Library, building top agenda of council

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WALHALLA — The Oconee County Council is stuffing a lot of business into its only August meeting.

Officials for A.I.D. Company, which is buying the shell building in Oconee Commerce Center for $1 million, will discuss their plans to expand and upgrade the building before moving in early next year. The council will also have its third and final reading on the ordinance approving the sale.

Oconee County library board members will also be on hand with consultant David Warren to discuss his recommendations for building a new, 30,000 square-foot Seneca branch that could cost up to $7.4 million. The library board is considering four sites for the new building and wants council's input before making a formal recommendation.

Oconee County Administrator Scott Moulder said he expects for the council and library board to have a plan ready by year's end. The council would take up the matter of financing the new library's construction in January or February.

The council will also consider Resolution 2012-10, a measure that would clear the way for Pointe West Inc. to receive $300,000 in Utility Tax Credits from Blue Ridge Cooperative for infrastructure work at its $17 million mixed-use development near Clemson University.

The resolution does not create any financial obligations or liabilities for the county; it is required by state law to certify that Pointe West qualifies for UTC money.

Moulder said the development, when completed, would be worth "$100s of millions," thus increasing Oconee County's overall assessed valuation.

IN OTHER BUSINESS, THE COUNCIL WILL:

• Consider hiring Rouleau & Associates Inc., a Greer-based firm, to look at the possibility of using county-owned land and buildings to generate solar energy. Terence Kominski, the firm's vice president of business development, received a favorable reception last month from the council's Real Estate, Facilities & Land Management Committee. Moulder said that the county landfill doesn't generate enough methane to become an extra revenue source, but the land could be used for housing photovoltaic and other solar collectors. Such an effort could trim the county's light bills and generate electricity to sell to Duke Energy and others. Under the proposed agreement, the firm wouldn't bill the county more than $20,000 for labor and expenses for the study, which would have to be submitted to Moulder by Oct. 15 for review by him and the council.

• Conduct a second reading of Ordinance 2012-29, approving a $1.6 million bond sale for the construction of a new Anderson Oconee Behavioral Health Services (AOBHS) facility in Seneca. All bond payments are to be made by AOBHS.

• Have the third and final reading for Ordinance 2012-28, which would create a special tax district within the Stone Pond subdivision to pay for road improvements.

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