

Keowee Key growth unwelcome

Staff Reports

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

The Oconee County Council recently passed the Propex project, even though it is an EPA SuperFund toxic brownfield and the public was strongly opposed. It also quickly approved Project North.

It saw nothing wrong with council member Reg Dexter and the seller signing final purchase documents before a public hearing and third reading. Council member Paul Corbeil saw nothing wrong with saying the price is one-third off, when we're actually seeing only a common 6 percent discount of the appraisal. He

conveniently ignores \$1,000,000 of Blue Ridge tax money covering much of it.

A \$13 million bond issue for a nursing home near Keowee Key was also approved. Corbeil calls it a "good project." It sure is — for developers. The council refused to rule out another HighPointe-PointeWest style giveaway.

Anyone alarmed about uncontrolled growth around Lake Keowee should be concerned. The developer describes the project as "a magnet for development in the entire area." He will extend sewer lines, crossing Keowee at the proposed Palmetto Pointe marina and probably leading to re-instatement of its DHEC permit.

Adjacent homeowners, perhaps even Keowee Key, could face expensive mandatory connection.

The developer also mentioned "big-box stores" Home Depot and Walmart that drive major growth. When they come, traffic congestion along 130 could force widening.

Hang on, taxpayers. The council also mentioned "more revenue." "sales tax" and "maximum millage increases," Propex, the \$30 million playground nursing home, \$17 million jail, spec building, \$50 million high school and sewers in Fair Play will, I predict, force tax hikes and drive rampant growth.

Bo Horne, Seneca

