



MINUTES
CONSERVATION BANK BOARD
September 13, 2022
Oconee County Administrative Offices, Council Chambers
415 S. Pine Street, Walhalla, SC 29691

MEMBERS

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

Vacant, District IV
Mr. Scuddy Walker, Vice Chairman, District V
Vacant, At Large
Ms. Jennifer C. Adams, 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 [Mr. Andy Smith absent] and Jennifer C. Adams, 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

Ms. Hitchcock called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Havran made a motion, seconded by Mr. Keese, approved 4 – 0, to approve the August 9, 2022 meeting minutes as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Havran read the Treasurer's Report 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:

Local Government Investment Pool [State Pool] for July 2022 is \$280,872.89; Community First Bank for August 2022 is \$4041.00.

[Error in date noted for the Local Government Investment Pool [State Pool], the date should read August 2022. The Treasurer's Report has since been corrected and uploaded to backup.]

Mr. Keese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Walker, approved 4 – 0, to accept as presented the Treasurer's Report for Community First Bank for August of 2022 and the Local Government Investment Pool [State Pool] for July [August] of 2022.

A video recording of this meeting is available at www.oconeesc.com. Meetings have been live-streamed beginning January 17, 2017. Brought to you by Your Oconee.

Fundraising & Public Relations Reports

Ms. Hitchcock stated that in Andy Smith's absence she would give an abbreviated report, noting she had spoken with Debbie Dubose, an Oconee County private citizen, along with Andrea Cooper and Aldon Knight with Upstate Forever, regarding assistance with an endowment campaign.

Ms. Hitchcock explained the results of the above mentioned conversations with the Board and informed them that everything has been deferred until Mr. Smith's return because he is going to be leading the fundraising efforts.

Short discussion followed by Board members related to fundraising.

Mr. Keese and Ms. Havran reported no activity in the public relations area.

Grants Status

Mr. Walker informed the Board that there have been no changes in the OCCB Grants Disbursed and Expenses chart [copy filed in backup].

Ms. Hitchcock addressed Mr. Keese noting she had forgotten to add the "Donations Report" [copy filed in backup] to the agenda but proceeded to ask Mr. Keese for an update.

Mr. Keese reported there had been no recent donations.

Discussion Items

Discussion and/or action regarding the status of ordinance amendments

Ms. Hitchcock informed the Board that the ordinance was adopted as proposed and is now in effect.

Discussion and/or action regarding revision of Policy 003 Grant Procedures and Application of Funding form due to ordinance changes

Ms. Hitchcock noted to the Board that due to changes in the newly adopted amended ordinance, revisions are needed for the Policy 003 Grant Procedures and Application of Funding forms.

Ms. Hitchcock stated that County Attorney, David Root, advised her to revise the Boards policies to become as short as possible but noted that she did not want the Board to vote on this policy until Mr. Smith's return.

Ms. Hitchcock reviewed the proposed policy changes with the board.

Ms. Hitchcock went on to inform the board of the proposed changes to the Application of Funding Form.

The Board continued with a short discussion regarding the proposed changes to the Application of Funding form.

Ms. Hitchcock made a motion, seconded by Ms. Havran, approved 4 – 0, to adopt the Application of Funding form as presented in the backup material and to have the staff liaison, Jennifer C. Adams, to notify grant recipients of the changes and that this will be the application going forward.

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Discussion and/or action regarding recommendation to vacate Policy 005 and Request for Approval of Property Interest forms

Ms. Hitchcock made a motion, seconded by Ms. Havran, to vacate Policy 005 and the Request for Approval of Property Interest form.

Ms. Hitchcock provided background information and relayed the advice that County Attorney, David Root, offered regarding the motion to vacate the above mentioned policy and form, citing a current matter between Naturland Trust and OCCB related to this policy and form.

Lengthy discussion followed by Board members related to the above mentioned policy and form and the issue that Naturland Trust has raised concerning this policy.

Motion approved 4 – 0.

Discussion and/or action regarding Naturaland Trust letter status and transfer

Ms. Hitchcock stated that a letter was sent to Naturaland Trust as instructed by the Board several months ago and that this letter is what raised the above discussed issues.

Update on status of OCCB vacant seats

Ms. Hitchcock asked if any applications had been sent in for the vacant seats on the OCCB board.

Ms. Adams, staff liaison, informed Ms. Hitchcock that no applications had been received.

Ms. Hitchcock inquired if any board members have had any conversations with citizens who might be willing to serve and encouraged the Board to try and recruit new members to fill the vacant seats.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 15, 2022, in the Oconee County Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC 29691.

Adjourn:

Ms. Havran made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Council & Staff Liaison

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