



2023Oct05 – Chairman’s Update

Fellow Republicans,

Hello. This is a quick note to answer the nagging question of the day: No, I will not be going to the Seneca Journal with a response to Mr. Durham’s guest view, “Rooted in Fact”. Those are Mr. Durham’s “facts” and his manufactured points to argue against participating in the public town hall. Some of you may also have received the same content from Mr. Durham by email via the hijacked 2022 OCRP membership list. The Public Notice ad that ran in today’s Seneca Journal clearly defines a town hall format that will be orderly and informative to the public, much unlike the debate setting that Mr. Durham asserts in his write-up. This is just one example of the clear difference between truth & “fact”.

I’ve done my dead level best to arrange for a legal public town hall event on Oct. 10th, even conceding to remove the county logos from the ad layout when Mr. Root objected. It’s clear to me that Mr. Durham, Mr. Mize, & Mr. Hart don’t think enough of their districts to attend a town hall meeting to address the taxpayers and answer questions regarding county business. Mr. Durham did use his chairman’s position to thwart cooperation with the county administrator’s office in making arrangements for this event.

Real Republicans follow the SC Platform! Below are a few sections of that for reference:

Article II. Ethics in Government

- *We believe elected officials must live within the confines of principle, virtue, and law.*
- *We believe legislators must continue establishing ethical boundaries to safeguard against abuse.*
 - **Questions:** Did discarding the 2023-24 budget upon the 3rd public reading, and moving to quickly replace it with a heavily amended 2022-23 budget (with no time for council member or public review) display conduct within the confines of Principle? Virtue? Law? Does any council member have economic interest (or that of an immediate family member) in any county project being funded under the 2022 thru 2024 budgets? Does any council member have economic interest by way of partnership with any Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) in any county project being funded under the 2022 thru 2024 budgets? “Sewer South” comes to mind.

Article V. The Budget, The Deficit, The Debt

- *We believe in supporting transparency and full disclosure of all government budgeting and expenditures.*
- *We believe that revenue raised for a specific purpose should be used solely for that purpose.*
 - **Questions:** Why have numerous amendments been passed to increase the 2023-24 budget since June 6, 2023? What is the intended use of the \$25,000,000 bond? Is some bond money going to be absorbed into the “General Fund”? If so, how much and for what purpose? How is the \$25,000,000 bond expense going to be paid for? What is the total cost of the \$25,000,000 bond to Oconee County Taxpayers? What & Where is the Return on Investment?

I expect the Oct. 10th public town hall to be well attended. Councilmen Davis & Elliott have already confirmed. I expect open and truthful responses from these councilmen. Please submit your questions for the county council to Mr. Riley Morningstar @ rmorningstar@upstatetoday.com

Cheers,

Jim Mann, OCRP Chairman