County considers millage

BY NORMAN CANNADA
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WALHALLA — Members of the Oconee County Council are expected to take action at their meeting tonight on a proposed county millage for the 2013 tax year.


Nix

County Auditor Ken Nix said he will announce his proposed county millage at the council meeting. Approval of a millage rate is required in order to fund the fiscal year 2014 operating budgets for Oconee County and the School District of Oconee County. The millage is typically set in September to give the county time to process tax notices in October.

Nix said last week a slight increase in the assessment of Duke Energy's Oconee Nuclear Station will likely put the value of a county mil near the $498,000 figure Oconee County officials used to prepare their fiscal year 2014 budget. The net increase of the assessment is around $140,000.

The value of a county mil was $496,000 last year, which was the first time Nix was aware of in which the millage value had gone down from one year to the next. A $10 million decrease in Duke's assessment last year was among the reasons listed for the drop in millage value.

In other business, officials with Oconee Alliance are planning to formally ask the council to consider a merger between the alliance and the Oconee County Economic

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MILLAGE: Meeting set for 6 p.m. start

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Development Commission.

Robert Halfacre, chairman of the board of directors for Oconee Alliance, said the alliance board made its decision during a retreat last month.

Discussion about a potential merger between the two groups has been ongoing for several months. A strategic plan for economic development presented to County Council in January called for the commission have non-profit status, allowing for more private partnership with the county as well as combining some groups with the commission.

The council will also consider spending more than $681,000 for equipment for the roads and bridges department and about $275,000 for vehicles for various county departments including animal control, sheriff, assessor's office, vehicle maintenance and emergency services

The meeting at the county administrative offices will begin with a public comment period at 6 p.m.

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