

Columbia County
Board of County Commissioners

Minutes of
May 19, 2022

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 followed.

Commissioners in Attendance: Chairman Robby Hollingsworth, Timothy Murphy, Toby Witt, Rocky Ford and Ronald Williams

Others in Attendance: County Manager David Kraus ("CM")
Assistant County Manager Kevin Kirby ("ACM")
County Attorney Joel Foreman
Deputy Clerk Susan Heimer

Agenda Additions/Deletions

Additions:

CM Krause – Resolution that goes with the Supervisor of Elections presentation
Resolution amending the boat ramp contract
Resolution from the Town of Fort White
Mowing Contract

Deletions:

None

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

Presentation of Ministerial Matters Not Requiring Public Comment or Action

Heather Janney, 4-H Director

- (1) Florida 4-H public speaking program county contest winner – 6th Grade
Speech Title: *How Woman Are Much Stronger Than Men.*

Proclamation

Robby Hollingsworth, Chairman

(1) Proclamation No. 2022P-06 – National Safe Boating Week

During National Safe Boating Week, the U.S. Coast Guard and its federal, state, and local safe boating partners encourage all boaters to explore and enjoy America's beautiful waters responsibly. The Board of County Commissioners of Columbia County do hereby support the goals of the Safe Boating Campaign and proclaim May 21 through May 27, 2022 as National Safe Boating Week and the start of the year-round effort to promote safe boating.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve Proclamation No. 2022P-06. SECOND by Commissioner Ford. The motion carried unanimously. See attached Proclamation.

Presentation of Ministerial Matters Not Requiring Public Comment

Tomi Brown, Supervisor of Elections

(1) Presentation – New Precinct Lines

Public Hearings

Joel Foreman, County Manager

(1) Adoption hearing – Ordinance No. 2022-02 – Amending solid waste ordinance for grease and oil traps

The public hearing opened and closed without comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-02. SECOND by Commissioner Witt. The motion carried unanimously. See attached Ordinance.

(2) Adoption hearing – Ordinance No. 2022-03 – Prohibiting solicitation and loitering in and around county buildings

The public hearing opened and closed without comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-03. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously. See attached Ordinance.

Consent Agenda:

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

- (1) BCC Administration - Policy Amendment - Section 504 Policy**
- (2) BCC Administration - Request for Approval on New Copy Machine Leases**
- (3) BCC Administration - Request for Leave - County Manager**
- (4) BCC Administration - RFP No. 2022-T - Disaster Recovery Consultant**
- (5) BCC Administration - RFQ No. 2020-J- Real Estate Brokerage Services Dicks Realty LLC.**
- (6) BCC Finance - BA 22-66 - Transfer PILT Funds to 4H STEM Camp Scholarships - \$10,125**
- (7) Building Department - Special Family Lot Permit Application - SFLP 22 13 - Bryon Rye Deeding 1 Acre to his Son, Mathew Rye**
- (8) Finance - BA 22-63 Bring Forward Vessel Registration Fees - \$51,644**
- (9) Finance - BA 22-64 Budget for Lulu Days - \$2,845**
- (10) Finance - Bills and Vouchers - 5/11/22 - \$883,455**
- (11) Library - Closing for Juneteenth Holiday**
- (12) Public Works - Utility Permit - AT&T - NE Washington ST**
- (13) Public Works - Utility Permit - City of Lake City - NW Jerri Place**
- (14) Public Works - Utility Permit - Comcast - NW Wilks**
- (15) Purchasing - Amendment to Purchasing Policy for Grants Using Federal Funding**

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

Discussion and Action Items:

Joel Foreman, County Attorney

(1) Final action on Sweetwater Apartments Phase II funding request

Over the course of several Commission meetings developers for Sweetwater Apartments Phase II have requested the Board consider financial contributions to their development, typically requesting low-interest financing of three million dollars to be repaid to the County in fifteen to seventeen years. With the benefit of Ms. Edmonds' analysis and opinion of the revised request, County Manager Kraus and Joel Foreman, County Attorney are requesting the Board take final action to approve the request with the conditions or deny the request.

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to put Phase II funding request into the 2022-2023 fiscal year budget. SECOND by Commissioner Witt. The motion carried unanimously.

Kevin Kirby, Assistant County Manager

(1) Cost of going into Mowing business through the County

ACM Kirby offered comment on start-up and recurring annual cost.

(2) River Rise Boat Ramp improvements

MOTION by Commissioner Witt to approve amended Resolution 2022R-25. SECOND by Ford. The motion carried unanimously

(3) Equipment Replacement Policy Removal

Policy has proven to be inactive.

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to remove equipment replacement policy. SECOND by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Murphy voting in opposition.

(4) Revised Job Description – Traffic Operations Supervisor

The Sign Shop Foreman is being revised to Traffic Operations Supervisor. The revised requirements are as followed:

- Assist Traffic Signal Technicians with trouble calls.
- Available to fill in for Traffic Signal Standby duties as needed.
- Detail recording of preventive maintenance and emergency repairs to traffic.

MOTION by Commissioner Witt approval of the revised job descriptions and paygrade. SECOND by Commissioner Ford. The motion carried unanimously.

(5) Bid No. 2022-04 – Paving project of SE Eloise Ave., SE Lomond Ave., NW Oakland Ave. and NE Curt Ave. – Anderson Columbia \$403,372

On May 10, 2022, the County received two (2) qualified bids in response to Bid No. 2022-04 for the paving project of SE Eloise Ave, SE Lomond Ave, NW Oakland Ave and NE Curt Ave.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to award the bid to the lowest bidder, Anderson Columbia Co., Inc. in the amount of \$403,371.54 using account number 303-8082-541.30-46, and to authorize the execution of the construction agreement. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

(6) Bid No. 2022-V – Fire Station #51 Expansion – Plumb Level Construction - \$136,663

On May 11, 2022, the County received four (4) qualified bids in response to Bid No. 2022-V for the Fire Station #5 1 Expansion.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to award the bid to the lowest qualified bidder, plumb level construction in the amount of \$126,663.00 and to enter into a construction contract with the bidder. SECOND by Commissioner Witt. The motion carried unanimously.

(7) Ellisville Waste Water Treatment plant (“WWTP”) Expansion

ACM Kirby offered an update on the WWTP expansion.

(8) Special Family Lot Permit Application – SFLP 2210 – Glenn and Donna Boyette Deeding 3.86 acres to their daughter, Shannon Bell

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to approve SFLP 2210. SECOND by Commissioner Witt. The motion carried unanimously.

(9) Regulations on Borrow Pits

ACM Kirby is requesting direction on Borrow Pits.

(10) Update on asphalt pricing

ACM Kirby mentioned that the price of asphalt has increased tremendously and would like to discuss the issue on how it has affected the cost of all Capital Projects.

David Kraus, County Manager

(1) RFQ 2022-U – Planning and Engineering review services – Approval of ranking – Pitman Engineering, LLC and EDA Consulting, Inc.

Staff is seeking to assist with the increased permitting workload in the Building and Zoning Department and provide redundancy with Community Development Coordinator position.

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to approve rankings and authorize negotiations with the top two firms. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

(2) 2022-2023 Contract for Services – Suwannee Valley Transit Authority - \$58,706

The Suwannee Valley Transit Authority has requested the County to execute the 2022-2023 Contract for Services.

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to approve the 2022-2023 Suwannee Valley Transit Authority Contract for services. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

(3) Recommendations from Fort White Columbia County Utility Advisory Committee

On May 4, 2022, the Fort White Columbia County Utility Advisory Committee recommended that the Town of Fort White commit up to \$300,000 in ARPA funds to the operations of the Water system and the Ellisville/Fort White connection project. In addition, the Fort White Columbia County Utility Advisory Committee recommends the County fund equipment (dump truck and back hoe) for the maintenance of town's utility system.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve donation from the Town of Fort White for the water system and authorize the purchase of equipment in accordance with County procurement policies. SECOND by Commissioner Ford. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to approve donations from the town of Fort White for the water system. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

(4) BA 22-65 – FDOT capacity charge for I-75 rest area

The Board of County Commissioners approved connecting the FDOT Rest Area to the Ellisville water system and to pay the water connection charges as an incentive to encourage the connection. The capacity fee was not included in the connection charges and is reflected in BA 22-65.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve BA 22-65 in the amount of \$35,000. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

(5) Update on animal control services

The Sheriff's office has agreed in assisting the BOCC to take over Animal Control Services for the County. Their proposed gran total start-up cost would be \$820,638. The Board did not agree with the price that was brought up and asked for different options to be brought.

(6) Update on errors and omissions insurance claim

The claim has been submitted to the County's Insurance carrier:

- The Insurance Adjustor indicated that they have selected an Attorney
- The Attorney will/has ordered 2 appraisals.

The County has a \$10,000 deductible

(7) Update on ARPA and CARES funding

CM Krause offered update on funding.

(8) Update on Fire Department allegations

CM Krause commented on the critical allegations that have been made within the Fire Department.

Discussion ensued.

(9) Updates from the County Manager

- Broken pipes in Courthouse Annex
- NFMIP Wastewater Treatment Plant
- FG&A Rail Sale
- Misdemeanor Offender Supervisor Services RFQ 2022-K (Misdemeanor court)
- Gateway Probation Services will close their offices on June 15, 2022
- Columbia Youth Football
- City's emergency repair program

Updates from the County Manager 2021 and 2022 goals

Open Public Comments and/or Questions:

None

Staff Comments:

None

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Witt offered comment on National EMS Week.

Commissioner Hollingsworth offered comment on Staush Guntic, new Special Projects Manager.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

ATTEST:

Robby Hollingsworth, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

James M. Swisher, Jr.
Clerk of Circuit Court