

COLUMBIA COUNTY
BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of
February 18, 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. with prayer. Boy Scout Troop #374 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
Asst. County Manager Lisa Roberts
Deputy Clerk Sandy Markham
Attorney Marlin Feagle

Public Comments

Kathy Marlowe, an owner of **K & M Mowing**, addressed discrepancies in mileage. She told the Board that the mileage comes directly from the documents K&M received when they originally entered into the Roadside Mowing Contract in April 2005. She said that the “special mowing” is part of the contract they bid on. She told the Commission that out of consideration for the county, K & M mowed the Boy’s Club free of charge for nearly a year.

Citizen Stewart Lilker said regarding the new **library design** that the front door is not visible to those working the checkout desk. He said that he has discussed this with Sheriff Hunter, and the Sheriff is on notice, that the lack of visibility makes the design unsafe for children and adults and should be rectified.

Mr. Lilker circulated a copy of an Attorney General News Release dated December 30, 2008, where Attorney McCollum calls on local governments, law enforcement and school districts to make enhanced “Sunshine” New Year’s Resolutions. Mr. Lilker specifically noted Attorney McCollum’s encouragement to immediately place on websites the email address and phone number for their **public records point of contact**. Mr. Lilker said he has been trying to find out for years who the Record Access Officer is for the county. A copy of the release is attached to the original minutes.

Regarding the warning Mr. Lilker received from the Chair last week, he said there was no basis in law for **the warning** and that the warning has no merit. Mr. Lilker said that everyone he has spoken to, including the County Manager, has expressed that it is common sense that the policy is two warnings per meeting. He said that he protests being given a warning when he did not disturb the peace, the comment was not picked up on the recording, and the remark was made directly to the chairman after leaving the microphone.

He asked the Board to be more prompt in posting materials for the meeting. He said the EMS materials were posted on February 17, but were received by the county over a week earlier.

Beautification Committee

Ms. Betty Lane expressed appreciation for the Board's support on Beautification Committee projects. She reviewed the committee's works within the City and County.

Consent Agenda

MOTION by Commissioner Frisina to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Commissioner Bailey.

There was a call for clarification on items #7 and #14. County Manager Williams assisted with clarification.

- (1) External Budget Amendment – Courthouse Maintenance – BA #09-10 – HVAC Repairs - \$6,788.20
- (2) Clerks Office – Warrant Approval – Claims Fund – 102559-102989 – Payroll – 111018-111279
- (3) Building and Zoning – Special Family Lot Permits – (a) Sara Joe Roberts – Parent Parcel Owner, Otis P. Roberts, Jr. – Somer Roberts Jenkins – Parent Parcel Owner, Otis P. Roberts, Jr. – Patience Eddings – Parent Parcel Owner, William and Carol Burke
- (4) County Planner – Request for Subdivision Preliminary Plat Approval Extension – Arbor Oaks, SD 0225 – Extension until September 6, 2011
- (5) Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. – (S.H.I.P.) – Release of Lien Agreement – Pallas April Sanders - \$1,000.00
- (6) Veterans Service – Request for Special Travel Authorization – Susan Melton – May Training Conference – May 2 through May 6, 2010
- (7) Columbia County Health Department – Declaration of Junk Property – (see attached list)
- (8) Building and Zoning – Position Vacancy – Requesting Permission to Recruit and Fill Vacated Position – Building Official I: 1 & 2 Family Dwelling Inspector
- (9) Columbia County Emergency Medical Services – Refund Request – Overpayment Recovery - \$383.00
- (10) Columbia County Emergency Medical Services – Refund Request – Accent - \$332.80
- (11) Minute Approval – Board of County Commissioners – Regular Meeting – February 4, 2010
- (12) Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. – (S.H.I.P.) – Release of Lien Agreement – Danielle Steinhauser - \$4,000.00
- (13) Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. – (S.H.I.P.) – Release of Lien Agreement – Keithon M. Lee - \$4,000.00
- (14) External Budget Amendment – Winfield Solid Waste – BA #09-11 – Temporary Wal-Staff Employee Funding - \$3,500.00
- (15) External Budget Amendment – Sheriff's Office - #4 – BA # 09-12 – Subsistence Cost Generated by Detention Facility - \$1,983.41

