Oconee County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Administrative Building Commission Chambers
May 19, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.
Minutes

Members Present:
Chairman John Daniell
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
Crystal Berisko, Animal Services Director
C.J. Worden, EMA Director
Adam Layfield, Water Recourses Director
Clay Christian, IT Specialist

FY27 Proposed Budget Public Hearing:
Finance Director Melissa Braswell presented the proposed FY27 Budget, stating the Budget supports the mission of Oconee County and is designed to achieve the strategic goals set forth for the county.

The proposed FY27 General Fund Budget is $49,004,700, which is a balanced budget. She discussed the FY27 General Fund proposed revenues and expenditures as compared to the FY26 budget, while detailing some changes departmentally and by classification. The proposed budget is an increase of 7.22% over the FY26 General Fund Budget and includes the new EMS Department funding.

The total proposed budget for FY27 is $85,493,242 to include capital, SPLOST and TSPLOST, special revenue, and enterprise funds. This is 2.14% increase from prior year. Proposed revenues and expenses by fund and function were presented. The budget will be balanced with some use of fund balance.

The total proposed budget for Water Resources, the largest Enterprise Fund, is $16,919,892, which is an increase of 2.57% over FY26. Revenues and expenses were presented by classification.

The FY27 Budget supports the strategic goals of the county with a commitment to public safety, transportation maintenance and improvements, water and sewer infrastructure plan, and the fleet phase replacement program.

The Budget Adoption scheduled for June 2, 2026. The full presentation, budget summary, and fee schedule are posted on the Oconee County website.

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

Call to Order: 6:17 p.m.
Chairman John Daniell called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance:
Commissioner Amrey Harden led the Pledge after a moment of silence.

Approval of Agenda:

ACTION:

Motion:	Mark Saxon made a motion to approve the May 19, 2026 Agenda.
Second:	Amrey Harden
Voted in Favor of Motion:	Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon, John Daniell
Voted Against Motion:	None
Final Action:	**Motion Passed.**

Statements and Remarks from Citizens:

None.

Statements and Remarks from Commissioners:

None.

Discuss the Purchase of a 2000 Gallon Tanker Truck:

Presented by: Melissa Braswell, Finance Director

Discussion: Finance Director Melissa Braswell explained that the Fire Chief is requesting to replace the 1995 tanker truck at Station 2 with the purchase of a new Tanker Truck at a cost not to exceed $240,000. The funds are available in the SPLOST budget. The request includes approval of all necessary budget amendments for the life of the project up to the contract amount.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the June 2, 2026 Regular Meeting.

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

Update of the Purchase of Station 8 Fire Engine:

Presented by: John Daniell, Chairman

Discussion: Chairman John Daniel explained that the Fire Engine for Station 8 specifications are being finalized, and the item will be presented for consideration at the June 2, 2026 BOC meeting.

Discuss and Consider Animal Services Fencing Project Grant Acceptance:

Presented by: Crystal Berisko, Animal Services Director

Discussion: Animal Services Director Crystal Berisko explained that Oconee County Animal Services has been awarded a grant through the Atlanta Humane Society for a fencing project for the animal enrichment area. She recommends acceptance of the grant in the amount of $15,000 which will be paid directly to the contractors for construction of the project. The grant will require signing an MOU that has been approved by the county attorney. The request is for consideration of the MOU and grant acceptance as the deadline is May 22, 2026.

Commissioner Harden asked who would select the contractor.
Ms. Berisko explained that will be a joint decision with Atlanta Humane Society and the Oconee Animal Services Department.

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

ACTION:

Motion:	Mark Saxon made a motion to approve the MOU and grant from Atlanta Humane Society.
Second:	Amrey Harden
Voted in Favor of Motion:	Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon, John Daniell
Voted Against Motion:	None
Final Action:	**Motion Passed.**

Discuss the RBLAS Decommissioning Task Order:

Presented by: Adam Layfield, Water Resources Director

Discussion: Water Resources Director Adam Layfield explained that PO Boys Plumbing, Inc. has submitted a Task Order for the decommission of the Rocky Branch LAS as needed for the planned Dawson Park project. The not-to-exceed cost is $1,436,800. The request is to approve the Task Order No. 2026-09 for up to $1,436,800 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 June 2, 2026 Regular Meeting.

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

Discuss the FY27 ACCG-IRMA Property and Liability Insurance Renewal:

Presented by: Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

Discussion: County Clerk Holly Stephenson requests approval of the FY27 Property and Liability Insurance proposal with ACCG-IRMA (Association County Commissioners of Georgia – Interlocal Risk Management Agency) in the amount of $442,606 after a $23,295 safety credit applied from FY26.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the June 2, 2026 Regular Meeting.

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

Discuss Donation to Toombs County:

Presented by: C. J. Worden, EMA Director

Discussion: EMA Director C.J. Worden explained that Oconee County has the opportunity to donate a surplused 1993 International Fire Engine which is no longer used. The request is to approve the donation to an entity who could use the truck and authorizing the Chairman sign the necessary documents for transfer.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the June 2, 2026 Regular Meeting.

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

Discuss an Agreement with Georgia Transmission Corporation for Pole Replacement:

Presented by: John Daniell, Chairman

Discussion: Chairman John Daniell explained this item relates to the 441-sewer collection upgrade project. An easement for a pole with a guide wire was unable to be used, so replacement of the pole with one that does not require a guide wire is necessary at a cost of $60,000. The request is to authorize execution of the Agreement with Georgia Transmission Line so the project can be completed by October 1, 2026, and budget amendments for the life of the project up to the contract amount.

On consensus, this item will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the June 2, 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 land acquisition, personnel, and litigation.
Second:	Amrey Harden
Voted in Favor of Motion:	Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon, John Daniell

Voted Against Motion:	None
Action/Motion:	**Motion Passed.**
Adjourn into Executive Session:	6:28 p.m.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

Executive Session Adjourned:	7:06 p.m.

Regular Session:

Motion:	Amrey Harden made a motion to adjourn back into Regular Session.
Second:	Mark Saxon
Voted in Favor of Motion:	Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon, John Daniell
Voted Against Motion:	None
Action/Motion:	**Motion Passed.**
Adjourned into Regular Session:	7:07 p.m.

Adjourned:

Motion:	Mark Saxon made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Second:	Amrey Harden
Voted in Favor of Motion:	Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon, John Daniell
Voted Against Motion:	None
Action/Motion:	**Motion Passed.**
Meeting Adjourned:	7:07 p.m.

John Daniell
Chairman John Daniell

Holly Stephenson 6-2-26
Holly Stephenson, County Clerk Date