

Columbia County
Board of County Commissioners

Minutes of
April 5, 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 Susan Weeks

Agenda Additions/Deletions

Additions:
Controlled Burn

Deletions:
None

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

Ministerial Matters

Proclamation No. 2018P-2 – Public Safety Tele communicator's Week

Chairman Murphy read Proclamation No. 2018P-2, designating the week of April 8 through 14, 2018 as Public Safety Tele-communicator's week in Columbia County.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve Proclamation No. 2018P-2.
SECOND by Commissioner DePratter. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

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

- (1) BCC Administration - Requesting Approval of Minutes - Board of County Commissioners - Workshop - March 1, 2018
- (2) BCC Administration - Requesting Approval of Minutes - Board of County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - March 1, 2018
- (3) BCC Administration - Requesting Approval of Minutes - Board of County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - March 15, 2018
- (4) BCC Administration - Requesting Approval for Columbia High School - Fireworks Display - June 1, 2018
- (5) BCC Administration - Johnson Controls - Courthouse Chiller Replacement Proposal - \$240,000
- (6) Building and Zoning - Special Family Lot Permit (SFLP 18 08) - Cliff E. Boone, son of Charles A. & Jeanette Boone
- (7) Fire Department - BA 18-35 - Acceptance and Allocation of Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant - \$10,853
- (8) Library - BA 18-34 - Library Donation from Friends of the Library - \$3,082
- (9) Library - Requesting Approval of PayGOV.US Agency Service Agreement
- (10) Public Works - Requesting Approval to Enter Private Property - 10634 SR 247 – Tree Removal
- (11) Public Works - Utility Permit - Comcast - SW Kirby Avenue
- (12) Public Works - Utility Permit - Florida Power and Light Company - Barwick Road, Wallin Lane, and Suwannee Downs Drive
- (13) Public Works - Utility Permit - Florida Power and Light Company - Ruskin Way, Erik Way, Bamboo Terrace, Gumswamp Road, and Okinawa Road
- (14) Risk Management - Requesting Approval of 2018 Price Index for Private Water and Wastewater Utilities - 1.76%

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

Discussion and Action Items:

Economic Development Advisory Board (“EDAB”) Appointments

Two positions on the EDAB are open. Staff interviewed four citizens interested in those positions. Staff is recommending the reappointment of Stephen Douglas as well as the appointment of Charles Keith to the vacant position.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve the appointments to the EDAB. SECOND by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

Future Space Needs

Third Circuit Trial Court Administrator Sondra Lanier gave a brief summary of the functions of her office and addressed the Board concerning the future space needs of her office here in Columbia County.

Administrative Offices Space Needs Analysis

Michael Richmond with Brame Heck Architects Inc presented their preliminary design analysis based on the space requirements of the nine county offices.

Citizen Barbara Lemley offered comment.
Citizen Stewart Liker offered comment.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Nash to direct staff to attempt to renegotiate lease with five (5) year lease options. SECOND by Commissioner DePratter.

Discussion ensued.

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

MOTION by Commissioner Nash to take the \$8 Million dollar loan and move it for the purpose of construction of jail. SECOND by Commissioner Williams.

Citizen Stewart Lilker offered comment.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Nash withdrew his motion and Commissioner Williams his second.

MOTION by Commissioner Nash to put a budget amendment for the eight million dollars on the agenda for the next meeting also to discuss the Target money that was designed to pay part of that debt. SECOND by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued.

Case No. 2017-272 CA – Paynter v Columbia County

County Attorney Forman presented the Board with a settlement agreement between the County and the two plaintiffs, Deric and Kasey Paynter. The settlement amount is \$2,500 to each plaintiff. The settlement sums are within range or less than the costs of defending the claim and the County would be removed as a defendant in this action. Mr. Foreman recommended approval of both agreements.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to take County Attorneys recommendation for the settlement. SECOND by Commissioner Nash.

Discussion ensued.

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

Controlled Burn on County Owned Property

Falling Creek Nursery has requested permission for a controlled burn on parcel 04821-004 that may possibly cross over onto County owned land. Public works has no issue with it neither does Commissioner Williams as it is in his district.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to authorize the burning of that wetland as part of the controlled burn. SECOND by Commissioner DePratter. The motion carried unanimously.

BA 18-31 – Rail Spur Grant Funds

Staff is requesting the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners approve a Budget Amendment that appropriates \$3,135,600 in funds from the Florida Job Growth Grant to extend a rail spur from the CSX railroad to the North Florida Mega Industrial Park along County rail easements.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve BA 18-31. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

Bid No. 2018-2 SW Herlong Phase II

Staff reviewed the bids received and recommends approval of the low bidder, Anderson Columbia in the amount of \$2,158,922.

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

Discussion ensued.

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

BA 18-36 – Brim Street

Due to an accounting error, the Brim Street budget was reduced by \$75,000 too much. Staff is requesting the \$75,000 be added back to the Brim Street budget.

MOTION by Commissioner DePratter to approve. SECOND by Commissioner Williams.

Discussion ensued.

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

Discussion ensued.

BA 18-33 – Winfield Community Center

The Winfield Community Center is requesting the Board purchase a new swing set for the center, the current set was condemned. The estimated cost is \$8,900. The Center is proposing to share the cost. The funds have not been budgeted and would require a budget amendment from the funds remaining from another budgeted project.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Nash to approve BA 18-33. SECOND by Commissioner DePratter. 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:

Westside Elementary Fourth Grader Jenna Richards spoke about bullying currently going on in her school. She has been bullied, as well as her friends. She has attempted to speak with teachers, principals, schoolboard and the Sheriff with no resolution. Tonight she requests the help of the Board, to resolve the issue, so no other children are affected. Miss Richards Grandfather, referred to as Duane, addressed the Board.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner DePratter to propose Staff to prepare a letter to the Sheriff and the schoolboard to show support against bullying. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

Staff Comments:

CM Scott announced the Special Meeting set for April 19, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. before the regular scheduled meeting.

CM Scott reported on the Jail Committee visit to the jail in Palatka.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Phillips thanked Joel Foreman for all his hard work on the Herlong Road Project.

Commissioner Murphy spoke about surplus items and going back to the old auction style.

Commissioner DePratter requested this issue be placed on the next agenda.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

Timothy Murphy, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

P. DeWitt Cason
Clerk of Circuit Court