Roadside Mowing

The county currently pays approximately \$450,000 per year, plus tippage fees, for litter removal and mowing. K&M has agreed to renew the mowing contract at the current rate for one

additional year, beginning April 11, 2010. They have asked that the Board consider amendments to the existing contract if it is renewed. The Board asked that prior to taking up the issue of renewing that staff provide other options and recommendations for further consideration.

Public Works Director Kevin Kirby and Landscape and Parks Director Clint Pittman visited this issue of roadside mowing. The partial summary of their findings and recommendation were provided in the agenda packet and are attached to the original minutes.

If the Board decides to re-bid the contract, a recommendation will be made to remove certain roads from the mowing list that are not currently being mowed, or do not need to be mowed, and there will be a request to add certain roads. The County Manager said that the current contract has mileage discrepancies, and asked that the corrections be made.

The County Manager said that because the county is becoming more urbanized in many areas, it appears the staff will no longer be in a position to recommend to the county when a road is accepted for maintenance that it be from the back slope (of the ditch) to back slope. He noted that most communities will only accept responsibility for the paved road portion.

There are many decisions to be made by the commissions relating to roadside mowing, though no immediate action was requested.

MOTION by Commissioner Dupree to hold a workshop at 5:00 p.m. on March 02, 2010, to discuss the matter further. Second by Commissioner Frisina.

Answering a question from Commissioner Dupree, the County Manager said as the contract is written, the county is suppose to pay for the number of miles mowed. Payment, more or less, occurs from the completion of the mowing cycle, than it does for the actual road mileage mowed. The original contract was written to pay by road mileage. The number of miles establishes the value of the contract in total, and then the payment is based on the completion of the cycle. Commissioner Dupree suggested the language of the contract be settled prior to the workshop.

County Manager Williams explained that the Board would not be able to re-new the contract modifications without putting the contract back out for bid. In the workshop, Attorney Feagle will explain, to what extent a modification can be made to the contract.

The motion carried unanimously.

City of Lake City - EMS

Several weeks ago, the managers for the City and the County met and have and made the following recommendations regarding EMS:

- The County's EMS Certificate of Public Need and Necessity will be renewed and will include the City of Lake City.

- A Request for Proposals be authorized for the purpose of preparing a Cost-Benefit Analysis to determine the cost allocation of County/City EMS Services. The fee for the analysis will be shared equally, and the selection of a consultant will be made by a committee. The committee will be made up of both city and county employees.
- Any services requested of the consultant, other than the EMS Analysis, will be paid by the requesting party.

MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to renew the Certificate of Public Need and Necessity. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION Commissioner Frisina to authorize RFP for the purpose of preparing a Cost-Benefit Analysis to be paid for equally. Second by Commissioner Dupree. The motion carried unanimously.

Contract for Sale of Treatment Plant Ellisville Utilities

The Board considered the contract relating to the sale of the wastewater treatment plant the county is purchasing from Ellisville Utilities. The purchase is being made at the appraised price of \$181,200.

MOTION to approve the contract Commissioner Dupree. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.

As a matter of information, the County Manager advised that there are currently only five customers on this particular plant, but there will soon be a few more. He said that he and Public Works Director Kevin Kirby have already met with the Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator, which is a City employee that does this type of work on the side for the current property owner. That person has agreed to continue in the same capacity. The County's IT Department has prepared a software package that can be used for billing the customers.

Minutes

The September 18, 2008 Board of County Commissioner minutes were considered. Two of the commissioners were not seated during that time.

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

Commissioner Bailey said that each of the commissioners received a letter from the Clerk explaining the situation. He asked if minutes can simply be acknowledged without the Board having to take action on each set when they come up again.

