

MINUTES of
January 21, 2010

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled meeting at the School Board Administration Office. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. Eastside Elementary School's Student Council opened with prayer and led The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Commissioners in Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance:

County Manager Dale Williams
Attorney Marlin Feagle
Deputy Clerk Katrina Vercher
BCC Secretary Carolyn Baker

PUBLIC INPUT:

Citizen Stewart Lilker recommended the public be able to address the items of discussion when they comes up. He said regarding the work at the **Montgomery Building** that he noticed the county is going to pay \$26 per hour for helper/day labor, and that he knows of no other laborer positions in Columbia County being paid \$26 per hour. He said the Apprentice Technician is being paid \$46 per hour. He said if that is based on the school system's rates, then they are also paying too much. He asked that this item be pulled.

Mr. Lilker said that there is no price on **Consent Agenda item #11; Pictometry International Corporation**. He asked for additional information.

Mr. Lilker said that it appears that the **Public Works Department** is being reorganized. He said there is nothing in the agenda that "says the way it was before." He said there is nothing in the agenda to compare to. He said that it would be appropriate that the department head explain to the Board, in a public meeting, the proposed changes and the need for the change. He asked that the item be pulled until there can be further clarification given to the public.

Mr. Lilker asked why it is that a committee chairperson, especially committees runs by county commissioners, does not provide **committee reports** at the Board of County Commissioner's meetings.

ANIMAL SHELTER

Mr. Tommy Browning was not present to address this matter.

SPRING FESTIVAL – ALLIGATOR LAKE

Jacqui Sulek, a representative of Four Rivers Audubon Society and Lori Schubert of Gateway Wildlife Habitat shared plans for the **Alligator Lake Spring Festival** scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 2010. Four Rivers Audubon and GWHO (Gateway Wildlife Habitat Organization) along with the support of the Columbia County Tourism Development Council will host this event.

The purpose of the event will be to underscore the importance of Alligator Lake Park as both a water resource (headwaters of the Ichetucknee River) as well as the valuable natural resource it is. If this event is successful, this will become an annual event. They asked for the Board's blessings, support and partnership.

MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to waive fees of the facility and offer staff assistance on the day of the Spring Festival. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.

BENNETT PARCEL on OLD WIRE ROAD

The Board is in the process of obtaining parcels of property on Junction Road and Old Wire Road for a road improvement project. In considering the **Bennett property**, Attorney Feagle explained the Bennett's initial demand for the needed property was \$40,000. The Board initially agreed to pay \$9,400 for the parcel. Attorney Feagle said that he believes that valid points have been raised by Ms. Bennett's attorney regarding the value and that may be justifiable in court. Attorney Feagle recommended **settling the case** for \$23,498, which includes the cost of their attorney fees, and requiring Ms. Bennett obtain the required releases relating to the four liens against the property.

The engineers have stated that this piece of property is needed for retention. The County Manager said that the appraised value of the two parcels was \$9,400, but the value of a fence that will be taken in the transaction was not factored in, which brings the value closer to \$17,000. Attorney Feagle's proposed settlement will exceed the appraised value by approximately \$3,000, which does not include the Bennett's legal fees of \$3,498.

MOTION by Commissioner Frisina to settle the case for \$23,498.00. Second by Commissioner Weaver. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

- (1) External Budget Amendment - Sheriff's Office - #3 - BA #09-08 - Subsistence Costs Generated at Detention Facility – September 2009-December 2009 - \$7,636.33
- (2) Indigent Burial - ICS Cremation & Funeral Home - John Michael Conner, Deceased - \$500.00
- (3) Columbia County Emergency Medical Services Humana - \$332.75 - Refund Request
- (4) Columbia County Emergency Medical Services - Refund Request - Overpayment Recovery - \$313.00
- (5) Building & Zoning - Permit Zoning Fee Refund - Robert Minnella - \$75.00
- (6) Reimbursement Current Problems - Adopt A Shore Quarterly Report - October through December 2009 - \$2,400.
- (7) Craig Salley and Associates - Additional Services for LEED Certification - United States Green Building Council - Required by Federal Grant -\$70,500.00
- (8) Human Resource - Recruitment Request - Youth Services Librarian - Public Library - Salary Budgeted 2009-2010 FY

