

**Columbia County Board of County**  
Minutes of  
**January 15, 2009**

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners met in a scheduled meeting at the School Board Administration Office. The meeting opened at 6:00 p.m. with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

Dewey Weaver, Stephen Bailey, Ronald Williams, Scarlet Frisina, and Jody Dupree.

**Others in Attendance:**

County Manager Dale Williams, Attorney Marlin Feagle, Deputy Clerk Sandy Markham. County Planner Brian Kepner, and BCC Secretary Penny Stanley.

**Deli Dog Stand**

Mr. Ben Kadel, owner of **Deli Dogs & More** requested permission to set up a portable **hotdog stand** on the sidewalk at the Courthouse Annex. He provided the Board with copies of his business license, restaurant license certificate, liability insurance policy (\$1,000,000 coverage), menu and prices, photographs of his portable stand and their certified food manager's certificate. The hours of operation would be 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. The cart would be broken down and removed every afternoon.

Commissioner Williams said that he catches a tremendous amount of flack from citizens regarding the already limited downtown parking. For that reason, he was not in favor of the request. Commissioner Weaver said he did not see how the hotdog stand would be a benefit. Attorney Feagle said if the county intends to approve the request, they would need to consider an ordinance addressing "for profit" vendors operating on county property.

MOTION to deny request by Commissioner Weaver. Second by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

**Adult Drug Court Grant**

Mr. Gerald Hoyt, a grant writer for Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. asked the Board to be the applicant for a \$200,000 **federal grant** for **Adult Drug Court**. The county will have no financial obligations. There is a cash match requirement that Sheriff Hunter has agreed to contribute from **finances and forfeiture seizure monies**. Sheriff Hunter was in attendance and acknowledged his commitment.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to apply for the grant. Second by Commissioner Dupree.

Commissioner Weaver noted that his wife serves in a voluntary position on the Board of Directors for Meridian Behavioral Health.

The motion carried unanimously.

## **Economic Update**

**IDA Director Jim Poole** was scheduled to give an update **on Economic Development**. Mr. Poole was not in attendance, because he was anticipating the arrival of a senator for a Chamber of Commerce dinner. This matter will be taken up again at the February 05, 2009 Board of County Commissioner's meeting.

## **Rules of Procedure**

Stew Lilker (Chairman) and Lance McDonald, (Vice Chair) gave a Power Point presentation on behalf of **Columbia County Now** relating to proposed **Rules of Procedure** for Board of County Commissioners Meetings to operate by. Mr. Lilker concluded by asking that the Board consider the proposed rules, which would put rules in place to govern the public as well as the Board of County Commissioners. That presentation is attached to the original minutes.

Commissioner Dupree noted for clarification that he did not bring this matter up a the previous meeting because he wanted the way the meetings were being conducted to be changed. He said that he simply wanted to discuss "things" he was considering. He said that the newspaper did not articulate his intentions correctly.

Mr. Lilker reminded Commissioner Dupree that according to the Charter, that "all" backup materials provided to the Board should have also been made available to the public from the County's website.

There was no discussion. The matter will be taken up later in the meeting.

## **Projects Progress Report**

A verbal **Progress Report** on current **county projects** was provided by County Manager Williams. Highlights were:

- **Bascom Norris Connector Road Project**: A contract with HDR Engineering has been approved. HDR is the engineering firm selected by **CSX Railroad** to design **the railroad overpass**. CSX will contribute to the costs associated with using this firm. HDR will complete the final phase of the contract. The GEO Technical Report, and the final report concerning the GEO technical aspects of the job are both expected within a few weeks. The County has submitted the **proposed alignment** to CSX for review. **Retention** and **wetland impact** issues will be discussed tomorrow in a meeting with Suwannee River Water Management.
  
- The Board of County Commissioners officially assumed the administrative functions of **911 Communications** on December 01, 2008 and the transfer of employees should be complete within days. EMS Director Rusty Noah has been appointed **interim 911 Director**. **Mike Anderson** has been appointed **interim EMS Director**. . The county has advertised for a 911 Director and has received approximately 56 applications that are now being short-listed. The interview parameters should be in place some time next week. The most current draft of the interlocal agreement gives the Executive Committee members the absolute right of refusal on choosing a director. An equipment Matrix has been developed for equipment needs with the assistance of those who will use the equipment.

