

Columbia County Board of County Commissioners

Minutes of October 17, 2013

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners met in a regular meeting at 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:

Stephen Bailey	Rusty DePratter	Scarlet Frisina
Ronald Williams	Bucky Nash	

Others in Attendance:

County Manager Dale Williams	Safety Manager David Kraus (“SM”)
Operations Manager Kevin Kirby (“OM”)	Attorney Marlin Feagle
Admin. Manager Lisa Roberts (“AM”)	Deputy Clerk Sandy A. Markham

Agenda Addition

- Discussion regarding the 2014 Legislative Delegation Hearing
- Consideration of a Non-profit Certification for United Way

MOTION by Commissioner Frisina to adopt the agenda as amended. Second by Commissioner DePratter. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

L.J. Johnson revisited the issue of needing a noticed posted on a particular vacant lot in the College Manor area that is overgrown. Mr. Johnson finds the lot to be not only an “eye-sore” and a nuisance, but also a safety issue for children. Mr. Johnson also complained that the drainage ditches in his residential were not properly cleaned.

SM David Kraus responded that the owner of the lot is Habitat for Humanity (“HH”), who has plans to build a house on the lot. HH has been given 30 days to clean up the lot. Code Enforcement did not feel it was necessary to post a sign at the property.

Consent Agenda

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve the consent agenda unless there are items that need to be pulled. Second by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

- (1) External Budget Amendment – Economic Development – BA # 14-03 – Community Competitiveness Grant - \$40,000.00
- (2) External Budget Amendment – Operations Manager – BA # 14-04 – Fund Balance of Stormwater Mitigation Projects from Original \$3.3 million Project Budget - \$1,682,119.00
- (3) Operations Manager – Landfill Equipment Purchases – (a) Caterpillar D6N Bulldozer, \$264,752 with a repurchase of \$75,000 at the end of (5) years for a net cost of \$189,752.00 – (b) Volvo A25F Articulated Dump Truck, \$188,047 with a repurchase of \$128,000 at the end of (5) years for a net cost \$60,047.00 – Florida Sheriff's Asso. Contract #12-10-0905
- (4) 9-1-1 Addressing – Requesting Approval of Naming of Unnamed Road – SW Stalvey Glen
- (5) Resolution No. 2013R-46 – Request Approval Changes - Tippage Fees for the Columbia County Winfield Solid Waste Facility
- (6) Tourist Development – Renewal of Annual Contract – Smith Travel Reports - \$3,700.00
- (7) Safety Manager – Approval of Donation of Surplus Property – 188 SE Faye Lane (parcel no. 03-4S-17-07570-080) – to Habitat for Humanity Lake City/Columbia County Inc.
- (8) Safety Manager – Animal Control to Declare Surplus and Donate – Analog Phone System
- (9) Safety Manager – Approval of Grant Modification Request – CDBG Program Extending the Ending Date til July 20, 2014
- (10) Resolution No. 2013R-47 –Utilization of Annual Emergency Medical Services (EMS) County Grant Funds - \$13,780.00
- (11) Minute Approval – Board of County Commissioners – Regular Meeting – August 15, 2013
- (12) Minute Approval – Board of County Commissioners – Regular Meeting – September 19, 2013

Bascom Norris Connector Project

Lowes to U.S. 90 Segment (Repair and Maintenance)

(a) Agreement with the Department of Transportation. This agreement provides \$1,250,000 of CIGP [Community Incentive Grant Program] funding.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve the Agreement with the Department of Transportation for the CIGP funding. Second by Commissioner DePratter. The motion carried unanimously.

b) Resolution #2013R-48 will authorize the Chairman to execute the Agreement with the Department of Transportation. This resolution is required by the terms of the agreement.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve the resolution. Second by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

Real Terrace Extension

a) Agreement with the Department of Transportation. This agreement provides \$812,942 of SCOP [Small County Outreach Program] funding.

MOTION by Commissioner DePratter to approve the Agreement with the Department of Transportation for the SCOP funding. Second by Commissioner Nash. The motion carried unanimously.

b) Resolution #2013R-49 will authorize the Chairman to execute the Agreement with the Department of Transportation. This resolution is required by the terms of the Agreement.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve the resolution. Second by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

Regarding Real Terrace, Attorney Feagle explained that he has investigated whether a supplemental agreement on the existing contract for the 1.57 miles of Bascom Norris Road leading out to U.S. 90 would be possible. Upon review, Attorney Feagle reported the ongoing project did not include subsequent projects; he said, "It clearly stops at the southern entrance of Lowes." Attorney Feagle said that the cost of the construction exceeds the bid limit [\$200,000]. For these reasons, the County will have to go through the sealed bid and RFQ process in order to begin work on constructing the extension.

There was some discussion on utilizing qualified engineers who have already gone through the selection process.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to authorize staff to look in to using an engineer that is already on staff to handle the extension portion of the project. If that is not possible, Staff should move forward with the RFQ and bid process. Second by Commissioner DePratter. The motion carried unanimously.

There was a brief discussion relating to the parcels of land the County will need to acquire in the future to complete Real Terrace. Commissioner Williams was of the opinion that once the County has negotiated, and has made every reasonable effort to offer a fair purchase price, that staff not continue to expend valuable time on impractical negotiating.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams directing that in the future, as soon as the county realizes that a fair and reasonable offer to purchase will not be accepted, and that parties are clearly at an impasse on price, that County Attorney Feagle should automatically move forward with the steps necessary in order to initiate eminent domain proceedings. Second by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

Private Retention Pond Maintenance

There are a significant number of private retention ponds in Columbia County which are not being properly maintained. These ponds may present a threat to private and public properties. The Board discussed whether there are options for helping with these ponds since public funds cannot be used to maintain private property. The County Manager noted there are some ponds that the county should not accept under any circumstance.

The County Manager offered for thought, the idea of possibly creating a self-imposed non-advalorem assessment for the maintenance of privately owned storm water systems. He asked if there was any interest in exploring the idea further. There was discussion between the commissioners regarding the need to educate the public on retention ponds, any ballot that may eventually go out needs to clearly address the scope of work, and legal staff would need to take a very close look at what liability the county may be assuming if they were to take over the ponds.

MOTION by Commissioner Nash to proceed with gathering information, reviewing all retention pond permits, addressing legal issues with the County Attorney, and exploring a master service assessment ordinance. Second by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

Once the data is compiled staff will make a complete presentation to the Board.

2014 Legislative Delegation Hearing

The Legislative Delegation Hearing will be held on Thursday, October 31, 2013, at 1:00 p.m. in the Florida Gateway College Media Center. The County Manager

reviewed with the Board the topics he would be presenting at the hearing. He asked the commissioners to let him know if there were any other topics to be added to the list.

United Way - Certification of Local Government Approval

United Way is a non-profit organization that provides services within Columbia County. Staff requested approval of the certificate.

MOTION by Commissioner Frisina to approve the Certificate of Non-profit for United Way. Second by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

Southside Recreation Complex Improvements Phase II and a portion of Phase III

OM Kevin Kirby reviewed the history relating to the improvement at Southside Recreation Complex for Phase II and a portion of Phase III. He reviewed the phases and status of the improvements. The complete presentation is attached.

Mr. Kirby discussed the reason Musco lighting was preferred over other typical floodlighting equipment. In summary, moving forward with Musco lighting on eight (8) fields over a twenty-five year period would result in a \$246,497 savings.

OM Kirby's recommendation was to release the following funding, which totals \$635,800:

Project Phase II

Rebuild Four (4) Playing Fields (2 baseball, 2 softball)	\$80,900
Install Safety Netting	\$183,000
Install Shad Cover	\$54,400

Project Phase III

Funds to begin light installation for fields 5-8	\$307,500
Funds to remove old poles	\$10,000

There was discussion on the lighting upgrade. Commissioner Williams reminded everyone that TDC is willing to pay the price difference for the Musco lighting.

MOTION by Commissioner Nash to accept Staff's recommendation. Second by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

Answering a question from Commissioner Nash, County Manager Williams said that the resolution addressing the fee for playing tournaments was address at the Sports Advisory Council Meeting on October 15. There was a brief discussion.

MOTION by Commission Nash to approve a resolution changing the Field Rental Fee Schedule to reflect there will be a \$25 fee for each game played during a tournament. Second by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

Stephen Bailey, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

P. DeWitt Cason
Clerk of Circuit Courts