COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

May 19, 2011

The Board of County Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled meeting at the School Board Administration Office. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America followed.

Commissioners in Attendance: Others in Attendance:
Jody DuPree (Chairman) County Manager Dale Williams
Stephen Bailey Attorney Marlin Feagle
Russell “Rusty” DePratt Deputy Clerk Sandy Markham
Ronald Williams Senior Staff Assistant David Kraus (“SSA”)
Scarlet Frisina Asst. County Manager Lisa Roberts

Agenda Additions: (1) BA 1A-10-05
(2) Request to enter private property
(3) Establish Public Hearing Date for Road Closure
(4) Approve “Minutes” Format

Agenda Deletions: Tommy Matthews Agreement

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve the amended agenda. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.

Clerk of Court DeWitt Cason discussed with the Commission a format for preparing the Board’s minutes. Format options were provided for consideration. Option “B” was chosen, which generally provides for a topic and one-two paragraphs of information. This option will also record the action and non-action items. There was Board discussion.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to authorize the Clerk to exercise Option “B”. Second by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:
Mark Kazmerski offered input on the Lifeguard Contract.
Barbara Jeffers Lemley addressed Bayfield.
Citizen Stewart Lilker spoke to the issue of Bayfield and the Lifeguard Contract.
Jean Goode addressed Emergency Medical Services.
Aaron Johns, VP Local EMS Union addressed EMS billing rates/practices.
Marsha Morrell, VP of Century Ambulance addressed the Lifeguard Contract.

MOTION: None.
Raymond Macatee, founder of the Scrap to Music Program thanked the Board for their continued support of the program by donating scrap metal. He reported a recent purchase of musical instruments for the Columbia County School System totaling $8,725.03. Total purchases from this program are now 426. The Board thanked him for his good works.

MOTION: None.

David Murdock requested that the Board consider reinstating the Community Concerts of Lake City’s annual budget allocation of $5,000. The matter will be addressed at the Budget Workshop.

MOTION: None.

SSA Krause reviewed the Neighborhood Stabilization Grant Plan ($1,029,844). He encouraged comments and input. The grant is posted on line.

MOTION: None.

SSA Krause addressed the need for acquisition of certain lands and easements for the Ellisville Wastewater Treatment Plant (“WWTP”). Staff recommended the Board authorize the ordering of full appraisals, and to give permission for staff to contact the owner once more in an effort to reach an agreement. If an agreement is not possible, staff requested permission to proceed with having an eminent domain resolution drafted.

MOTION by Commissioner Frisina to take staff recommendation to proceed with full appraisals on the three properties needed for the WWTP and to proceed with negotiations with the land owner. If negotiations are not successful, after exhausting every effort, staff should proceed with eminent domain. Second by Commission Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Feagle reviewed with the Board Bayfield’s draft Contract for Sale of Mitigation Credits. Bayfield Owner Sam Oosterhoudt offered input. There was in-depth discussion by the commissioners with the primary focus being on the difference in the type of credits and what projects the credits can be used on, a few blanks in the contract, and the County’s purchase of the credits prior to the Corp of Engineer issuing the credits to Bayfield.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to enter into the contract. Second by Commissioner Frisina. The motion failed 3-2 with Commissioners Bailey, DuPree and DePratter voting in opposition.

Chairman DuPree relinquished his chair to Vice Chairwoman Frisina for the purpose of offering a motion.

MOTION by Commissioner DePratter to have staff or the County Attorney prepare a contract that answers the issues of UMAM Credits and states what the county is actually purchasing,
instead of the contract reflecting “wetland credits.” The contract should also reflect that D.E.P. and the Corp of Engineers are listed in the contracts as parties hereto, and that all blanks of the contract are to be filled in. The revised draft should be circulated to each of the commissioners for review as soon as possible. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairwoman Frisina relinquished the Chair to Chairman DuPree.

Attorney Feagle gave a review of the RFQ for EMS Services. **Lifeguard Ambulance Service** was ranked the highest responder. Attorney Feagle reviewed at length with the Board, the proposed **Agreement for Ambulance and Emergency and Non-Emergency Medical Services** with Lifeguard Ambulance Services, which includes the City of Lake City.

**MOTION by Commissioner Bailey** that the contract given to Lifeguard Ambulance Service grant the exclusive on 911 emergency transport and a non-exclusive for non-emergency transport. Second by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried unanimously

**MOTION by Commissioner DePratter** to lease the equipment (and building) for $1 for the first year. At the end of the first year the county will re-evaluate the lease based upon the actual number of emergency versus non-emergency calls. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.

**CLARIFICATION:**

- The Chair confirmed with LAS that the motion made would allow them to develop the Memorandum of Understanding with Century, which would be in place at the one year review. LAS replied that it would.
- The County will be responsible for the main infrastructure of the building and LAS would be responsible for the more minor things associated with the building such as maintenance, insurance, taxes, etc. LAS acknowledged this to be their understanding also.

**MOTION by Commissioner Williams** to leave the uninsured motorist coverage in the contract. Second by Commissioner Frisina.

There was discussion regarding the uninsured motorist coverage. The Chair stated that he would like to move forward with the vote to include the coverage in the contract. In the meantime, staff should be directed to contact the County’s insurance carrier for the purpose of developing an opinion as it relates to this matter. The Commission agreed. The motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION by Commissioner Williams** if the contract is awarded to LAS that they will have the ability to approach the Board to request and extension at the end of fourth year of the contract. Second by Commissioner DePratter. The motion carried unanimously.

The County Manager advised that should it be the Board’s decision to enter into the agreement, all things relevant to the transition are in place.
Chairman DuPree thanked everyone for their hard work and diligence on the agreement.

Commissioner Bailey said that in the past he had said that he would not support privatization of EMS services in Columbia County. He said that he has not been able to find anywhere in the state that provides a set of standards that are measurable to or provides a good quality system for the citizens. He said that he is confident in saying LAS has proven experience in “doing the zero subsidy system.” He recognized LAS as being a very efficient and professional organization. He said that if it is possible to bring in a zero subsidy service into the system and improve the quality of care provided to Columbia County citizens, the Board owes it to the community.

MOTION to approve the agreement as amended to grant Lifeguard Ambulance Service a 911 emergency exclusive contract and a non-exclusive contract for non-emergency transport for Columbia County [beginning July 01]. This includes drafting an interlocal agreement with the City of Lake City, the Ambulance and Facility Lease, and authorization for the Chairman to execute the contract and other related documents as necessary. All being subject to final review. Second by Commissioner DePratter.

Commissioner DePratter said that the decision of the Board is not directed at the past service provided by the emergency workers who have indeed provided quality care. For Commissioner DePratter, he said it is about receiving quality care for approximately a $1,000,000 difference in cost. He said that his decision is based on what is best for the entire county.

Commissioner Williams gave a brief history and said the county has some great EMS employees. Unfortunately, the county continues to operate this service more in “the red” each year. For Commissioner Williams, the problem is the deficit and has nothing to do with the fine quality of service that has been provided. He said there are similar problems with fire services that must be addressed as well.

There was a roll-call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner Bailey to approve a resolution for the Chairman to execute for a COPCN to be issued to Lifeguard Ambulance Services for a Five (5) year period that will coincide with their contract. Second by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

County Planner Brian Kepner discussed the revised Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) of the County’s Comprehensive Plan in response to comments received by the Department of Community Affairs. The public hearing opened and closed without input.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve Resolution #2011R-19. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.
**Consent Agenda**

(1) **External Budget Amendment – Sheriff’s Office** - #11 – BA #10-23 – Subsistence Costs and Medical Cost Reimbursement – Booking Fees Generated at the Detention Facility – April 2011 - $3,710.19

(2) **P&S Transportation, Inc.** – **Fuel Spill** on Lake Jeffrey – **Settlement Agreement** – **Sentry Insurance** will pay Anderson Columbia, $18,035.00 for Corrective Repairs and $2,500.00 for Cal-Tech Testing, Inc.

(3) 9-1-1 Addressing – Naming of Unnamed Road – **SE Schneiders Glen**

(4) Sheriff’s Office – Application for Funding Assistance – Florida Department of Law Enforcement – **American Recovery Act** – JAG Grant Countywide - $47,746.00

(5) Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. – (S.H.I.P.) – Release of Lien Agreement – **Crystal Bailey** - $7,000.00

(6) Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. – **Re-Appointment** of Mr. **Arthur Wright**

(7) Utility Permit – Comcast Cable – **NW Hall of Fame Drive**

(8) Columbia County Emergency Medical Services – Refund Request – Blue Cross and Blue Shield Overpayment Recovery - $217.68

(9) Columbia County Emergency Medical Services – Refund Request – **United American Overpayments** - $86.50

(10) Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. – Application for Membership and Electric Service – **Traffic Light - County Road 240 and Old Wire Road**


(12) Columbia High School Request for **Fireworks** – CHS Tiger Stadium – May 27, 2011 after **Graduation**

(13) Bid Award – **Summerville Electric** – **Bid No. 2011-D** – Traffic Signal Maintenance and Emergency Repair – Option Two - $12,990.00

(14) **(Pulled – Not Approved) Professional Engineer Services Agreement** I – Columbia County Board of County Commissioners - **Jerome J. Leszkiewicz**

(15) **Minute Approval** – Board of County Commissioners – Regular Meeting – Feb. 15, 2011

(16) **Minute Approval** – Board of County Commissioners – Regular Meeting – Mar. 3, 2011

(17) **Minute Approval** – Board of County Commissioners – Regular Meeting – April 7, 2011

(18) **Minute Approval** – Board of County Commissioners – Regular Meeting – April 21, 2011
MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve unless there are items to be pulled. Second by Commissioner DePratter.

Commissioner DePratter pulled item #14.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner DePratter to not approve the contract with Jerome J. Leszkiewicz, P.E. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Works Vacancies

Equipment Operator II, Mechanic II, and Sign Shop Foreman

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to fill the three vacancies. Second by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Frisina brought the request of a constituent to the Board asking that a right turn lane and other work be done at the intersection of CR 240 and Walter Avenue. Based on Engineer Colson’s professional opinion this is not a necessary project. Contractor Jim Zuber spoke in favor.

MOTION: None

The Board considered Landfill Budget Amendment 1A-10-05 ($145,000.)

From Equipment Purchases to Repairs and Maintenance in the amount of $135,000.
From Equipment Purchases to Rental and Leases in the amount of $10,000.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve the budget amendment. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.

The County Manager requested permission to enter private property located at 801 SW Seminole Terrace for the purpose of making drainage improvement needed for public property. The Public Works Director and Suwannee River Water Management District are in agreement with the work that needs to be done.

MOTION by Commissioner DePratter to approve. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.
Attorney Feagle requested the Board schedule a **public hearing** for the purpose of closing a portion of Old Wire Road.

MOTION by Commissioner Frisina to set the public hearing on June 16, 2011. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Williams reported that *Suwannee Valley Transit Authority Director Jimmy Swisher* will be retiring at the end of June 2011. He asked if while a job description was being advertised if it would be possible for Mr. Swisher to continue working with and assisting the county without interfering with his retirement. Attorney Feagle replied that he could retire and continue working as an independent contractor.

MOTION: None.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting **adjourned** at 11 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Jody DuPree, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

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P. DeWitt Cason  
Clerk of Circuit Court