- **Turner Road Project:** A permit has been applied for. The county has not been successful in obtaining a drainage easement on the north end of the road. That issue has been turned over to legal. The issue is ready to file with the courts.
- **Racetrack Road Fire Station:** The site work is complete. The underground mechanical and electrical have been installed, the concrete slab has been poured, and the metal building is expected to be delivered by the end of the month. The project is on schedule.
- **Storm Water Mitigation Projects** for **Cannon Creek, Clay Hole Creek, Five Points, and Melrose Park.** The final design authorization has been given on **Cannon Creek.** The other basins are in the preliminary design phase. Fourteen acres of wetland will be impacted. Between these projects and the **Connector Road Project,** the Board will have to decide whether to use some or all of the wetland **mitigation lands** already acquired. The County Manager reminded the Board that mitigation is not an acre for acre exchange. These issues will be discussed with Suwannee River Water Management District and the Department of Environmental Protection in a meeting tomorrow. Commissioner Williams noted that he believes that there are wetlands within the basin in the Bascom Norris Connector Road area that would be available for the county to purchase between Lake Jeffery Road and US Highway 90. The County Manager said that as it relates to the road itself, hopefully the county will be able to mitigate the road within the project.
- **Budget Reduction List:** The County is facing between a \$2,000,000-\$3,000,000 revenue cut next year. Therefore, staff has gone through a laundry list of ways the county could save money. The County Manager said that he is through with his analysis, but it has not yet been reduced to writing. Situational budgets will be the documents that the Commissioners will use through the economic downturn to fully understand what revenue reductions will look like in terms of how the county operates. The Board will be provided with several budget reduction scenarios that will give realistic examples for the Board's consideration.

There are a lot of third party agencies that the county assists with funding that is not constitutionally or statutorily required. Commissioner Williams suggested that all agencies be put on notice that their funding may be reduced or cut altogether. Staff said that he would generate a primer to identify whether each agencies funding is constitutionally or statutorily required or required by the charter.
- **State Legislative Budget Cuts with Direct Impacts:** The library will experience a 12.5 percent reduction in state equalization money, which is roughly \$76,000 per year for this county. Mosquito control funding is also going to experience a reduction in funding of approximately 25%.
- **State Legislative Budget Cuts with In- Direct Impacts:** A cut in funding for state corrections will impact the county, but there is no way to know exactly how much.

Commissioner Dupree asked for and received an update on the following projects:

- **Nash Road:** This road has been budgeted for milling and resurfacing. The County Manager was not certain if the bid specs have been submitted for that road.

- **Emerald Lakes Project:** The contract has just been received back from the low bidder [Anderson Columbia]. The contractor will have approximately 45 days to start the paving project.
- **Clerks Records Retention Center:** Commissioner Dupree said that he received the information sent out from the Clerks Office where potential properties were scored on a point system. The Commissioner asked for an update. The County Manager said that he spoke with the Clerk today regarding placing the matter back on the agenda. Commissioner Williams said the Clerk pulled the matter from the agenda at a prior meeting, because other properties were submitted for consideration. Commissioner Williams explained that the Board is still waiting on the Clerk to make his recommendation on the properties.
- **Bypass Project:** Commissioner Williams commented that he did not want the county to lose sight of the motion that he made to levy the five cents gas tax for the bypass, and to set aside money to be used to determine where the “outer loop” should be located. The Commissioner was speaking specifically about that portion that will be west of the bypass. The commissioner said that as soon as that has been determined, the county should act to legally protect the needed property. The County Manager clarified that “they” are going to pick a point approximately 5 miles beyond the Interstate 75 to determine what type of a route could be defined so that the county could begin efforts to protect that corridor for future road construction of a “true” bypass.
- **Falling Creek:** Commissioner Williams recalled that in the 08-09 budget Falling Creek Road was to be widened and resurfaced. The County Manager recalled that the County had an agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation, through the Small Counties Assistance Program “SCAP” to do this work. The project has been put on hold pending federal fund availability to widen Falling Creek Bridge. The County Manager said that if the federal funds to widen the bridge do not develop, the county will still widen and resurface the road. The Commissioner said it makes no sense to him to widen the road without widening the bridge. The County Manager said that the Economic Stimulus Projects submittal will be amended to add the Falling Creek Project.
- **Old Wire Road & Herlong Road:** Commissioner Frisina asked for an update. The County Manager said that he thinks that for the most part that the surveying and land line ties are now complete. The County Manager said that he has been provided with a list of four (4) parcels of land that the County Engineer and surveyor considered to be key in this project. The legal descriptions have been given to an appraiser. Once the appraisal comes back, the county will attempt to negotiate. The County Manager and Commissioner Bailey are working with a land owner regarding a particular alignment on Herlong Road to allow an inverse curve. It will cost several million dollars to do the two roads. Part of the project will be funded from loan proceeds that were discussed when the county did the loans at the end of last year relating to fire and economic development, because the county desires that the new loan will be tax qualified, which makes the interest rate much less. The county also has money in this project. Before heavy construction begins the county will need to do the loan. The

County Manager said that he could not recommend doing the loan until the county has a figure for the bypass.

