

Columbia County
Board of County Commissioners

Minutes of
March 1, 2018

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 Timothy Murphy, Rusty DePratter, Bucky Nash, Everett Phillips and Ronald Williams.

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 Katrina Vercher

Agenda Additions/Deletions

Additions:
Polling locations.
Consent 9, 10 and 11 for discussion

Deletions:
None

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

Consent Agenda:

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

- (1) 9-1-1 Communications Center - Requesting Approval to Apply for State E-911 Board Spring Rural Grant for Equipment Maintenance - \$73,425
- (2) 9-1-1 Communications Center - Approval of Special Service Arrangement Agreement for AT&T Snapshot of ALI & MSAG Databases - \$998
- (3) BCC Administration - Addendum to License Agreements for Fort White Ballfields

- (4) BCC Administration - Proposal for Legal Services on the County's Annual Assessment Programs - \$16,500
- (5) BCC Administration - Requesting Approval of Cathy Lucius-Dortch to the SHIP Affordable Housing Advisory Committee Member - Applicant does not Reside in Columbia County and the Only Applicant for this Vacancy
- (6) BCC Administration - Requesting Approval of Minutes - Board of County Commissioners - Special Meeting - January 25, 2018
- (7) BCC Administration - Requesting Approval of Minutes - Board of County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - February 1, 2018
- (8) BCC Administration - Requesting Approval of Minutes - Board of County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - February 15, 2018
- (9) County Attorney - Requesting Approval of Authorization - Offer of Judgment in Robert and Carol Brown v. Columbia County and SRWMD - \$5,000
- (10) County Attorney - Requesting Approval of Attorney Engagement - Jason A. Burgess
- (11) County Attorney - Requesting Approval of Attorney Engagement - Eric Olsen, Hopping Green & Sams
- (12) Public Works - Utility Permit - Comcast - SW Kirby Avenue
- (13) Public Works - Utility Permit - Florida Power and Light Company - SE Sandy Drive, Pounds Hammock Road and SE Academic Avenue
- (14) Public Works - Utility Permit - Florida Power and Light Company - Brown Road and Irene Lane
- (15) Public Works - Requesting Approval of Emergency Purchase Outside of Purchasing Policy - Hot Water Heater at Detention Center - \$4,818
- (16) Risk Management - Authorization to Apply for Three Grants: Florida Jobs Growth Infrastructure Grant, Community Planning and Technical Assistance Grant and a Florida Small Community Energy Efficient Lighting Grant
- (17) Tourist Development - BA 18-27 - Reimburse Capital Outlay and Non-Capital Outlay - \$14,500
- (18) Tourist Development - Requesting Approval of the Madden Media Spring 2018 Retargeting Campaign - \$4,250

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to adopt the consent agenda.
SECOND by Commissioner DePratter. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Action Items:

Opioid Litigation

Avera & Smith, P.A. approached the County Attorney about pursuing legal claims against pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors in connection with certain opioids.

Discussion ensued.

Resolution No. 2018R-6

A resolution to amend the current resolution relating to the establishment and function of the Columbia County Economic Development Advisory Board.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Nash to approve Resolution No. 2018R-6. SECOND by Commissioner Williams.

Citizen Stewart Lilker offered comment.

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

Rum Island Project

ACM Kirby requested permission to apply for the Florida Boating Improvement Program Grant. This grant would fund for dock improvements, parking, canoe/kayak launch, boat ramp and other improvements.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner DePratter to approve request. SECOND by Commissioner Nash.

Discussion ensued.

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

Brown v County and Suwannee River Water Management District (former consent #9)

County Attorney Foreman requested authorization to extend an offer of Judgment in the case for \$5,000.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to adopt consent #9. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

CMS Professional Staffing Bankruptcy (former consent #10)

The County has an economic development agreement with CMS Professional Staffing. There are bankruptcy proceedings pending and County Attorney Foreman is requesting approval to engage attorney Jason Burgess to appear for the County in those proceedings.

MOTION by Commissioner DePratter to approve request. SECOND by Commissioner Nash.

Discussion ensued.

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

Bayfield Mitigation Credits (former consent #11)

County Attorney Foreman requested approval of an agreement with attorney Eric Olsen of Hopping Green & Sams to provide assistance with matter relating to the Bayfield Mitigation Bank and contractual rights to certain mitigation credits the County acquired from that bank. Mr. Olsen would be working with the Department of Environmental Protection to possibly get our credits reinstated.

MOTION by Commissioner Nash to approve request. SECOND by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Stewart Lilker offered comment.

The Chairman called for a revote. The motion carried unanimously

Modular Buildings

The County purchased three 25X40 surplus modular buildings from the School Board for a voting precinct in Columbia City Park, a new Suwannee River Economic Council building and a Fire Department Training Classroom. Costs for relocating all three to the needed locations is \$67,400.

Staff obtained a quote for the purchase, delivery and setup of a 36X36 modular building. The cost is \$160,732.28.

Staff is requesting direction.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve the portables from the School Board. SECOND by Commissioner Nash. The motion carried unanimously.

One-cent Sales Tax

Each charter county that has adopted a charter, each county the government of which is consolidated with that of one or more municipalities, and each county that is within or under an interlocal agreement with a regional transportation or transit authority created under chapter. 343 or 349, F.S., may levy the Charter County and Regional Transportation System Surtax at a rate of up to 1 percent. The levy is subject to approval by a majority vote of the county's electorate or by a charter amendment approved by a majority vote of the county's electorate. Generally, the tax proceeds are for the development, construction, operation, and maintenance of fixed guideway rapid transit systems, bus systems, on-demand transportation services, and roads and bridges.

If approved, the one percent sales surtax would generate approximately \$7,700,000; \$5,000,000 to the Road Improvement Fund and \$2,700,000 to the Transportation Trust Fund. This would allow available revenue of \$2,300,000 from the Small County Surtax and \$400,000 from the Half Cent Sales Tax to be utilized for the Jail.

Discussion ensued.

Columbia City Elementary School Perimeter Fence

In 2016, the School Board donated 10.03 acres near Columbia City Elementary to the County for the building of a county recreational park.

During the improvement of said property, a breach in the perimeter fencing around the school occurred. This has compromised the safety and welfare of the students at the school. The School Board has agreed to split the cost of replacing the fence with the County.

The estimated cost to the County is \$7,500. Staff recommends approval.

MOTION by Commissioner DePratter to take staff recommendation. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips.

Discussion ensued.

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

Polling Locations

Commissioner Williams stated that he has recently learned that the Supervisor of Elections is planning to close the polling location at the Deep Creek Community Center and several others. He would like the location to remain but he is really concerned at the lack of notice that was given. He found out through a late night anonymous phone call.

Discussion ensued.

Open Public Comments and/or Questions:

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

Stewart Lilker on the Lake Shore Hospital Authority and Lake Shore Hospital.

Sandra Smith on the Lake Shore Hospital Authority. Commissioner Williams responded.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Murphy responded to Mr. Lilker's comments.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

Timothy Murphy, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

P. DeWitt Cason
Clerk of Circuit Court