The Clerk is suggesting that he sign off on the old minutes without the Board taking action to approve them. His office will then forward a copy to the county office with a receipt attached. The county office may then acknowledge they have received the minutes by signing off on the Clerk's Receipt.

Attorney Feagle said the tape recording is actually the minutes. He said that there is nothing in the Sunshine Law that actually provides for how minutes are approved, or whether the Board will approve the minutes. If the Board does elect to take action, it must be taken in the Sunshine. Attorney Feagle said that the Board can receive the old minutes for information without approving the content. They can simply acknowledge those minutes have been prepared and are filed in the Clerk's Office.

Community Development Plan

The Board considered the Community Development Plan presented by the Industrial Development Authority and Rudder Team.

MOTION by Commissioner Bailey to approve. Second by Commissioner Dupree.

Commissioner Dupree asked about the targeted site as part of the plan. The County Manager said that he was told the targeted site was not intended to be part of that plan. The sites will be designated later. Commissioner Bailey said that the broad overview was at the suggestion of the facilitator.

The motion carried unanimously.

Public Works Columbia County Guardrail Inventory

An inspection has been conducted of all guardrails within the county. Pictures of guardrails that were damaged most were provided to the Commission. The County Manager said that all guardrail deficiencies can be corrected for approximately \$55,000. He recommended the Board approve establishing within the Public Works budget a line item for guardrail repairs, and that an amendment be done from the Road Improvement Fund in the amount of \$55,000 to fund the line item.

MOTION to approve the recommendation by Commissioner Bailey. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Appointment Recommendations

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT/PLANNING & ZONING BOARD: Matt Vann and Teena Ruffo.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD: Dr. Charles W. Hall.

SHIP AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Travis Land.

CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD: Frank Robedeau (1 vacancy).

ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD: Nicholas Hemes, Glenn Parnell, a County Code

Enforcement Officer, and a representative from the Sheriff's Office (1 vacancy).

Due to limited applications, there remains one vacancy on the Code Enforcement Board and the Animal Control Board.

MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to approve for discussion. Second by Commissioner Frisina.

Commissioner Dupree said that he has an issue with the appointment of Dr. Chuck Hall to the IDA Board. He said that while he understands why Dr. Hall was chosen, he does not feel that anyone should serve on that Board that does not come out of the private sector. He said that is one of the most important boards in the county, and the person who is appointed should not be someone who has their budget approved by local, state or federal government. He said that he also feels that an effort needs to be made to find someone who is very rounded in development as it relates to real estate, finances, etc. Commissioner Dupree said that he feels Dr. Hall is a fine man, but should not be appointed to the IDA Board. He said that a person from the education field should serve in an advisory position only.

Commissioner Weaver said that he and Commissioner Dupree think a lot alike on what the makeup of the Board should be, but the selection was based on an overall picture of the IDA Board. He said that each of the members actually makeup a small portion of what is needed overall on the Board. He said that it did not matter to him personally whether the appointment is from private or public enterprise. He said that training is important. Dr. Chuck Hall of the Lake City Community College was chosen for that reason. He has wonderful credentials and will be a vital part of the board as it relates to training.

AMENDED MOTION: Motion to approve all appointments with the exception of the IDA appointment. Second by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

The Chair asked for a vote on the original motion, less the amendment. He explained the vote was on everything except what was pulled. He asked that all in favor signal by saying Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

The Chair asked that all of those in favor of Mr. Hall serving on the IDA Board to signal by saying Aye. The vote was 4-1 with Commissioner Dupree voting in opposition.

9-1-1 Answering Equipment State Grant Purchase

The 9-1-1 upgrade project has reached the phase for replacement of the 9-1-1 answering equipment. The County has been awarded a 9-1-1 grant in the amount of \$424,602.60 that is designated for the purchase and installation of the 9-1-1 answering equipment. The purchase of the Plant CML system has been previously approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Permission was requested by the Communications Committee to proceed with the purchase of the 9-1-1 answering equipment from A.K. Associates.