## Consent Agenda

**MOTION** by Commissioner Williams to approve the Consent Agenda unless there are items to be pulled. Second by Commissioner Frisina.

**MOTION** by Commissioner to pull item #5 until the Town of Fort White can be contacted to determine if they have use for the poles. If not, the poles should be disposed of. Second by Commission Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

There was a public call for clarification on items #11, and #18. The County Manager assisted with clarification.

Regarding #11. After a recent public records request for a copy of the Solid Waste Director's job description, the county's Human Resource Director discovered errors. Item #11 is a proposed job description for Solid Waste Director.

Regarding #18. Request for permission to piggyback on an agreement that is held by Orange County, Florida. This agreement and party was selected by bid. This allows the county to establish a price for parts and labor on heavy equipment.

- (1) Indigent Burial - *Combs* Funeral Home - Kaidynce Crumitie - \$500.00
- (2) Indigent Burial - Dees-Parrish Family Funeral Home - Clifton Lee Fassett - \$500.00
- (3) Public Official Bond & Oath of Office - Mark Hunter, Sheriff Elect of Columbia *County*
- (4) Landscape & Parks Department - Replacement of Pole Barn Pavilion - Alligator Lake Recreation Park
- (5) Landscape & Parks Department - Disposal of Old Light Poles Fort White Ball Complex & Southside Complex
- (6) Public Library - Declaration of Disposed Property - Turn Racks Donation to Fort White Thrift Store
- (7) Emergency Management - Declaration of Junk Property – *County* ID# 10IT4 - 6500 PIII MT Workstation - Under the Dollar Value
- (8) Columbia *County* Combined Dispatch Center - Columbia High School - Criminal Justice Assisting Program - Student Intern Experience Agreement
- (9) Sheriff's Office - Application for Funding Assistance – Florida Department of Law Enforcement Justice Assistance Grant \$5,575.00
- (10) Agreement - Columbia County Emergency Medical Services - BioCycle, LLC - Medical Waste Disposal Service - -\$3,600.00 annual estimate
- (11) Human Resources - Proposed Position Description - Solid Waste Director
- (12) Utility Permit - Windstream Florida, Inc. - County Road 131(Tustenuggee Avenue)
- (13) Columbia County Industrial Development Authority Director Hunter Panels Tax Abatement - Ad Valorem and Personal Property Tax Rebate - \$115,355.82
- (14) External Budget Amendment - Public Works - BA # 08-06 Equipment Purchase - \$18,469.00
- (15) Public Works - Request to Enter Private Property - Tree Removal Dicks Street - Louis A. and Johnny E. Dicks, Property Owners
- (16) Columbia County Emergency Medical Services - Refund Request Medicare Part B Recovery - \$233.20

- (17) Bid Award - Ring Power - Articulated Dump Truck - Bid No. 2008U - \$206,929.00
- (18) Agreement - Participating Agreement Orange County, Florida *Contract* No. Y9 -1 00 - Caterpillar OEM Parts and Services/Columbia County Board of County Commissioners- Repairs of Heavy Equipment and Trucks
- (19) Resolution - Amending Resolution No 2008R-43 - Correct a Scrivener's Error in the Bond Amount of the Series 2008A Bonds and Providing an Effective Date

The motion to approve the Consent Agenda carried unanimously.

### **Review of Meeting Rules & Procedures Policy**

The Board was provided with a memo that listed suggested changes by members of the Board. The Board was asked to review the list and direct staff as it relates to amendments, corrections or changes to the Meeting Rules and Procedures Policy.

Commissioner Weaver said that he has no problem with the current procedure, but does see a benefit to have the public use the sign-up cards to list the topic they intend to speak on. The Chair would still be able to grant permission for a citizen to speak on other items that may arise in the meeting.

Commissioner Williams personally recommended no changes, but said that he was open to considering changes that the other commissioners wanted considered. He said that he did not want to get into a situation where the public feels that they have no opportunity to address their commissioner or the Board. He said that a commissioner has to have tough skin sometimes when being addressed by a constituent.

