

MINUTES of  
January 05, 2010

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled meeting (special day) at the School Board Administration Office. The meeting opened at 3:00 p.m. with prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America followed.

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

Ronald Williams (Chairman)  
Stephen Bailey  
Dewey Weaver  
Jody Dupree  
Scarlet Frisina

**Others in Attendance:**

Asst. County Manager Lisa Roberts  
Attorney Marlin Feagle  
Deputy Clerk Linda Odom  
County Manager Dale Williams

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

Citizen Stewart Lilker addressed consent agenda item #12, regarding probation supervision services. He said that a quick perusal of the Department of State's website indicates that **Gateway Judicial Services** registered on December 21, 2009. He asked why the contract for these services was not put out for bid, why **Salvation Army** wasn't given an opportunity to provide these same services, and why there were no financial statements. He told the Board that he found it interesting that Commissioner Bailey's relative, Wanda Bailey-Jones is the person who "runs" the business. He asked for an explanation. The Chair advised that his questions would be answered when the item is taken up for discussion by the Board. Mr. Lilker asked that the matter be removed from the consent agenda as there is an appearance of impropriety.

Mr. Lilker asked why, since the county has an **Economic Development Project** on the agenda, is there were no IDA representatives in attendance.

Finally, regarding **utilities**, Mr. Lilker asked why the Chairman of the **Utility Sub-Committee** does not give a report of that meeting. As a follow-up to the request made at the last meeting for the Utility Committee to consider a water plant and make a recommendation, Mr. Lilker asked if the plant is suppose to be "going some place else." The Chairman replied, "yes." Answering other questions from Mr. Lilker, the Chairman said that he did know where the location of the water plant might be, and the approximate cost of the plant will be \$10,000,000 - \$15,000,000.

**Consent Agenda**

- (1) Landscape & Parks - Request Approval of Non-Grant Eligible Expenses for Playground Equipment - \$12,000.00
- (2) Landscape & Parks - Cooperative Agreement - State of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry - Columbia County- Cogongrass
- (3) Division of Emergency Management - Citizen Corps/Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) FY 09 Award Allocation - \$10,000.00

- (4) Tourist Development Council - Reappointment of Nick Patel
- (5) Florida Department of Transportation Traffic Signal and Maintenance Agreement Approval of Amendment I - Adding Intersection Control Beacons Approval of Authorizing Resolution
- (6) Sheriff's Office - State of Florida Office of Criminal Justice Grants - Florida Department of Law Enforcement - Subgrant Award Certificate - 2010 - JAGC-COLU-1-4X-231 - \$79,648.00
- (7) Emergency Medical Services - Refund Request - Overpayment Recovery Unit - Don Simmons - \$383.00
- (8) Tourist Development Council - Reappointments - Nick Patel and Mike Collins - Three Year Terms Expiring on December 31, 2012 (Reappointment of Nick Patel also shown on Consent Agenda as item 4)
- (9) 911 Addressing/GIS Department - Naming and Renaming Roadways - S.E. Resort Court - S.E. Riverbend Loop
- (10) Purchasing Department - Johnson Controls, Inc. - HVAC Service Agreement Renewal - \$46,070.00 Prepay
- (11) Sheriff's Office - Florida Department of Law Enforcement - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant - Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force - Certificate of Acceptance - \$79,648.00
- (12) Gateway Judicial Services, LLC - Contract for Pre-trial Release Supervision Services and Contract for Misdemeanor Offender Supervision Services

MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to approve the consent agenda. Second by Commissioner Dupree.

The County Manager asked that items #4 and #6 be removed as they are duplications. The County Manager asked that item #12 be removed for discussion.

MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to pull items #4 and #6 from the consent agenda. Second by Commissioner Dupree. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner Bailey to pull item #12 for discussion. Second by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

The motion to approve the Consent Agenda, except for items #4, #6 and #12, passed unanimously.

The County Manager said that Gateway Judicial Services, LLC ("GJS") is acquiring the existing contract between Columbia County and Wainwright Judicial Services. Attorney Feagle referred the matter to Attorney William Whitley due to a conflict. Since the comments were received from Attorney Whitley this morning, staff advised the matter was pulled so that the recommendations could be discussed with the Board. The recommendations were:

- (1) To accept the agreement for probation services and for pre-trial release supervision services, with the following conditions added:

- A provision for misdemeanor supervision for insurance and an indemnification clause.
- A bond or insurance policy rider should be required to fully protect the county in the event of loss of funds.
- A spot audit provision should be placed in the Misdemeanor Offender's Supervision Contract. This will allow the Clerk of Courts, at his discretion, to audit the books.

