

Zoning lawsuit waits to get on docket

No action taken on case since October

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WALHALLA — A pending Oconee County zoning lawsuit is still waiting to get on the docket six months after being filed.

The long wait is not unusual, according to Clerk of Court Beverly Whitfield.

“Usually a case has to be here 180 days before it starts rolling up on the docket,” Whitfield said. The case pits property own-

ers David and Michelle McMahon and Jean Jennings against Oconee County, several elected officials, county employees and others.

The McMahan and Jennings accuse county officials of colluding with lakeside property owners in rejecting their petition to have their parcels zoned into the Traditional Rural District.

According to the plaintiffs, county officials participated in a series of email communications

with those who opposed their TRD petition. The emails were made public through a Freedom of Information Act request.

No action in the case has been taken since the last of the defendants filed their answers in October.

Whitfield said there are older pending cases ahead of the zoning lawsuit.

“It’ll probably be the end of the year before the case is put on the docket,” she said. “Until then we

won’t know which judge will take the case.”

The South Carolina Insurance Reserve Fund retained Jim Jolly of the Logan, Jolly & Smith law firm in Anderson to represent Oconee County and County Administrator Scott Moulder in the case.

Seneca attorney Roberta Barton is representing Jennings and the McMahan.