- (9) Columbia County Fire/Rescue - Delete from Inventory Report - Value \$500.00 or Less - (see attached list)
- (10) Location Agreement - Florida State University Filming Department - Falling Creek Falls - February 4 through February 9, 2010
- (11) Agreement - Columbia County Board of County Commissioners/Pictometry International Corporation – License Agreement, Addendum & Supporting Documents
- (12) Emergency Management - Modification of Base Grant - \$102,742.00 to \$117,334.29
- (13) Emergency Management - Homeland Security Grant - \$25,000.00
- (14) Emergency Management - State of Florida, Division of Emergency Management - Federally-Funded Sub-grant Agreement - \$10,000.00
- (15) Utility Permit - Comcast Cable - Stewart Circle
- (16) Minute Approval - Board of County Commissioners – Regular Meeting - October 1, 2009
- (17) Minute Re-approval - Board of County Commissioners – Regular Meeting - November 19, 2009(Clerks Note of Clarification)
- (18) Minute Approval - Board of County Commissioners – Regular Meeting - December 17, 2009
- (19) Minute Approval - Board of County Commissioners – Regular Meeting - January 5, 2010
- (20) Bid Award - Anderson Columbia Company, Inc. - Bid No.2009-07 - S.W. Junction Road - \$ 670,284.86

MOTION by Commissioner Bailey to approve the consent agenda unless there are items to be pulled. Second by Commissioner Weaver.

Additional clarification was given on items #7, #11, and #12.

Regarding #7. This is an additional services agreement that would provide for leadership in energy and environmental design services (“LEEDS”) for a new **Eastside Fire Department** building. LEEDS requirements are a condition of the stimulus money that the county will receive for this project. Compliance will substantially increase the cost of the project by twelve to thirty percent. The County Manager recommended the Board table this matter until the LEEDS amount can be determined. He is hopeful that number will be available by the next meeting.

MOTION by Commissioner Dupree to pull item #7 from the consent agenda. Second by Commissioner Weaver. The motion carried unanimously.

Regarding #11. The County Manager said the cost is \$164,990. The pricing is broken down in the agreement.

Regarding #12. This is a modification of the base grant for **emergency management (EMPA Grant)**. This grant is based on an estimate. The statewide funds come from individual insurance policy premiums. The state collects the money and then disburses it based on a formula. In this case the total amount of revenue was underestimated by the state by approximately \$15,000 for Columbia County’s portion.

The motion to adopt the consent agenda carried unanimously.

SENATE BILL 610

This is a request of the Board, by Sheriff Hunter, to adopt a resolution supporting **SB 610**, which is also referred to as the Impasse Bill, which will help define “governing body.” The County Manager recommended approval.

MOTION by Commissioner Bailey to adopt resolution. Second by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

JUDGMENT CLAIM

The Board considered **Frankie Turner McQuay’s** request to set aside a **Judgment** against her that resulted from non payment of an emergency medical services provided to her in 1992. The judgment is for \$446.78 plus interest.

The County Manager said during this period of time, the county was working with individuals to pay their bills through a promissory note for as little as \$5 per month and without interest. Using this as a gauge, the Board may allow her to satisfy the original judgment amount of \$446.78. The County Manager said that he did not know if the courts would be entitled to any of the accrued interest, and the only amount the Board may elect to waive is that which is owned to the county.

Based on Commissioner Bailey’s understanding that this is not the first time the county has spoken with Ms. McQuay about the amount owed, and because he cannot imagine her being billed and not receiving the services, he said the amount of the original bill, plus interest should be paid by Ms. McQuay.

Chairman Williams was in favor of allowing her to pay the original amount, plus interest and convert a satisfaction into a promissory note.

MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to have her pay the original judgment amount of \$446.78, without interest, and to set a minimum payment of \$50 per month until it is paid off. The Satisfaction of Judgment is to be held in abeyance until the amount owed is paid. Second by Commissioner Dupree. The motion carried unanimously.

MONTGOMERY BUILDING CHANGE ORDERS

The Board previously approved re-roofing the building. The County Manager said as a result, some things have been noted by the Facilities Department that they believe should be taken care of in order to keep the building in a good state of repair. The building is going to be pressure washed, they are going to re-joint the mortar joints and reseal the building. The County Manager said that the ceiling [damage] is a result of moisture seeping through the walls in certain areas of the building. This work is being done by piggy-backing off of contracts that were obtained through the Columbia County School System. The “day labor” is by Ed Dennard who is a skilled mason and who has been in business in Columbia County for many years. Considering Mr. Dennard’s occupation and skills, the rate is much more reasonable.