Commissioner Frisina said in response to Commissioner Williams' comment that she has no problem with the public addressing their individual commissioners, but does feel the citizen should request permission from the Chairman to address their commissioner.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Weaver to leave the policy exactly the same, but with the addition to the signup cards to being added to better administer the meetings. Second by Commissioner Williams.

In response to Commissioner Williams' comments, Commissioner Dupree clarified that the proposed changes are about conducting a more orderly meeting and allowing everyone a voice. The proposed changes have nothing to do with the thickness of a commissioner's skin and have nothing to do with trying to limit the public's right to address their commissioner.

Chairman Bailey said that the current policy indicates that it is an "interim" policy. He asked that the word "interim" be deleted.

**AMENDED MOTION** by Commissioner Weaver to leave the policy exactly the same, but with the addition to the signup cards being added to better administer the meetings. Also that any wording indicating that the policy is an "interim" policy will be removed. Second by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Transfer of Economic Properties**

There was discussion to allow the Industrial Development Authority to act as custodian & Marketing Agent for economic properties owned by Columbia County.

The County Manager advised the Board of a request by IDA Director Jim Poole where he is asking the county to consider transferring the title of all economic development properties owned by the county to the Industrial Development Authority for the purposes of economic development. The County Commission can still retain the final say on any recommendations submitted. The County Manager said this puts the county in a position of being able to donate or discount land if warranted.

Commissioner Bailey asked if this is property that has previously been earmarked for economic development. The County Manager said that part of the problem is that at some point the Board needs to identify exactly what property is “on the table” and available for economic development.

Attorney Feagle explained that under Chapter 125 that the county generally has to go through a bid or RFP procedure if they want to sell property, which results in time constraints. The economic development statute gives some latitude allowing the county to donate property and funds to encourage economic development. Attorney Feagle said that many counties are transferring the bare legal title of the land to the industrial development authority, because the IDA is not under the same constraints with regards to procedures and advertisement to sell. He said that the County can transfer the land and still retain the right of approval and add additional restrictions on the property.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Williams to “*authorize the transfer of county industrial property to IDA with the Board having the right to have the last decision on the decision.*” Second by Commissioner Frisina.

Commissioner Dupree asked Commissioner Williams to clarify his motion. Commissioner Williams said that his motion was to transfer the property they’re speaking of to the IDA, with the understanding that the Board has the last right of refusal. Commissioner Dupree asked if the motion was for industrial park property. Commissioner Williams responded that it was for industrial park property or any other property the county has for industrial use.

Commissioner Dupree defined his understanding of the property as the two pieces of property located in the Industrial Park and a third piece by New Millennium. Commissioner Williams responded, “yes.” Commissioner Dupree asked if the IDA has anyone interested in these pieces of property, to which Commissioner Williams replied that they could have.

The County Manager said there is actually a third piece of property which fronts Hunter Panels on Highway 100. He said that currently negotiations are on going with a new industry to be located there. The County Manager said that he believes in terms of parcels, there are actually five (5). Their locations are: Industrial Park (2), New Millennium (1), and Hunter Panel (2).

Commissioner Frisina asked if future industrial properties “would go into this.” The County Manager replied that properties could be added or taken away subject to Board decision.

Citizen Stew Lilker said the Board should maintain the ultimate control of its property. He said that it makes absolutely no sense that the commissioners would consider authorizing representatives to sign over the title to their property to the IDA, which is essentially one person and an appointed Board. He said there is no reason for the commissioners to begin signing its property over to the IDA. He pointed out that the IDA has not been bringing any business into the county lately. Mr. Lilker said perhaps the IDA’s time has come and gone. He said that perhaps it is time to do as Commissioner Dupree suggested when coming onto board, which is to take a long hard look into exactly what goes on at the IDA. Mr. Lilker pointed out that in addition to this sudden action making no sense, there is no complete list of properties and that the Board has never discussed a policy to govern such transactions. He asked that the Board continue doing business with the IDA as they have in the past and noted the county has brought in some fairly large businesses in the past without the IDA having the property titled to them. Mr. Lilker concluded by saying the County Manager is paid \$160,000 per year with benefits included and that he is clearly in the best position to look after the best interest of the county.

County Manager Williams said that once the IDA Director has completed negotiations, there has to be a transferring of property if Board approved, and therein lies the problem, which is the time and paperwork involved to transfer the title. He explained that this is the way other counties navigate around these restrictions.

