



MINUTES CONSERVATION BANK BOARD

September 15, 2020

Oconee County Administrative Offices, Council Chambers
415 S. Pine Street, Walhalla, SC 29691

MEMBERS

Mr. Andrew Smith, Chair, District II
Ms. Emily Hitchcock, Vice Chairman, At Large
Mr. Ryan Keese, Secretary, District, III
Ms. Laura Havran, Treasurer, District I

Mr. Marvin Prater, District IV
VACANT, District V
VACANT, At Large
Ms. Katie D. Smith, Staff Liaison

The Oconee County Conservation Bank Board [OCCB] met at 9:00 a.m. in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all members present [except Mr. Prater] and Katie D. Smith, Clerk to Council acting as staff liaison.

Press: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [www.oconeesc.com/council]. In addition, it was made available [*upon request*] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

No members of the media were present.

Call to Order

Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Smith noted there was a scrivener's error on the August 18, 2020 minutes. The Clerk was made aware of the error and corrected prior to the minutes being filed.

Ms. Hitchcock made a motion, seconded by Ms. Havran, approved 4 – 0, to approve the minutes from August 18, 2020 meeting as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Havran read the Treasurer's Reports for Community First Bank and the Local Government Investment Pool [State Pool] and noted they are accurate as presented. She further noted the balances on the reports are as follows:

Community First Bank for August 2020 is \$16,755.00;

Local Government Investment Pool [State Pool] for August 2020 is \$410,068.98.

Mr. Keese made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hitchcock, approved 4 – 0, to accept as presented the Treasurer's Report for both Community First Bank and the Local Government Investment Pool [State Pool] for August 2020.

Mr. Smith noted there was discussion in the previous meeting regarding how much funds were to be kept in the Community First Bank account. He noted Ms. Hitchcock had researched the information and found the OCCB established a policy where \$15,000.00 was to be kept in the account.

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Ms. Hitchcock noted this would be further discussed under the discussion item regarding Policy 0002.

Discussion Items

Lengthy discussion followed regarding the topics indicated below, with various opinions expressed, to include but not limited to:

Continued discussion and approval regarding Policy 0002

Ms. Hitchcock updated the Board utilizing a handout entitled “Policy 0002, Bank Account” [copy filed with backup materials] and highlighted the changes made.

Ms. Hitchcock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Smith, approved 4 – 0, to adopt Policy 0002, Bank Account.

Continued discussion regarding the Duke Energy report

Mr. Smith updated the Board utilizing a handout entitled “Follow-up Report to Duke Energy – Oconee County Conservation Bank” [copy filed with backup materials] and discussed the contents of the report.

Continued discussion included:

- Interest
- Donations to the OCCB
- Attach the previous report and the PowerPoint presentation to the current report before sending to Duke Energy

It was the consensus of the Board to bring this matter back to the OCCB at a later date for approval.

Discussion from the Agricultural Advisory Board meeting

Mr. Smith noted he attended the Agricultural Advisory Board [AAB] meeting on Monday, September 14, 2020 and gave an overview of the history of OCCB and a summary of what the Board does, such as conservation easements, fee simple purchases, etc. He noted the AAB would put the OCCB in their farm resource contact guide, as well as Upstate Forever, Naturaland Trust, & Oconee Soil & Water Conservation District. Discussion continued to include press releases and who handles this for the County.

Ms. Hitchcock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Smith, approved 4 – 0, for Ms. Havran to follow-up with the staff member that the Clerk to Council identifies regarding procedures for OCCB issuance of press releases.

Discussion from the OCCB Procedures Committee

Mr. Smith noted that the OCCB Procedures Committee has been reviewing the Statement of Interest, Application, and Evaluation forms, along with the criteria worksheets. Discussion continued to include:

- Statement of Interest form
 - Decide to keep, abandon, or revise this form
 - Not made a final decision on the form, but idea of integrating into the application

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- It will be up to the applicant if they want to send in the form or omit the form and just send in the application
- Ordinance 2020-16, amending the Oconee County Conservation Bank Board, had the following readings from County Council: 1st Reading – September 1, 2020; 2nd Reading – September 15, 2020; Public Hearing & 3rd & Final Reading – October 6, 2020

Ms. Hitchcock made a motion, seconded by Ms. Havran, approved 4 – 0, for Mr. Smith to attend the October 6, 2020 County Council meeting on behalf of the OCCB regarding the proposed ordinance changes.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at the Oconee County Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC 29691.

Adjourn:

Ms. Hitchcock made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Katie D. Smith
Clerk to Council & Staff Liaison

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