

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Amended Minutes of  
**May 20, 2010**

The 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. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America followed.

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

Ronald Williams (Chairman)  
Stephen Bailey  
Dewey Weaver  
Scarlet Frisina (Arrived at 7:30 p.m.)  
Jody Dupree

**Others in Attendance:**

Manager Dale Williams  
Attorney Marlin Feagle  
Deputy Clerk Sandy Markham  
BCC Secretary Penny Stanley

**Announcement:**

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council circulated a sign-in sheet. The public was asked to sign the sheet so their attendance at the CDBG public hearing would be noted.

**Public Comments:**

Citizen Stewart Lilker recalled several years ago the public voted overwhelmingly to include a provision requiring **enhanced public notice** to be included in the Columbia County Charter. Mr. Lilker thanked the county for making strides in this area.

Mr. Lilker asked Commissioner Dupree to pay the advertising invoice for the **Town Hall Meeting** held on **April 29, 2010**. Mr. Lilker said that until the County Attorney got involved and declared this a **Sunshine Meeting**, there were no plans to have a recording or minutes of the meeting. He said to date, the meeting is not listed on the county's website and no minutes or audio has been posted of the meeting.

Mr. Lilker addressed Rapid Patient Mobilization's ("RPM") request for a **Critical Care ALS Inter-facility Transport Certificate of Public Convenience Necessity** in Columbia County Florida. He noted this is a new company with very little information available. He said if the county needs this service it should be advertised through a Request for Proposals ("RFP"). He recalled that the Board denied the request of Liberty Ambulance Service, a well established company, to obtain a **COCPN** a couple of years ago. He suggested that other companies be allowed to operate in the county and that **Century Ambulance** not have a monopoly on this service.

Citizen Sam Dunn told the Commission if they were going to bring industry in and waive their taxes for a certain number of years that they could at least require in exchange that the companies offer full time **jobs**. He said that it is the citizens who are working two and three jobs to pay their own bills and the taxes of that new business.

Citizen Chris Williams read a statement on behalf of the **Citizen Against Forced Utilities** advising they were able to obtain well above the number of petitions required in order to move the issue of mandatory utility hookups to the election ballot. A request was also made for the Board of County Commissioners to commit to immediately setting a public hearing on the proposed amendment that would eliminate mandatory connection to the public utility facility in Ellisville, specifically, Article II, Section 2.03 of Columbia County **Ordinance #2010-2**. Mr. Williams told the Board that the voters have overwhelmingly voiced their desire to have freedom of choice in lieu of the mandatory utility connection. He asked that the will of the people be honored.

### **Community Development Block Grant – 1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing**

A presentation was offered by Martha Orthoefer, AICP Senior Planner for the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council. The presentation addressed the Fiscal Year 2009 Community Development Block Grant that would address housing and community development needs. This **Small Cities Community Development Block Grant** may provide up to \$750,000 in funds to be used to benefit low and moderate income persons; or to aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight; or to meet other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community and where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs. The category of activities for which these funds may be used are in the areas of housing, neighborhood revitalization, commercial revitalization, or economic development and include such improvement activities as acquisition of real property, rehabilitation of houses and commercial buildings, code improvement activities, and construction of infrastructure, including water and sewer improvements, street improvements, and drainage and neighborhood facilities. At least 70% of the funds must be proposed to be spent on activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

A list of potential projects is being generated for consideration. The County Manager recommended they solicit Ms. Orthoefer's expertise with the project selection process as she would know which projects would be most competitive. The four projects making it to the list thus far are: Water and sewer connections in Ellisville, water and sewer connections in a portion of the Five Points area. Water and sewer connections, as well as water distribution system upgrades in College Manor, and a neighborhood revitalization project that would help with substandard housing in various areas throughout the county. A second public hearing is required. The complete presentation is attached to the original minutes.

The public hearing opened.