Attorney Feagle said there is still work to be done to ensure that the county has final approval. He said that the county would need to decide whether it will transfer all of the property at one time. He said that he knows of no reason why the county could not wait until after a potential buyer has been negotiated. He said it may be best to handle on a case-by-case basis.

The **motion** and second **was withdrawn** by Commissioner Williams and Frisina.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Williams to transfer those parcels of land to the IDA once IDA Director Jim Poole has already negotiated with the individual to develop them.

Chairman Bailey questioned whether the motion should be parcel specific since there is a company that the IDA Director is negotiating with.

The County Manager said that there are negotiations taking place, but he's not certain that they are to the point where the details are ready to be shared with the Board of County Commissioners. The County Manager said that obviously, Mr. Poole is negotiating below fair market value, and given the restrictions given by the County Attorney, this will be an impediment should the County choose to accept his recommendation. Mr. Poole's intent is to try to find a mechanism to avoid that impediment.

Commissioner Dupree offered a second to the motion.

Attorney Feagle said that the matter will come back before the Board to hear what has been negotiated before the transfer is actually made.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Request to Reduce/Waive Impact Fees**

Citizen Maggie Thorpe and Citizen Catherine Koon have both submitted written requests to have the county waive their required impact fees. One citizen is upgrading from an RV Camper to a mobile home and the other is moving from one lot to an adjoining lot. It appears that neither will cause an additional impact. Both individuals are on fixed incomes.

The County Manager said that to the best of his knowledge, there is no provision in the Impact Fee Ordinance that will allow him to waive their impact fees or offer any other relief. He said that unless Attorney Feagle knows of another way to help these individuals, he would have no choice but to recommend that their request be denied. Staff suggested that this may be the appropriate time to develop some type of mechanism that may assist with these types of situations in the future.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Weaver to have staff draft a policy to bring back before the Board that will make it possible to amend impact fee regulations to allow payment of impact fees over a period of time for individuals meeting a certain criteria. Second by Commissioner Williams with a clarification that it be those individuals with poverty level incomes who already qualify for county exemptions.

**MOTION AMENDED** by Commissioner Williams to also hold these two requests in abeyance until a policy has been drafted and reviewed by the Board. Second by Commissioner Weaver.

The County Manager clarified that the Building Department will issue no permits until a policy has been drafted, reviewed and approved by the Board.

Both motions carried unanimously.

## 911 Comp Time Payout and Work Schedule

In the County's takeover of the 911 Center it will assume 911 workers who were originally the Sheriff Department employees. Because the Sheriff's Office and the Board of County Commissioners have different policies as it relates to comp and leave time accrual, it will be necessary to pay employees for any hours on the books that is in excess of the maximum allowed by Board policy. Staff recommended these hours be paid for from the Sheriff's fiscal year-end closeout monies for the last fiscal year. The total payout will be \$18,506.60.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Williams to approve. Second by Commissioner Weaver. The motion carried unanimously.

The commissioners also considered a 12 hour work day scheduled where the employees of 911 will work the same shifts as certain law enforcement personnel. The idea is to build a working rapport between the two entities, which will lead to a better understanding of needs between the two. Sheriff Hunter added that a working rapport between the dispatchers and the deputies is paramount and that the results will be better service to the public.

Mr. Kazmerski, a part-time rescue worker, said that he supports a 12 hour shift as it also reduces the number of dispatchers that you need on a rotation schedule, which results in a cost savings.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Williams to approve. Second by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

## Items Not on Agenda

### 150 Year Sesquicentennial

The County Manager recalled that during the budget process that he was directed by Chairman Weaver to include \$25,000 as the county's match of the City's contribution to the Sesquicentennial Celebration. Because it is a one time, non-recurring expenditure, it was proposed to be paid from year-end funds. The year-end fund balance distribution has not been approved yet. Staff asked for approval to pay the \$25,000 to the Columbia County Historical Museum, who serves as the lead agency.

Commissioner Williams said it should be clear that the County will only match the City's funds and will pay up to \$25,000. Commissioner Weaver said the City has already contributed \$25,000.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Williams to approve. Second by Commissioner Weaver. The motion carried unanimously.

