Taxpayers to weigh in on budget tonight

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WALHALLA — Oconee County taxpayers have an opportunity to sound off tonight on a proposed $42 million budget.

Starting at 6 p.m., the public also could chime in on separate ordinances that set aside $71.7 million to cover Oconee County School District operations and debt service and $720,509 for the Keowee Fire Special Tax District.

Oconee County Council Chairman Reg Dexter said it is possible that a discussion on the proposed fire services contract with the City of Seneca could be brought up during the public hearings or during a Budget, Finance and Administration Committee meeting at 7:30 p.m.

WANT TO GO?

What: Oconee 2010-11 budget public hearings
When: 6 tonight
Where: Council Chambers, 415 N. Pine St., Walhalla

The $503,000 contract between the county and Seneca that provides service to homes and businesses up to five miles outside the city limits is set to expire June 30.

Having gone through the county budget line-by-line, Dexter said he is not expecting any surprises tonight.

Council unanimously approved a second reading of the county budget ordinance that calls for revenues and expenses of 42,066,202 on May 6. That's $11,160 less than was originally proposed by Interim County Administrator Gene Klugh.

Council also is expected to approve a proposed spending plan for schools of $71,776,100 that includes $15.2 million to service debt.

Dexter said the school district requested less money from the county than it did a year ago.

The 2010-2011 proposed school budget of $78.2 million, which includes state funding, is almost 4 percent less than the current $81.3 million budget that expires June 30.

The proposed Keowee Fire Department budget of $720,509 will be funded with a levy of 14.5 mills on residents of the fire district.

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