MOTION by Commissioner Bailey. Second by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Priority Dispatch Contract

The Communications Committee is requesting Board approval of the contract to purchase the Emergency Medical Dispatch System, which was previously approved in the 9-1-1 Center enhancements. The cost is \$37,095.

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

Imagetrend

The Imagetrend Software Licensing Agreement has been reviewed by Attorney Feagle. The contract includes the software necessary for the City of Lake City Fire Department. The City intends to contribute \$3,300 toward the purchase.

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

Public Hearing

Attorney Feagle asked that the Board set a public hearing to repeal the Plum Creek Land Use Amendment Ordinances Adopted 2007 & 2009.

MOTION by Commissioner Dupree to set public hearing on March 18, 2010. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Feagle asked for a public hearing for 2010 Plum Creek Land Use Amendment Ordinance.

MOTION by Commissioner Bailey to set public hearing on March 18, 2010. Second by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners (Non Agenda Items)

MOTION by Commissioner Dupree to approve a **proclamation** recognizing Ms. Hitchcock's 100th birthday. Second by Commissioner Weaver. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner Dupree to direct staff to contact the Department of Transportation regarding available funds for a **side wall** on the east side of I-75 and north of Hwy. 90. Second by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Dupree said GWP was awarded the bid for utilities on the southern side of the interstate. A part of the specs required that they provide their own water for testing. **GWP** now wants to hook up to the county's well to expedite matters. They cannot do this by contract. The Board will have to tell them to truck the **water** in from High Springs or a 6" meter can be installed at their cost and allow GWP to purchase the water at a certain rate.

MOTION by Commissioner Bailey to let GWP pay for the installation (and removal) of the meter and for them to pay for the water. Second by Commissioner Frisina.

All agreed that meter will be put in to county standards and will be overseen by Chad Williams. All costs associated with installing and removing the 6" meter will be done at GWP's cost.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to **adopt the City's water rates** for this situation. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner Bailey to approve Proclamation #1010-1, which designates the week of **February 20-27 as National FFA Organizational Week**. Second by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Frisina reported that Columbia County, as part of the fourteen county RACEC site, was awarded in excess of \$30,000,000 to develop and enhance **broadband services** in North Florida. Commissioner Frisina and other commissioners commended IT Director Todd Manning's for his dedication and service on the North Florida Broadband Authority Committee.

MOTION by Commissioner Frisina to place a **letter of commendation** to be placed in Mr. Manning's personnel file recognizing him. Second by Commissioner Dupree. The motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Hunter thanked the Board for all of their help with the **9-1-1 enhancements**.

Chairman Williams asked Commissioner Weaver to help him in accomplishing as many of the items as possible on the **Chairman's Agenda**. Commissioner Weaver accepted.

Chairman Williams asked Utility Chairman Dupree to aggressively work with IDA staff to come up with prices for **package disposal sewage plants**, and to also be aggressive with the **well fields**.

Chairman Williams asked staff to obtain the **traffic study** promised by D.O.T. for the **Bypass Road**.

Chairman Williams asked the County Manager if he agrees with Mr. Lilker in that **the warning** given to Mr. Lilker at the last meeting did not make sense. The County Manager

clarified that he told Mr. Lilker that without reviewing the policy, that he did believe that it was two warnings per meeting. The County Manager said that he has since discussed this issue with Attorney Feagle who has clarified that the policy does not specify. Therefore, it is up to the Board's interpretation.

The Chair asked for a motion to approve him and Commissioner Dupree meeting to discuss this matter to come up with a recommendation for the Board.

MOTION by Commissioner Weaver, "So move." Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried.

The Chair said that he would also like for the attorney to serve.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

Chairman Ronald Williams

P. DeWitt Cason
Clerk of Circuit Court

