

COLUMBIA COUNTY  
BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Minutes of  
**February 11, 2010**

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners met in a **joint workshop** with the Industrial Development Authority at the Lake Shore Hospital Authority Building. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Williams.

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

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

**Others in Attendance for County:**

County Manager Dale Williams  
Attorney Marlin Feagle  
Deputy Clerk Sandy Markham  
Asst. County Manager Lisa Roberts

**In Attendance for IDA and Rudder Team**

Connie Anderson, Asst. VP Col. County Bank  
Tyson Johnson, Parks-Johnson Agency  
Wendell Johnson, City Manager  
IDA Chairwoman Suzanne Norris  
Charles Carroll, Lake City Community College V.P.  
Chuck Hall, Lake City Community College President  
Rhonda Sherrod, Lake Shore Hospital Administrator  
Executive IDA Director Jim Poole  
Deputy IDA Director Gina Reynolds  
FPL External Affairs Manager Dave Cobb  
Mike Bell of Representative Boyd's Office  
Laurel Semmes, LCCC Grants Director  
Connie Rollbertg, SunState Credit Union Manager  
Marc Vann, IDA Director  
Gus Rentz, IDA Director  
Jeff Simmons, IDA Director  
Joel Foreman – Government Relations  
Carlton Jones, IDA Director

Chairman Ronald Williams called the meeting to **ORDER** and welcomed those in attendance.

County **ROLL-CALL** was taken by Deputy Clerk Sandy Markham..

Chairwoman Norris gave a ***Go to Market Columbia County*** Update. She presented the final draft of the Community Development Plan. She asked that the Board of County Commissioners place this plan on their next agenda. The entire presentation is attached to the original minutes.

This is a good plan in the opinions of the commissioners and Rudder Team members. Several voiced that the challenge will now be to keep the plan alive and to “make to it happen.” This will take the IDA, County, City and all other entities in Columbia County working together to accomplish the same industrial development goals. It will also be necessary for all personal agendas to be set aside.

The **EXECUTIVE IDA DIRECTOR’S REPORT** was provided by Jim Poole. Items commented on by Mr. Poole were:

- Economic development is a revenue generating part of government.
- Regarding catalyst sites, Brooks and Boyd filed HB843.
- Inland Port is now known as Integrated Logistic Center.
- The *Market Tax Credit* is a new program where a corporation creates a community re-development entity and basically sells off their tax credits for investing in a community.
- The March 2010 issue of *Florida Trend Magazine* will feature three proposed Integrated Logistic Centers for this state. One of those centers being located in Columbia County.
- The state has set aside \$10,000,000 for Economic Gardening, which is a technology assistance program. Companies can apply for a \$250,000 grant for technical assistance. Thus far, Columbia County does not qualify for this grant. Enterprise Florida and one of the State Legislators have introduced a bill that would allow the counties to use a revolving loan fund on infrastructure development within the rural counties.
- The County is involved in updating the Community Economic Development Strategy (“CEDS”) Plan. All six areas considered in the Community Development Plan are now included in the CEDS Plan.
- The “paperwork” for the Cherokee Brick Company is now complete and has been turned over to the attorneys. The company will be purchasing three acres in the Industrial Park. This company will result in approximately 150 jobs.
- There is also another manufacturing company that remains interested in Columbia County. [No names provided]
- There has been one inquiry that has been matched with an existing company in Columbia County. The inquiring company was matched with an existing company who is now facing layoffs. One company being able to do another company’s work on contract may save jobs. This will be a win-win situation for both companies. [No names provided.]
- There continues to be a significant amount of interest in the community.

Chairwoman Norris will be asking Principal Terry Huddleston to give a presentation to the IDA on making a Logistics Academy a part of the high school curriculum. She said that she has heard the presentation by Principal Huddleston and was very impressed. She encouraged everyone to advocate for an academy in this county.

Throughout the course of the meeting there was much discussion regarding the importance of working together to **MAINTAIN A STRONG WORKING RELATIONSHIP** between the Board of County Commissioners and the Industrial Development Authority.

**OTHER DISCUSSION:**

The Board asked that they be kept in the “loop” regarding all developing information relating to new businesses locating in the county and other like matters. This will help the commissioners communicate more effectively with their constituents. Chairwoman Norris assured the Board that the IDA will come up with a workable process for making sure commissioners are always in the “loop.”

Commissioner Dupree said that the Board of County Commissioners has already taken a position on Amendment 4, but to his knowledge, the IDA has not taken an official position. He said that in 2011 the state of Florida is going to adopt the **International Building Code** that will require all newly constructed residential homes to have **fire sprinklers** installed, which is going to be a tremendous setback to the building industry. The commissioner stressed that there needs to be a method in place for ensuring everyone, including the state partners, are very aggressive in protecting the Community Development Plan. Everyone needs to be informed and unified on legislative matters that have the potential to negatively impact, or cause a set back to the Community Development Plan. All agreed that it will take each entity sharing important information received from the League of Cities, the Florida Association of Counties, etc. to combat and protect the efforts being made.

Mr. Joel Foreman said that his Government Relations Committee and the Chamber Board did formally adopt a resolution opposing **Amendment 4** and active steps are being taken to fight the amendment. He said that they are also aware of the building code requiring the installation of sprinkler systems. He said that part of his committee’s responsibility will be advocacy for Columbia County and they will work diligently to keep the county informed.

Mr. Poole advised that **tax abatement** will return to the agenda this year. He said that he would meet with Attorney Feagle on the matter since it expires December 31, 2010. Chairman Williams said that every effort must be made to get the community better informed on the issue of tax abatement.

The Chairman said that the **next meeting** will be with the Chamber and will likely be in May. Notices will go out.

There was no other business. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

ATTEST:

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P. DeWitt Cason  
Clerk of Circuit Court

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Ronald Williams, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners