

Assisted living project comes before council

11-23-10

The Retreat at Keowee Key seeks up to \$13M bond issue

BY CARLOS GALARZA
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — The Oconee County Council is expected to consider a resolution tonight that could, if approved, endorse the building of an assisted living facility called The Retreat at Keowee Key.

Approval of Resolution 2010-19 would lend council's support to a bond issue not to exceed \$13 million by the South Carolina Jobs and Economic Development Authority — JEDA.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act backs the bonds, which are called Recovery Zone Facility Revenue Bonds. The bonds are intended to help stimulate the economy and create jobs in areas with chronic high unemployment.

JEDA received an allocation of \$47 million in ARRA funds from the S.C. Budget and Control Board to be used for the issuance of Facility Bonds. Oconee would not be indebted by the bonds.

County Administrator Scott Moulder said Monday that JEDA and the developers would present details about the assisted living project at tonight's council meeting.

However, Moulder said he did not know whether the presentation would come before or after a public hearing on Resolution 2010-19 (aka Project North) is held.

"That's been part of the problem with this resolution," Moulder said. "It's been rushed."

Part of the rush is that Recovery Zone Bonds need to be issued by the end of the



Moulder

IF YOU GO

What: Oconee County Council
When: 6 to-night
Where: Council Chambers, 415 S. Pine St., Walhalla



RETREAT: Agenda full

FROM PAGE A1

year.

Apex Development Group, LLC, a Piedmont-based organization headed by two Clemson University graduates, wants to develop the project.

According to the resolution, the project would produce construction jobs and 35 full-time jobs and 30 part-time jobs once the project is operating fully.

Oconee's Planning Department has yet to see paperwork on the project.

Public hearings also are on the agenda related to the purchase of a parcel on Church Street, where the new jail is to be built, and acquisition of Propex Building property.

The public also gets a chance to speak in favor or against Project North, the council's plans to buy 415 acres on SC Highway 11 for \$2.5 million (see related story).

carlos@dailyjournal.com | (864) 973-6685

SEE RETREAT, PAGE A5