Answering a question from Citizen Stewart Lilker, Ms. Orthoefer said the grant is for the unincorporated area of the county. The application will have to be very specific as to the project(s) it is applying for. She said that Mr. Lilker was correct in that the county could keep a percentage of the grant funds for administration.

Mr. Lilker suggested that the County not keep 10% of the funds for administering the grant, but instead use it on projects. He asked that the proposed project list be made available to the public well in advance of the next public hearing.

Citizen Larry Hall asked if the county was planning to maintain the Water Plant located behind Manuzee's Store. The County Manager said that system and the College Manor Water System are "proposed" projects.

Ms. Orthoefer advised the Citizen Advisory Task Force needs to be reconstituted for the purpose of providing direction regarding the type of application to be prepared. Once a project has been determined, there will be another public hearing to consider it.

The public hearing closed.

### **Rapid Patient Mobilization's Request for COPCN by Scott Prader**

Rapid Patient Mobilization ("RPM") made a request for a Critical Care ALS Inter-facility Transport Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Columbia County Florida. If granted, the service would provide Specialized Critical Care transports between Columbia County facilities, as well as transportation for out of county transports. RPM advised that their organization has medical oversight from multiple areas including a Board Certified Emergency Medicine/Trauma/ Tactical MD, Board Certified Pediatric MD, Master Physical Therapist and Board certified Respiratory Therapist.

According to Mr. Prader, the request is not intended to replace any current providers. The request is to provide Higher Complexity Critical Care that would be equivalent to the Rotary wing (helicopter) provided by Trauma One and Shands of Jacksonville. This type of Ground Transport Unit would be available when the helicopter is grounded due to the weather or not available to respond. By having this additional resource available, it would decrease mortality and morbidity. It would also reduce the strain placed on the county and the private ALS transport units, allowing them to focus on emergency situations.

RPM representative Scott Prader explained RPM has met with Shands of Lakeshore Hospital ("SLSH") to gain support for this type of "Critical Care Ground Transport Resource." According to RPM, SLSH has indicated that this type of resource would not only allow them to be more fiscally responsible by not having to send patients more complex than regular providers can handle without sending hospital staff members to accompany the patient but also not sending patients by helicopter who do not fit criteria for that type of transport. He noted that Lake City Medical Center is interested in meeting with RPM to explore possibilities, but wanted to wait until the Board's decision.

Mr. Prader referenced a letter from the State of Florida Department of Health verifying RPM's license was initially issued inaccurately due to a misunderstanding. Subsequent to that, RPMs' license were issued and they are in good standing. Mr. Prader submitted copies of license verification for RPM, which were made a part of the record. No letter verifying reinstatement was submitted.

Mr. Prader said that RPM is currently operating in Duval County. A COCPN is not required for the particular service they offer.

RPM currently has one ambulatory unit. If a COCPN is issued, the critical care unit will be immediately purchased.

Commissioner Bailey said that he spoke with the Hospital Administrator Rhonda Sherrod. Mrs. Sherrod advised that she had no knowledge of RPM, nor did the Director of Nursing. The Commissioner said that also he touched based with the Lake City Medical Center who advised that they have not requested a meeting with RPM.

\*The County Manager provided to the Clerk with a letter Barbara Jeffords who expressed that no COCPN should be issued without the benefit of issuing an RFP.

The County Manager explained the county responds to emergencies, but does not do inter-facility transports. When the county removed itself from inter-facility transports, the two hospitals were allowed to choose who they wanted the county to issue a COCPN or COPCNs to. County staff contacted the administration of both hospitals and was told that no requests are being made for RPM. Therefore, staff recommended denial of the request.

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

### **Building & Zoning Department**

County Planner Brian Kepner presented the following Final Plat Plan for a Planned Residential Development (PRD) for the Board's consideration:

(1) Z 0517 Amelia Landings, Phase 1 - District 5.