### Public Comment

Citizen Adrian Hudson who serves as president of **Neighbors Equine Assistance Team, Inc.** held up two pictures of horses that she said recently starved to death within the county. She said the situation had been reported and had been ongoing since Thanksgiving. She asked why the Sheriff's Department did not impound the two **suffering horses** when they first learned of the situation. She said that "this" has been a patterned behavior in the county for a number of years. Ms. Hudson asked if the Board could investigate why procedures and statutes are not being followed. Commissioner Williams replied that the Sheriff is a constitutional officer and the Board of County Commissioners does not tell the Sheriff what to do or investigate for him.

Chairman Bailey said that it is his understanding that it is the Sheriff's Office's responsibility to investigate **large animal violations** and problems. He suggested that Ms. Hudson speak with the newly elected Sheriff, Mark Hunter.

Sheriff Hunter said that he inherited the situation involving the horses, and that the individuals involved are being charged with animal neglect within the next week or so. He said that he did not believe that Florida Statutes allows the Sheriff Department to impound the large animals at this time. The Sheriff said that he is willing to work with the citizens and animal rights groups to put a mechanism in place to make sure this doesn't happen again.

Ms. Hudson told the Sheriff that their group had a training day with the previous sheriff's administration and the State's Attorney's Office. She said in that meeting that Assistant State Attorney Tina Seifert addressed the group explaining that Florida Statutes clearly reads that any law enforcement officer is authorized to impound if they feel the animal is in danger. She said that it is the Board of County Commissioner's responsibility to provide a place for the sheriff to place the **endangered animals**. She also told the Sheriff that there are currently two **not-for-profit rescue missions** in Columbia County that would have taken the horses. The Sheriff invited Ms. Hudson to come to his office to meet further regarding the matter.

Citizen Tiffany [No last name provided] works as a dispatcher for 911. She thanked the Board for the **12 hour shifts**.

Citizen Rita Hedrick thanked the County Manager for an informative **Progress Report** on county projects.

Ms. Hedrick suggested that the county post to its website a **list of agencies** that may be affected by **budget cuts** discussed earlier.

Ms. Hedrick voiced her disappointment that the Board did not take time to discuss the **Rules of Procedure** presented by Stew Lilker and Lance McDonald.

Ms. Hedrick asked if the county has a person that looks for and applies for available **grants**. The County Manager responded that the grants person for the county is the Human Resource Director.

Citizen Stew Lilker reminded the Board regarding the 911 Director that the original idea was that the county would choose the **911 Director**. The County Manager responded that Sheriff Gootee requested that be changed.

Mr. Lilker asked for an update on the **long distance** issue for the southern end of the county. The County Manager responded that there has been no change.

Mr. Lilker referenced a memo dated November 17 regarding the drafting of a **policy** that addresses **selling county property**. He questioned why it would take two months for the county to place the matter on the agenda.

Mr. Lilker asked Commissioner Weaver what the balance was in District 2's **Discretionary Fund [Special Projects]** and what the money is earmarked for. The commissioner replied that the balance is \$52,000. Commissioner Weaver said that the money is earmarked for future **enhancement of the Fort White Library** once construction starts (\$25,000) and **Meridian Healthcare computer upgrades** (\$10,000).

Mr. Lilker asked the Board to consider the economy, the homeless, the unemployed, and other pressing financial needs in this county, and to rescind the motion made in a prior meeting to give **Developer Charlie Sparks** \$125,000 to develop a road.

Citizen Steve Hardt told the Board that America is about open government and that it was time for the county to grow up. Regarding the **horse situation** discussed by Ms. Hudson, he expressed his disappointment in the attitude the county has had relating to this. He told the Board that the situation should have bothered them and that they should have been eager to look into the matter. He told the Board that they should practice being more courteous. He said the Board was rude in cutting off Ms. Hudson in the midst of her discussion. Commissioner Weaver responded that the Commission has no authority to hire, investigate, or discipline deputies. Mr. Hardt replied that the commission may not be directly responsible, but can certainly give input and offer encouragement.

**Public Hearings Needed:**

Regarding Crosswinds retention areas.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Weaver to set public hearing for February 05, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Second by Commissioner Dupree. The motion carried unanimously.

Regarding roads and alleyway closing in Lulu.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Williams to set public hearing for February 19, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

**Turner Road:**

Regarding Turner Road and the need to correct the flooding issue, Attorney Feagle will need permission to apply for injunctive relief from the courts.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Dupree to execute and file on the Board's behalf for injunctive relief. Second by Commissioner Weaver. The motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Board of County Commissioners

\_\_\_\_\_  
P. DeWitt Cason  
Clerk of Circuit Courts