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Council picks new Oconee administrator

Moulder says he's 'excited and honored' to lead county

BY CARLOS GALARZA
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WALHALLA — Timothy Scott Moulder is bringing his aggressive can-do style of managing to Oconee County.

The County Council voted unanimously Tuesday night to make Moulder the county's fourth full-time administrator in six years.

Council took the vote after meeting in executive session for about 15 minutes.

Moulder said by phone from Abbeville late Tuesday night that he's "extremely excited and honored" to be coming to Oconee County.



Moulder

"It's reassuring that council is hiring you to lead the organization," he said.

Moulder said that if he had to pick a reason why council chose him for the job it would be that he "came across as a leader." He also touts his ability to "communicate with everyone," work with council and lead county departments by example.

Moulder said Interim Administrator Gene Klugh called him after Tuesday night's council meeting to break the news.

County Administrator Tom Martin said the contract to be presented to Moulder would pay him a starting salary of $125,000. Following a satisfactory evaluation, Moulder would be paid $135,000 the second year and $145,000 on the third and final year of the contract.

Council Chairman Reg Dexter said council had four excellent candidates to choose from.

"All of them are capable of running this county," he said. "There's no question about their abilities.

Moulder did not have a start date yet.

"We've go to discuss that," he said. "I still need to notify council here and work out a separation agreement."

Martin said the contract also gives Moulder $10,000 for moving expenses.

The end of the search for a new administrator comes exactly a year and one week following the firing of former Administrator Dale Surrett.

In other action, council heard a proposal from library officials to finance a $9.1 million Seneca branch through a U.S. Department of Agriculture loan/grant program.

The proposal would allow the county to issue a $6.1 million bond at 4.125 percent interest over 40 years through the USDA and also receive a $2.5 million grant for the project.

At Councilman Paul Corbeil's recommendation, council put off a final decision until it has completed a series of budget workshops in the coming weeks.

At the recommendation of a USDA official present at the meeting, council gave the go ahead for an environmental assessment of the library site to be conducted at no cost to the county.

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