

Columbia County
Board of County Commissioners

Minutes of
August 3, 2017

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners met in a regular meeting at the auditorium of the School Board Administrative Complex at 5:30 p.m. The meeting opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Commissioners in Attendance: Chairman Ronald Williams, Rusty DePratter, Tim Murphy, Bucky Nash and Everett Phillips.

Others in Attendance: County Manager Ben Scott ("CM")
Assistant County Manager Scott Ward ("ACM")
Assistant County Manager Kevin Kirby ("ACM")
County Attorney Joel Foreman
Deputy Clerk Susan Weeks

Agenda Additions/Deletions

Additions:
Interlocal Agreement

Deletions:
None

MOTION by Commissioner Phillips to approve the agenda as amended.
SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

Ministerial Matters

Suwannee River Water Management District ("SRWMD")

Hugh Thomas, Executive Director for SRWMD, presented the County a check for \$37,738.76 as payment in lieu of taxes.

Discussion ensued.

Public Comment on Discussion and Action Items:

Members of the public addressed the Board with their comments and/or questions regarding the following items:

- Mr. Ralph Kitchens on rule changes and the County Attorney.

- Mr. Stewart Lilker on rules of procedure and public comments at Board meetings.
- Ms. Barbara Lemley on rules of procedure and comment cards.

MOTION by Commissioner Nash to approve the consent agenda. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

- (1) 911 Communications - Requesting Approval to Utilize E-911 Board Special Disbursement and Enter into Contract with Equature/DSS Corp. - Replace 911 Logging Recorder - BA 17-62 - \$50,000
- (2) BCC Administration - Requesting Approval of Minutes - Board of County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - July 20, 2017
- (3) BCC Administration - Requesting Approval for Resolution 2017R-30 - Texting While Driving Ban
- (4) BCC Administration - Requesting Approval of a Use of Space Agreement with the American Red Cross
- (5) Building and Zoning - Special Family Lot Permit (SFLP 17-40) - Beverly Stone, Mother of Courtney Bedenbaugh - Kaleb and Courtney Bedenbaugh, Property Owner - 4078 SE Country Club Road
- (6) Fire Rescue Department - Requesting Approval To Authorize the Application - FY 2017-2018 Florida Firefighter Assistance Grant - Purchase Personal Protective Equipment for Reservists - \$45,000
- (7) Human Resource - Department of the Navy - National Naval Aviation Museum Aircraft Loan Agreement Amendment
- (8) Operations - Utility Permit - AT&T Florida - County Road 245
- (9) Operations - Utility Permit - Florida Power and & Light Company - County Road 252
- (10) Operations - Requesting Approval for a Right-of-Way Easement - Clay Electric Coop. - Ellisville Fire Station
- (11) Purchasing - Requesting Approval - Award Bid No. 2017-Q to Low Bidder Sun Professional Supply - \$46,980
- (12) Recreation - Requesting Approval of Amendment for a New Network Switch and Surveillance Camera - BA 17-63 - \$2,620

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to adopt the consent agenda.
SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Action Items:

Project 17-8

- Resolution No. 2017R-31

A resolution declaring the company in Project 17-08 a Qualified Target Industry pursuant to Florida Statute 288.106.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve Resolution No. 2017R-31.
SECOND by Commissioner Nash The motion carried unanimously.

- Tax Exemption

A recommendation by the Economic Development Advisory Board (“EDAB”) for a tax exemption of seventy-five percent (75%) for eight (8) years with a thirty-three (33) job minimum and no pro rata if jobs fall below the minimum.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Nash to approve Tax Exemption of 50% with the statutory requirement of ten (10) jobs or more for 5 years. SECOND by Commissioner DePratter. The motion carried unanimously.

- Land Transfer

The company is requesting the County consider a donation of the land in whole or in part. Economic Development Director requested an appraisal of the property to be utilized for negotiations.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to have the property appraised by the next EDAB meeting. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

RFP 2017-P - Group Health Insurance

The County received four (4) proposals in response to the RFP. The Evaluation and Ranking Committee ranked Blue Cross the highest and recommended approval. ACM Scott outlined the new coverage being offered by Blue Cross.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Nash to approve awarding RFP 2017-P for group health insurance to Blue Cross and Blue Shield. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner Nash to approve adding the BlueCare 60 plan at no additional cost to the County. SECOND by Commissioner DePratter. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner DePratter to approve ComPsych Employee Assistance Program to the Employee Benefit Plan for each employee at \$36 per year per employee. SECOND by Commissioner Nash. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve the insurance rates for the Employee Benefit Plan as presented. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

River Rise and Hollingsworth Bluff Boat Ramps

ACM Kirby was asked to look into the possibility of port-o-lets at the above mentioned boat ramps. Placing temporary facilities for everyday public use has a multitude of issues:

- ◆ Vandalism
- ◆ ADA accessible
- ◆ Location
- ◆ Parking
- ◆ Maintenance

A handicap port-o-let is \$2,300 per unit, per year, per location. A regular port-o-let is \$1,200 per unit, per year, per location. Placing port-o-lets at these locations could possibly cause a flood of requests for them at all public boat ramps in the County.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner DePratter and ACM Kirby will gather more information.

Bid No. 2017-R Motor Graders

ACM Kirby recommends approval of the low bidder, Beard Equipment Company, for the purchase of three (3) motor graders at \$317,118.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner DePratter to approve the John Deere bid. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried 4 to 1 with Commissioner Williams voting in opposition.

Croft Street Bridge Project

In May 2017, the County received bids for the project. The low bidder was Roberts Site Development, Inc. for \$134,830.

At that time, it was recognized that the project had a shortfall of \$41,705 from the amount funded by Florida Department of Transportation ("FDOT"). FDOT will fund this through the SCOP Program.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Phillips to approve the low bid and proceed with the bridge. SECOND by Commissioner Nash. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner Phillips to approve the construction agreement with Roberts Site Development, Inc. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner Phillips to approve FDOT supplemental agreement for contract reimbursement. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

Cannon Creek Storm Water Mitigation Project Update

This project was approved in 2008, the County received grant funding in the amount of \$3,000,000. There are three (3) phases to the project:

1. Engineering
2. Property Acquisition
3. Construction

The grant application was based on the following figures:

1. \$ 500,000/Design/Permitting
2. 1,200,000/Property Acquisition
3. 1,300,000/Construction

In February of 2012 NFPS construction cost would have been \$1,200,000. In July of 2017 the revised costs are \$2,294,000. A ninety-six percent (96%) increase. This creates a deficit of \$1.23 million. ACM Kirby offered the following options to be considered:

1. Go forward with the project.
 - County fund 1.23 million
 - Have complete project
2. Public Works to self-perform all clearing, grubbing and excavation of ponds.
 - Reduce total cost to \$2,964,334
 - Approximately one (1) year to complete.
3. Adjust grant criteria by modifying the project to match grant funding.
 - Reduce project benefits
 - Delay the project
4. Stop Project at this point.
 - County will have spent \$750,000 that is reimbursable
 - County will have spent \$350,000 that is non-reimbursable
 - No project

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve option three (3). SECOND by Commissioner Phillips.

Discussion ensued.

The Chairman called for the vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Interlocal Agreement

A Interlocal agreement between Columbia County and the Town of Fort White regarding the FDOT Outreach Program funding for the construction of a portion of Haines Avenue.

MOTION by Commissioner DePratter to approve Interlocal Agreement between Columbia County and the Town of Fort White. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2017R-23 – Rules and Policies

A resolution approving and adopting the new rules and policies of the BOCC.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Nash to adopt Resolution 2017R-23. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

Rule 1.513 section B, need to remove “The employment of all department directors shall require confirmation by the Board”. That is in conflict with the County Charter.

AMENDED MOTION by Commissioner Nash to redact the above line in Rule 1.513, Section B from Resolution 2017R- 23. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

Open Public Comments and/or Questions:

Members of the public addressed the Board with their comments and/or questions regarding the following items:

- Ms. Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson on the port-o-lets, bathrooms at springs and speed limit signs on Hwy 138.
- Mr. Ralph Kitchens on rule changes and the County Attorney.
- Mr. Stewart Lilker on the rules and procedures.
- Ms. Barbara Lemley on the insurance.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

Ronald Williams, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

P. DeWitt Cason
Clerk of Circuit Court