Commissioner Dupree said that the reason the quotation is on a “day labor” form is because with the School Board, you must enter into an agreement with them to provide labor on smaller jobs that take a day to complete. He said regarding a laborer making \$26 per hour that Mr. Dennard has to have a profit of margin after he pays labor burden, equipment and materials, overhead, etc. Additionally, Commissioner Dupree said that it is difficult to find qualified people who can also pass a background check to work on school property and other government agencies.

The County Manager said regarding the re-jointing portion of the change order that the estimated cost is between \$6,000 and \$10,000. The value of both change orders is between \$26,893.40 and \$30,893.40, depending on the number of hours spent re-jointing. The County Manager asked for approval. This will be paid from last year’s fiscal year-end monies.

MOTION by Commissioner Dupree to accept staff recommendation. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS RESTRUCTURING

For the Board’s consideration, a proposed **restructuring of the County Public Works Department** was presented by County Manager Williams. Superintendent Kirby was scheduled to be in attendance, but at the last hour reported that he was needed in the southern end of the county to help address problems that have resulted from the heavy rains received today.

The Department will lose five key personnel to retirement in the next 18 months. In addition to those retiring out of the system, the proposal is to place within the Public Works Department a new responsibility that deals with **utility** needs. The County Manager said considering this information, it seemed to be a prime opportunity to look at how **Public Works** was structured and how it could better be structured in the future. The County Manager said the proposal is to turn five key positions into 3 key positions; Assistant Public Works Director, Division Chief over administration, and Division Chief over operations. The pay would be based on responsibility. There would also be reorganization and shifting of managerial positions (i.e. foreman and superintendents). The proposal is \$3,300 less than the current salaries. The County Manager said that it is believed the Public Works can operate better under the new **reorganization**.

The commissioners were asked for input. While the Commission was in favor of the restructuring concept, there has been concern expressed by some of the commissioners that the job titles should be considered further. Commissioner Weaver said for the public’s benefit that this is an administrative decision of the County Manager and that he has this authority, through the charter, to restructure.

Chairman Williams thanked the County Manager for a job well done at the Public Works Department.

The County Manager said that budget driven reorganization is being considered for other departments. The County Manager will send a report out in the near future giving the first quarter assessment of the current fiscal year.

BUILDING and ZONING

Nothing was presented to the Board.

APPOINTMENT

The Chairman appointed Commissioner Weaver to meet with Purchasing Agent Ben Scott and the Supervisor of Elections to evaluate the need/request to increase space for the Elections Office. He also asked that clarification be obtained at the State Elections Office as to what Florida law stipulates for space utilization by the Supervisor of Elections.

MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to have staff make arrangements for an architect to review the floor plan of the space at the Elections Office. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Chairman answered the question asked by Mr. Lilker earlier in the meeting as to why the chairpersons of sub-committees that are run by a county commissioner does not provide the Board of County Commissioners with a report from the committee meetings. The Chair answered that the Utility Committee has the authority to appoint sub-committees through all phases of utility discussions. Commissioner Dupree said there is no specific reason, but mostly because there are other administrative functions that are being discussed with the Board. The issues that need to be addressed from subcommittee meetings will be addressed in the committee meetings.

CHAIRMAN'S GOAL/OBJECTIVES

Chairman Williams provided the Board with an agenda listing his goals and objectives during his 2009-2010 tenure. He asked the commissioners to let him know if there is something that needs to be added. He asked Utility Committee Chairman Dupree to be very aggressive in the upcoming year on the Ellisville Water/Wastewater Project. The agenda is attached to the original minutes.

MONTGOMERY BUILDING

Commissioner Weaver said that he would like to discuss future uses for the Montgomery building in February.

CONNECTOR ROAD

The County Manager gave an update at the Chair's request. This county received official notice this week from the Corps of Engineers that a dredge and field permit and a Clean Water Act Permit will not be required for the project. This is good news as both would have been a very time

consuming process. The county is waiting on the ordered appraisals.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

P. DeWitt Cason
Clerk of Circuit Court

Ronald Williams, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners