

Columbia County, Florida

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Minutes of  
June 02, 2022

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners met in a regular scheduled meeting at the auditorium of the School Board Administrative Complex at 9:30 a.m. The meeting opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

Chairman Robby Hollingsworth  
Toby Witt  
Ronald Williams

Timothy Murphy  
Rocky Ford

**Others in Attendance:**

County Manager David Kraus (“CM”)  
County Attorney Joel Foreman

Asst. County Manager Kevin Kirby (“ACM”)  
Deputy Clerk Susan Heimer

**Agenda**

Agenda Additions: None

Agenda Deletions: Richardson Community Center was pulled due to scheduling conflict.

MOTION to approve agenda with amendments by Commissioner Ford. SECOND by Commissioner Witt. The motion carried unanimously.

**Proclamation 2022-07 – Workplace Safety Awareness Month (June)**

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve Proclamation No. 2022-07. SECOND by Commissioner Ford. The motion carried unanimously.

See attached proclamation.

## **Presentations to the Commission**

Richardson Community Center – Pulled due to scheduling conflict.

Taste of Columbia, an annual communitywide event. Support was requested in the amount of \$3,000.

MOTION by Commissioner Witt to approve the request for \$3,000. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

Meridian Behavioral Health's President/CEO David Savole presented an annual report.  
See attached.

## **Consent Agenda**

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve the Consent Agenda. SECOND by Commissioner Witt. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to adopt the Consent Agenda. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

- 1) BCC Administration - SHIP Release of Lien - Paul Beauchamp
- 2) BCC Administration - Transfer the Safety Officer Position to Road Department
- 3) BCC Administration - Update Contract COVID - 19 Testing Site Agreement
- 4) BCC Finance - BA 22-68 - Auto Insurance Reimbursement
- 5) BCC Finance - Bills and Vouchers - 05/25/2022 - \$2,334,311
- 6) Building Department - Special Family Lot Permit Application - SFLP 2214 - Aaron Ivey Deeding 1.5 Acres to his Brother, Jonathan Ivey
- 7) Building Department - Special Family Lot Permit Application - SFLP 2215 – Charles and Diana Snelgrove deeding 1.10 acres to Diana's Brother, Robert Harden
- 8) Building Department - Special Family Lot Permit Application - SFLP 2216 – Brenda Strickland Deeding 1.71 acres to her Granddaughters, Brenda and Samantha Harden

- 9) Finance - BA 22-67 - FDOT Rail Spur Grant Forward - \$258,452
- 10) Purchasing - Surplus Real Property - SW Seville Place - \$62,000
- 11) Public Works - FY 22/23 Mosquito Control - Detailed Work Plan Budget
- 12) Public Works - Utility Permit - Comcast - 2917 SE Country Club Road
- 13) Public Works - Utility Permit - AT&T - NE Jones Way
- 14) Tourist Development - BA 22-69 Visit Florida Dues Increase Budget Amendment

**Discussion Items by ACM Kirby**

Urban and roadside mowing is significantly behind schedule. The Commission discussed the issue. Commissioner Williams requested a press release be drafted to inform the public on the difficulty the County is having trying to the mowing services performed.

The Small County Consolidated Solid Waste Grant application was discussed with the Board by ACM Kirby. The grant is for \$93,750 and is utilized to assist with the cost of county roadside litter removal.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to execute FY 22/23 Small County Consolidated Solid Waste Grant Application from FDEP for the amount of \$93,750. SECOND by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

Grant Funded Road Projects will experience a \$6.7M shortfall. There is no suggestion at this time that any project be cut, but instead to Board was encouraged to focus their attention on project that are already under contract, and future upcoming grant funded projects. Otherwise, the Board may consider using county reserve funds or borrowing money until the economy stabilizes, which will probably be 2-3 years. Commissioner discussion ensued. There will be a future workshop on this matter. No action taken.

**By County Manager Kraus**

- (1) RFQ 2022-K Misdemeanor Offender Supervision Services

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to award RFQ 2022 to Professional Probation Services, Inc. and approve the contract with an effective date of June 16, 2022. SECOND by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

(2) BA 22-70 RFQ 2022-U - Planning and Engineering Review Services

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve the continuing contracts with the firms as follow: Pitman Engineering, LLC., for primary provider of services for RFQ 2022-U, and EDA Consultants, Inc. as the secondary provider of services for RFQ2022-U. SECOND by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

There was no public comment and no staff comments.

Town of Fort White/Columbia County Utility Advisory Committee. Applicant names will be on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Regarding the CDBG Grant for Richardson Community Center and the surrounding neighborhood, a site visit revealed four (4) findings. The concerns will be easy to rectify.

The constitutional officers' budgets are arriving in the Board Office timely and will go into packets for the commissioners' review very soon.

I-75/SR 47 Master Pump Station will cost an estimated \$2.670M up to \$4M. The engineering cost for this project is \$370,000, which will be a shared project with the City of Lake City. This is an agenda item for the Commission at the next meeting.

CM Kraus reported there was a good turn out and a good time at Bethlehem Park. No details offered.

The County did not receive any bids for the sewer plant at the North Florida Mega Industrial Park. CM Kraus will meet tomorrow morning with the County's new utility director and other staff to discuss how the County should proceed, whether to modify the bid, etc. It is expected within approximately a week the County will have some direction on proceeding. Mr. Kraus noted that North Florida Mega Industrial Park project was not vetoed by the governor and that the project is definitely in the budget to move forward.

### **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Witt commended Clint Pitman and maintenance staff for the great job in getting ready for the Bethlehem Community Day.

Commissioner Ford addressed county reserves. His opinion is that it is acceptable to use the county reserves in order to complete a project or to do a "one-time" project. Chairman Hollingsworth

agreed. Commissioner Williams agreed, but cautioned that we should not strip the reserves so much that it is unable to assist the county in an emergency such as a natural disaster.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

ATTEST:

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Robby Hollingsworth, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

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James M. Swisher, Jr.  
Clerk of Courts & Comptroller