa Braswell explained that the Criminal Justice Coordinating council has approved the FY26 VOCA continuation funding application and Oconee County has been selected to receive grant funds for victim advocate positions on behalf of the Western Judicial Circuit DA's office. The request is for approval the VOCA continuation grant, AW-VOCA-25-071-012 in the amount of \$143,475 for the grant period October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026, with the 25% match being waived.

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

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to approve the FY26 VOCA Grant Award Allocation.
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 the 2026 Elections Qualifying Fees:

Presented by: Daniel Haygood, County Attorney
Discussion: Qualifying fees are based on State of Georgia law and require approval by the Board of Commissioners. 3% of minimum salary Oconee County 2026 Qualifying Fees are as follows:

- Member, Board of Commissioners - \$755.36
- Board of Education - \$54.00

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

ACTION:

Motion: Chuck Horton made a motion to approve the 2026 Qualifying Fees.
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 Final Approval of the 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 will allow six-year collection with no cap. All the Mayors have signed the IGA and submitted their project lists. The expected revenue from SPLOST 2027 will be between \$75 million and \$90 million, with collections from October 1, 2027 to September 30, 2033. Typing errors in the document were corrected after approval.

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: 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 Call for Election for SPLOST 2027:

Presented by: Daniel Haygood, County Attorney

Discussion: The final step in preparing SPLOST 2027 and a call for election is to adopt the SPLOST 2027 Referendum Resolution. The Resolution includes the ballot language and authorizes the Board of Elections to issue the call for a referendum on the ballot. The Board of Elections has a called meeting scheduled for February 2, 2026 to approve their resolution and issue the call. Typing errors in the document were corrected after approval.

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

ACTION:

Motion: Mark Thomas made a motion to approve SPLOST Resolution Referendum and Call for Election for SPLOST 2027 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.**

Discuss the Quarterly Acceptance of Deeds, Easements, Etc:

Presented by: Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

Discussion: County Clerk Holly Stephenson requests acceptance of the following deeds and easements:

- Right of Way Deed and Temporary Construction Easement from PHGA Properties, LLC to Oconee County, dated September 19, 2025 and recorded September 22, 2025 for Hog Mountain Road and Wellbrook Road.
- Right of Way Deed and Temporary Driveway Easements from Townley Family Partnership, LLLP to Oconee County, dated September 22, 2025 and recorded September 23, 2025 for SR 53 at Rays Church Road and Malcom Bridge Road.
- Right of Way Deed from Golden Pantry Food Stores, Inc. to Oconee County, dated September 8, 2025 and recorded September 11, 2025 for SR 53 at Rays Church Road and Malcom Bridge Road.
- Right of Way Deed from Missy Petter Revocable Trust to Oconee County, dated September 5, 2025 and recorded September 5, 2025 for SR 53 at Rays Church Road and Malcom Bridge Road.
- Right of Way Deed and Temporary Demolition Easement from Bruce Wallace Knecht and Sandra D. Knecht to Oconee County, dated September 24, 2025 and recorded September 24, 2025 for SR 53 at Rays Church Road and Malcom Bridge Road.
- Right of Way Deed and Temporary Driveway Easements from Johnny Tabb Roberts and Carolyn Elaine Roberts to Oconee County, dated October 23, 2025 and recorded October 23, 2025 for SR 53 at Rays Church Road and Malcom Bridge Road.
- Right of Way Deed from Poplar Springs Baptist Church to Oconee County, dated November 12, 2025 and recorded November 12, 2025 for Colham Ferry at Astondale Road.
- Right of Way Deed from Martha Sally White Malcolm to Oconee County, dated December 2, 2025 and recorded December 3, 2025 for Colham Ferry at Astondale Road.
- Right of Way Deed from Mark W. Provost and Laura Gascho-Provost to Oconee County, dated January 16, 2026 and recorded January 16, 2026 for Colham Ferry at Astondale Road.
- Right of Way Deed from Joshua B. Baker and Alexandra M. Peters to Oconee County, dated January 23, 2026 and recorded January 23, 2026 for Colham Ferry at Astondale Road.
- Limited Warranty Deed from Mark Alan Farmer and Dorset W. Trapnell to Oconee County, dated January 9, 2026 and recorded January 12, 2026 for 110.716 acres on Highway 441 at Heritage Park.
- Limited Warranty Deed from William A. Kelly to Oconee County, dated January 16, 2026 and recorded January 16, 2026 for Daniels Bridge Road property.

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On consensus, these items will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the February 3, 2026 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 personnel 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: 6:21 p.m.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

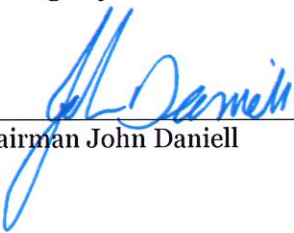
Executive Session Adjourned: 6:58 p.m.

Regular Session:

Motion: Amrey Harden 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: 7:00 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: 7:00 p.m.


Chairman John Daniell


Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

2-3-26
Date