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

### **Consent Agenda**

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

County Manager Williams asked that item #27 be pulled for clarification only. He stated the May 06, 2010 minutes are in need of two minor changes prior to approval. See strikethrough and underline of requested changes below:

*[Pg. 2] Commissioner Bailey said he was thankful for the scheduled work ~~done~~ on **Academic Avenue** from SR 100 to Hwy. 90.*

MOTION by Commissioner Bailey to amend the wording. Second by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

[Pg. 2] MOTION by Commissioner ~~Dupree~~ Weaver to approve **Resolution #2010R-16**.

MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to amend the wording. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.

The motion to approve the Consent Agenda carried unanimously.

- (1) External Budget Amendment – General Fund – BA # 09-20 - CISCO VPN Appliance – Equipment Purchase - \$18,403
- (2) External Budget Amendment – General Fund – BA # 09-22 – Fire Proof File Cabinet – Equipment Purchase - \$972
- (3) Proclamation – **Florida Water Professionals Week** – August 16-20, 2010 - Florida Water & Pollution Control Operators Association
- (4) Human Resources – Public Works Department – Request to recruit and fill **Equipment Operator I Position** and **General Laborer Position**
- (5) Proxy Tabulator – **Hartford Life Insurance Company** – **Income and Growth Investor Class** – American Century Funds
- (6) Utility Permit – Comcast Cable – **S.W. Brown Street**
- (7) Utility Permit – AT&T SE Florida – **S.W. Forest Lawn Way**
- (8) Utility Permit – Comcast Cable – **N.W. Bascom Norris Drive** Near U.S. 90 W.
- (9) Utility Permit – Comcast Cable – **Pinemount Road**
- (10) Utility Permit – Comcast Cable – **County Road 25A**
- (11) **AECOM - Bascom Norris Drive** Project – **CSXT** Forced Account Expenses - \$198,243.00
- (12) **Montgomery Building** – Pre-renovations Asbestos Survey - Cross Environmental Services, Inc. - \$3,623.00
- (13) Columbia County **Fire/Rescue** – **Automated Staffing Software** – **TeleStaff** - \$37,000.00 – annual re-occurring cost beginning in year two is \$3,811.
- (14) **Waste Water Operator Agreement** – **Charles Johnson** - \$450.00 per month adjusted at the rate of \$25.00 per 4,000 gallons for any increase above 7,000 gallons or decrease below 7,000 gallons per calendar month. \$25.00 per hour for work performed at

night after 10:00 p.m. and before 8:00 a.m. for weekends, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. \$25.00 per hour for weekend work done any time on Saturday and Sunday.

- (15) Invoice – **Charles A. Johnson, Waste Water Operator - Ellisville Waste Water Treatment Plant** – March 31, 2010 - \$176.04
- (16) Invoice – **Charles A. Johnson, Waste Water Operator – Ellisville Waste Water Treatment Plant** – April 30, 2010 - \$450.00
- (17) **External Budget Amendment** – Sheriff’s Office - #8 – BA #09-23 – **Subsistence Costs** Generated at Detention Facility – April 2010 - \$2,502.50
- (18) Sheriff’s Office – **Donation of Vehicle** – Transfer from Sheriff’s Office to IT Department - 2003, 4 Door, Ford, Crown Victoria
- (19) Sheriff’s Office – Federal Fiscal Year 2010 **Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program** – State Solicitation - \$94,096.00
- (20) Sheriff’s Office – Application for Federal Assistance – **Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program** - Communications and Safety Enhancement Project - \$22,765.00
- (21) **Veterans Service Office** – Letter of Support in behalf of **Susan Melton**, Veterans Service Counselor - Position on the Board of the County Veterans Service Officer Association – Must attend May and October Conferences as a Requirement
- (22) Growth – **Investor Class Nationwide Insurance Company** – American Century Funds – Voting Proxy
- (23) **Janus Balanced Fund – Hartford Life Insurance Company** – Janus Investment Fund – Voting Proxy
- (24) Progress Energy – **Distribution Easement** – State Road 47 and **Koon Hollow Road** - Fort White Library
- (25) Commissioners Request to Travel – **Small County Coalition Annual Meeting** – June 30, 2010 to July 1, 2010 – Commissioners Ronald Williams and Commissioner Stephen E. Bailey
- (26) Utility Permit – City of Lake City – **SW Leisure Drive**
- (27) Minute Approval - Board of County Commissioners – Regular Meeting – May 6, 2010

## **Suwannee River Economic Council Board of Directors**

The Board of County Commissioners does not currently have anyone sitting on the SREC Board. The name of Arthur Lee Wright was presented for the Board's consideration.

MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to appoint Mr. Wright to the SREC Board. Second by Commissioner Dupree. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Invoice Town Hall Meeting**

The Board considered the advertising invoice [\$47.03] received from the Lake City Reporter for the April 29, 2010 Town Hall meeting. The County Manager explained that County Attorney Feagle determined this was to be a sunshine meeting. The Board was asked to determine that the meeting was for a public purpose and approve payment.

Because there is no policy pertaining to this type of meeting, the clerk rejected payment until the Board of County Commissioners voted to approve the invoice.

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

Commissioner Dupree responded to public comments made earlier in the meeting and explained the meeting was recorded, public comment was allowed, and minutes were taken.

The motion carried unanimously.

## **Adult Sports Leased Facilities - Informational**

At the last Board meeting the issue of adult sports being funded by the county was discussed briefly. The Board has been provided with a partial list of adult sports programs being conducted on county owned or leased facilities; the adult sports played at Southside has not yet been included. The numbers are being worked on and will be provided to the Board as soon as they are available.

### Non-agenda Items

In 2002 a **Joint Board of Adjustment** was formed between the City and County to hear matters that dealt with the Lake City Airport. They have met approximately once since being formed. The City has a need to reconvene. Brad Dicks was appointed by the county and has agreed to continue serving. The county's second appointment, Mr. Jim Pueshell, is now deceased.

MOTION by Commissioner Frisina to appoint Ms. Faye Bowling Warren in Mr. Jim Pueshell's place. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.

There will be a very large gathering of teams this weekend at **Southside Recreation Complex**. Eighty soccer teams are expected, fifty-nine baseball teams, and thirty-eight softball teams. The County Manager said that viable contingency plans are in place.

Today a letter was received from Public Works requesting permission to perform an **emergency removal of a dead tree** located at 120 NW Palmetto Blvd. The dead tree was on private property, but was clearly threatening the public right of way. Public Works removed only the portion of the tree threatening the public right-of-way. Pictures of the tree were included in the record.

MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to approve the work that was done. Second by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

The County has received a picture and a thank you note from the **Columbia High School Band** for the assistance given with their recent travel to New York.

Commissioner Frisina apologized for her **late arrival**.

Commissioner Williams advised that he has another **illegal dumpsite** that has formed on **Falling Creek Road**. The person responsible has been arrested. Attorney Feagle said that restitution is generally addressed after conviction at the sentencing hearing.

Commissioner Williams said there is another very large, **illegal dumpsite** on **Suwannee Valley Road** that he will be bringing before the Board. He said the property owner lives out of town. Efforts are being made to contact her regarding site cleanup. He said the county would be willing to assist her with cleaning up the site if she would be willing to fence the 40 acres.

Commissioner Williams addressed the request made by Mr. Chris Williams on behalf of Citizens Against Forced Utilities for the County Commissioners to commit to setting a public hearing on the proposed amendment that would eliminate mandatory connection to the public utility facility in Ellisville. He commended the organization for adhering to the procedure laid out in the charter for obtaining the signatures, but said the Board is going to “let the due process system work itself out.” He told Mr. Chris Williams that, “Within the next 10-15 days, we’re going to address that.”

Mr. Chris Williams replied that time constraints will not allow for 10-15 days. Therefore, a commitment was needed “tonight.” Commissioner Williams said that it would not be possible to commit, but he promised that the Board would work with the group.

ATTEST:

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

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

\* Amendment on Pg. 4