The County Manager said that the contract is an acquirement of an existing company that was already providing the service to Columbia County. He said that he understands Gateway will retain the same staff that was previously providing this service prior to it becoming GJS. The County Manager said that when the contract re-news in the future, the Board has the right to seek other proposals. He recommended approval of the agreement, along with the conditions proposed by Attorney Whitley.

At the request of the Chair, the County Manager gave a brief history that deals with the supervision contracts with Wainwright Judicial Services. He said that one of the reasons Wainwright currently holds this contract is that the Board was unsuccessful in locating a company to provide these services after going through the process of trying to obtain someone willing to enter into a contract that included all of the appropriate provisions. The Board basically awarded the contract to Wainwright Judicial Services as a default. Commissioner Weaver added that not only did no one (except for Wainwright) step up to help, but the county was left in mid-stream because the company walked away from the Board. Wainwright Judicial Services was the only company willing to "come in and take over." He said some of the companies/agencies asking to submit proposals are the very ones that walked away and left the county "high and dry." The Commissioner said that the Board has always been mindful of what occurred and who stepped in to help in a time of need. Chairman Williams agreed with Commissioner Weaver.

MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to approve the County Manager's recommendation. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Columbia Technology/Green Vision**

The County Manager said that he received a call from a local attorney approximately two weeks ago who was involved in the negotiations for the purchase of property for this Economic Development Project. The County Manager said that without receiving much in the way of details, he was told that there was a possibility that the Board of County Commissioners may have a need to intercede on an issue pertaining to ingress and egress. For that reason it was added to the agenda. Since being added to the agenda, while in Charlotte, North Carolina, he learned there was no need for the Board to intercede on the issue as the problem appears to have worked itself out.

This project was formerly known as **Green Vision**. He recalled that the Board approved an Economic Development Transportation Trust Fund Grant Application to the state. This project will require a railroad spur, the grant was to offset a portion of the costs, with the difference being born by the developer for the spur. The Board also approved by resolution this project to qualify as a targeted industry in the state of Florida. The County Manager said that other than staff time, this project has not required any monetary contributions by the county. He said that all on-going property negotiations are between private land owners and company representatives.

The County Manager said that he did not think that the property being purchased for this project would be purchased under the name "Columbia Technology." He said that he thinks that a holding company is actually negotiating to purchase the property. If the closing goes through on the property, the project will proceed forward and Mr. Jim Poole or Ms. Gina Reynolds will be scheduled to address the project. No action was required of the Board.

## **Other**

Commissioner Frisina wished everyone a happy New Year. She also reported that the new pole barn at **Alligator Lake** is now in place. She encouraged everyone to visit the park.

Chairman Williams asked if everything had been worked out with Suwannee Valley Electric to get power to the **Parnell** home. Attorney Feagle responded that to the best of his knowledge everything has worked itself out. He said that they are still working to get a quit claim deed from adjacent property owners so there will be no other problems.

Chairman Williams recalled at the last Board meeting, approval was given for several people to travel to North Carolina, where everyone met with the owner and C.E.O. of **Cooperstown Dream Fields**. He said that they are interested in coming to an agreement with the Board of County Commissioners for the use of Southside Recreation Complex. He said that everyone came away from the meeting optimistic that this project would become a reality. The dollar figure required to bring the fields up to the standards that Dream Fields would have them be has not yet been determined. He said that the project could possibly require the acquisition of property adjacent to the Southside Complex. The Chairman said that he expects the Board will be asked to support the concept.

Commissioner Dupree said there are other communities that are willing to spend \$31,000,000 in order to bring Cooperstown USA to their community. He said that Columbia County would not have to spend nearly that amount of money in order to make this project a reality. He said there are a couple of manageable issues that will have to be addressed. He said that the project is a positive one and presents a tremendous opportunity for the county.

County Manager Williams said that this is the second meeting held with Cooperstown Dreams Park representatives, and there continues to be a mutual interest. The project will definitely generate new revenue in the county. The county can look at where the facility is currently located and the impact that it has had on that community. He said that information relating to economic data can also be obtained from the state. He said that he knows of no reason not to continue evaluating this project to determine whether or not it will be beneficial to the county. County Manager Williams said that the only reason the county is able to compete for this project is because of the current facilities the county has to offer. He said that they were each provided with interesting DVDs. He will look into the possibility of placing them on the web.

Regarding the Utility Sub-Committee, Chairman Williams explained to Mr. Lilker the purpose and benefit of a sub-committee.

Commissioner Dupree said at the next Board meeting proposed ordinances for the Ellisville Utility will be discussed. The Utility Sub-Committee has already started with discussions on the

water plant as requested by the Chair. He asked if the Board would help expedite the matter by approving an RFP for the geological studies that will be necessary in order to choose a location.

MOTION by Commissioner Dupree to approve an RFP for a geological study to be done for the purposes of determining the best location for a well plant. Second by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald Williams, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners