

Columbia County
Board of County Commissioners

Minutes of
January 17, 2019

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, Rocky Ford,
Timothy Murphy, Bucky Nash and Toby Witt.

Others in Attendance: County Manager Ben Scott ("CM")
Assistant County Manager David Kraus ("ACM")
Assistant County Manager Kevin Kirby ("ACM")
County Attorney Joel Foreman
Deputy Clerk Katrina Vercher

Agenda Additions/Deletions

Additions:
Committee Appointments

Deletions:
None

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

Ministerial Matters

Proclamation No. 2019P-1

A proclamation proclaiming February 2019 as the month to celebrate American History and the era of African Heritage.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve Proclamation No. 2019P-1. SECOND by Commissioner Ford. The motion carried unanimously.

Sports Marketing Update

Aldon Rosner, Sports Marketing Director, addressed the Board with an update on the marketing of sports tournaments in Columbia County.

Discussion ensued.

Public Hearings

Swanson Estates – Vacating a Utility Easement – Resolution No. 2019R-1

A resolution vacating, abandoning, renouncing, disclaiming and otherwise discontinuing a utility easement located within Swanson Estates subdivision.

The public hearing opened and closed without comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Nash to approve Resolution No. 2019R-1. SECOND by Commissioner Witt. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve the consent agenda. SECOND by Commissioner Ford. The motion carried unanimously.

- (1) 9-1-1 Communications Center - Upgrade of 911 Primary Logging Recorder from Equature Interactive Response - \$40,415
- (2) 9-1-1 Communications Center - Amended Access Agreement with Florida DHSMV for Access to the D.A.V.I.D System
- (3) BCC Administration - BA 19-23 - Cypress Lake Road Budget Appropriation- \$100,000
- (4) BCC Administration - BA 19-24 - Donation Received to Resurface the Pickle Ball Court - Richardson Center - \$5,000
- (5) BCC Administration - BA 19-25- Accounting Adjustment for the Community Development Block Grant - \$741,650
- (6) BCC Administration - Minutes - Board of County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - January 3, 2019
- (7) Building And Zoning - Special Family Lot Permit - SFLP #19-02 - for Jason Cartwright, Son - Margaret Tardif, Property Owner - 615 SW English Street
- (8) Building And Zoning - Special Family Lot Permit - SFLP #18-32 - for William Clem, III, Son - Paula Miller, Property Owner - 664 SW Mauldin Avenue
- (9) Clerk to Board Finance - Approval of Bills and Vouchers - \$1,164,187

- (10) Human Resource - Revised Position Description - Winfield Solid Waste Facility - Equipment Operator II and Equipment Operator III
- (11) Public Works - Entering Private Property - 474 SE Memory Lane - Catherine Padgett, Property Owner - Repair Driveway due to run off from County Road
- (12) Public Works - Utility Permit - City of Lake City - Turner Avenue
- (13) Public Works - Utility Permit - Comcast - Gardner Terrace
- (14) Public Works - Utility Permit - Comcast - Ring Court
- (15) Public Works - Utility Permit - Florida Power & Light Co. - CR 252B, Deputy J. Davis, and Pinemount
- (16) Public Works - Utility Permit - Florida Power & Light Co. - Meglew, Battlehill, Irene, Turner, New Harbour, Starling, Ash, Brown and Saturn
- (17) Public Works - Utility Permit - Florida Power & Light Co. - Sweetbreeze, Cypress, Turner, and Lake City Ave
- (18) Public Works - Utility Permit - Florida Power & Light Co. - Valdosta Road

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

Discussion and Action Items:

Truck Stop 75, LLC

Staff recommended approval of an Economic Development agreement between the County and Truck Stop 75, LLC. The County will deed surplus lands adjacent to the company's property allowing for more expansion. The company agrees to complete construction on or before December 31, 2021 or the lands are subject to reversion.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Witt to approve Economic Development Agreement with Truck Stop 75, LLC and approve the transfer of property ownership via County Deed. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

Fire Department Reorganization

Division Chief Josh Wehinger has taken a position with the City Fire Department. Mr. Wehinger served as the County's Fire Inspector and the departments Public

Information Officer. Fire Chief Crawford has requested to reorganize and reassign Mr. Wehinger's critical duties. This would eliminate the existing Fire Inspector/PIO position.

As part of the reorganization, he requested salary increases to reflect the additional responsibilities. The requested changes would save the County approximately \$20,000 per year.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Witt to adopt the revised job descriptions and authorize the adjustments to salaries and pay grade scale as submitted with the adjustment of the Fire Chief's salary from \$13,000 to \$9,000. SECOND by Commissioner Nash.

Citizen Stewart Lilker asked a question.

Citizen Sandra Buck-Camp spoke in favor.

The Chairman called for the vote. The motion carried by a vote of 4 to 1 with Commissioner Murphy voting in opposition.

Mayor's Park – Fort White

The Town of Ft. White has applied for a grant to restore the caboose located in Mayor's Park through the Florida Department of State's Historical Resources Division. The grant of \$182,703 requires a 25% match which can include up to 75% in in-kind services.

The Town of Ft. White is requesting assistance from Columbia County in the amount of \$86,241 of which \$34,950 would be in-kind services. Of the remaining balance \$51,291 needed for the construction of a sidewalk, pavement, a handicap ramp and sod. The \$51,291 would be reimbursed to the County through the grant.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to approve in-kind services of \$34,950 for the Fort White Historical Grant and approve entering into a contract with the Town of Fort White for the construction of improvements at Mayor's Park in the amount of \$51,291 to be reimbursed from the grant. SECOND by Commissioner Nash.

Citizen Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson offered comment.

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

Jail Construction

Fill dirt will be needed during the construction of the new jail. Staff presented two (2) options for obtaining the necessary dirt.

1. North Florida Mega Industrial Park will donate the dirt in lieu of our providing clearing/grubbing and pond excavation on a parcel in the industrial park. The estimated cost is based on utilizing 10.33 acres. We will have to obtain core samples to verify the yield and type of dirt available. Based on the core results we may have to utilize more land which would affect the cost. Currently the estimated cost would be \$179,125 for equipment and would take approximately 24 days to haul.
2. County owned Tiger Drain Borrow Pit. The cost to utilize dirt from our own pit would be approximately \$411,133.40 due to the value of the dirt and the extended distance for hauling. Hauling would take approximately 48 days.

Staff recommended option one (1).

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Nash to approve \$10,000 for the core boring to determine the type of soil at the Mega Site and if it will be useful for the fill for the new jail; the money to be paid from the new jail budget. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy.

Citizen Stewart Lilker spoke in opposition.

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

2023 Florida Department of Transportation Project Submissions

Staff recommended submitting the following three (3) projects for funding from the Small County Road Assistance Program ("SCRAP"), the Small County Outreach Program ("SCOP"), and the County Incentive Grant Program ("CIGP") in 2023:

1. SW Birley Road---Reconstruction of 5.158 miles from US 90 W to CR 242W. Estimated cost---\$2,242,000.
2. SW Wester Dr./SW Finley Little Ln./Bunn Dr.---Reconstruction of 4.51 miles of Wester Rd. from SR 47 to Finley Little Ln. and Finley Little Ln. from SW Walter Ave. to SW Wester Dr., and Bunn Dr. from SW Wester Dr. to Tustenuggee Rd. Estimated cost--\$1,675,000.
3. SW Arrowhead Terr./SW Cannon Creek Dr./SW Kicklighter Rd.---Reconstruction of 2.5 miles of SW Arrowhead Terr. from CR 240 to SW Cannon Creek Dr., SW Cannon Creek Dr. from the north terminus of SW Arrowhead Terr. to the south

terminus of SW Kicklighter Rd., and SW Kicklighter Rd. from the north terminus of SW Cannon Creek Dr. to CR 341S. Estimated cost \$1,368,500.

Staff also recommended the following two (2) projects be submitted for funding under the Transportation Alternative Program ("TAP"):

1. New sidewalk construction of .4 miles in the Town of Ft. White on SW Plymouth Ave. from SW Jordan St. to Wilson Springs Rd. Estimated cost \$191,041
2. New sidewalk construction of 1.31 miles on NE Bascom Norris Drive from Voss Rd. to US 90. Estimated cost is \$ 399,236.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Nash to approve recommended submissions for SCRAP, SCOP, CIGP and TAP programs. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2019R-3 – Raw Sewage From Georgia

A resolution condemning the continuing spillage of raw sewage in the Withlacoochee River, Mud Creek and the Suwannee River by the City of Valdosta, Georgia; and calling for meaningful enforcement action by Georgia and Florida agencies.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2019R-3. SECOND by Commissioner Witt.

Citizen Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson offered comment.

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

Charter Review Commission ("CRC")

The deadline for appointment of the CRC is June 30, 2019. This Board must appoint an odd number of not less than 11 or more than 15 people. Neither the Charter nor the statute specifies how these individuals should be appointed. The Board previously allowed each Board member to select three (3) people to serve. Staff recommended this Board decide how the members should be selected for this CRC.

Discussion ensued.

Citizen Stewart Lilker offered comment.

BA 19-26 - Cumorah Hill Tower

Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. is interested in lease space on the County's Comurah Hill communications tower. Staff recommended approval of entering into a public/private partnership lease agreement with Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Witt to approve Cumorah Hill lease agreement with Clay Electric and approve BA 19-26 for communications systems upgrade in the amount of \$99,880 and approve project changes.. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

Equipment Replacement Plan

Staff recommended approval of a ten year equipment replacement plan. The plan was prepared based on the equipment replacement policy.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Witt to approve the 10 year equipment replacement plan. SECOND by Commissioner Nash. The motion carried unanimously.

New Jail Project

Staff recommended approval of Change Order No. one (1) requested by Ajax Building Corporation. The change is for authorization for Ajax to enter into a contract with Tindall Corporation to lock in the vendor's bid quote and eliminate further cost escalation. The total change order is \$20,000.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve Change Order No. One with Ajax Building Corporation in the amount of \$20,000. SECOND by Commissioner Witt. The motion carried unanimously.

New Jail Project Financing Options

Staff presented four financing options and asked staff to study and consider these options.

A Special Meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. to decide on this issue and a 911 backup location. A Workshop will convene after the special meeting to discuss EMS.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioners Committee Appointments

Staff announced the committees that each Commissioner has been assigned to. The list is attached to the original minutes.

MOTION by Commissioner Nash to approve the committee appointments.
SECOND by Commissioner Murphy.

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 – the time clock and Board minutes

Staff Comments:

CM Scott – Suwannee River Water Management District will have representatives from the City of Valdosta, Georgia at the regular scheduled meeting on February 12, 2019.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Murphy – Special meeting about the sewage from Georgia – January 24, 2019 @ 5:00 p.m. – located at the Holiday Inn.

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