Columbia County
Board of County Commissioners

Minutes of
November 20, 2014

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners met in 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 Rusty DePratter, Scarlet Frisina, Ronald Williams, Bucky Nash and Everett Phillips.
Others in Attendance:	County Manager Dale Williams Assistant County Manager Ben Scott ("ACM") Safety Manager David Kraus ("SM") Operations Manager Kevin Kirby ("OM") County Attorney Marlin Feagle (Late) Deputy Clerk Sandy A. Markham

New Commissioner

Commissioner Everett Phillips was welcomed to the Board.

Agenda Additions:

- Public Hearing relating to road closings in Carolyn Heights
- The uniform method of collection for non ad valorem taxes – Request to set public hearing

MOTION by Commissioner Frisina to approve. Second by Bucky Nash. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

Ralph Kitchens inquired as to the County's fund balances.

Glenn Hunter, Economic Development Director for Columbia County provided information on the Science Technology Engineering Mathematics ("STEM") Program. The mission of the STEM Education Coalition is to inform federal and state policymakers on the critical role STEM education plays in the U.S. competitiveness and future economic prosperity. Mr. Hunter requested a letter of support from the Board of County Commissioners for the program.

MOTION by Commissioner Frisina to approve the letter of support. Second by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

Stewart Lilker asked that instead of reapproving contracts automatically that the Board be more aggressive with obtaining RFPs.

Mike Turcottee and others residing on SW Roberts Avenue addressed the Board in regards to having a cul-de-sac constructed at the intersection of SW Roberts Avenue and Illinois Street in Fort White. He reported to the Board that despite signs being posted regarding the speed and warning that children are at play in the area, there is a constant flow of traffic entering the Three Rivers Estate area that is speeding and littering.

There was discussion among the commission. OM Kirby told the Board that approximately 50-80 homes will be affected by the closing of this road. A traffic study has been conducted on the road and a recommendation has been received from the 911 Department recommending the road not be closed. For these reasons, it was recommended the Commission not approve the request to build a cul-de-sac which would essentially close the road.

Commissioner DePratter expressed concern that closing the road could create a safety issue, and considering the fact that the taxpayers own the road and use it often, he could not support a cul-de-sac. He encouraged Mr. Turcottee to contact the Sheriff for assistance with the speeding and the littering.

National Hospice/Palliative Care Month

The Board considered Proclamation 2014P-9 proclaiming November 2014 as National Hospice/Palliative Care Month. The proclamation encouraged citizens to increase their understanding and awareness on care at the end of life and to observe this month with appropriate activities and programs.

MOTION by Commissioner Frisina to approve the proclamation. Second by Commissioner DePratter. The motion carried unanimously.

Ichetucknee Alliance ("I.A.")

The Board of Directors for the I.A. introduced themselves and their mission as it relates to Ichetucknee Springs. Their presentation included an educational video addressing concerns with the degradation of the Ichetucknee basin and their vision for a healthy river system.

Suwannee River Water Management District

Steve Minnis with the Suwannee River Water Management District presented the Commission with a proposed Water Conservation and Water Shortage Ordinance (#2014-12).

This ordinance would address implementing year round water conservation measures and provide for temporary water shortage restrictions. SRWMD asked the Board to schedule a public hearing on the matter.

MOTION by Commissioner DePratter to set a public hearing on December 18, 2014. Second by Commissioner Nash. The motion carried unanimously.

Perpetual Conservation Easement Offer

Attorney Feagle advised that Robert Jordan has offered the County a perpetual conservation easement on property he owns just north of Lassie Black Road. There was discussion.

MOTION by Commissioner Frisina to accept. Second by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carries 4-1 with Commissioner DePratter voting in opposition.

Consent Agenda

The Clerk pulled consent agenda item #17; the minutes of October 16, 2014.

ACM Scott offered additional information on item #15.

Motion by Commissioner Frisina to approve. Second by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

(1) External Budget Amendment – Operations Department – BA # 15-07 – Purchase Implement for Excavator - $4,319.00

(2) External Budget Amendment – BCC Administration – BA # 15-08 - Budget Emerald Lake Lighting Assessment - $8,400.00

(3) External Budget Amendment – BCC Administration – Ba # 14-104 – Fiscal Year 2014 Close Out Budget Amendment

(4) Columbia County Health Department - Resolution No. 2014R-44 – Supporting Healthiest Weight Florida Initiative

(5) 911 Combined Communications – Request to Apply for the E-911 Grant – Upgrade the Cassidian Plant CML Call Receiving Hardware - $107,058.00

(6) Economic Development – Appointment of Glenn Hunter to the Board of the North Florida Economic Development Partnership – FY 14/15

(7) Tourist Development – Request Approval for the Advertising Agreement with Madden Media for the 2015 VISIT FLORIDA (Insiders Digital Guide) - $1,500.00

(8) BCC Administration – Clerk of Court Annual Financial Report – FY Ended September 30, 2014 - $74,788.49 (Clerk Requests Excess Funds to be Refunded – Staff Recommends Approval)

(9) BCC Administration – Supervisor of Elections Annual Financial Report – FY Ended September 30, 2014 ($0)

(10) Central Communications – Request to Amend Consultant Services Agreement – RCC Consultants, Inc. – To Include Work Authorized by the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners – September 4, 2014 -

(11) Operations Department – Requesting Approval of FDOT Small County Outreach Program – Widen & Resurface SW Old Wire Road from SW Elim Church Road to SW Herlong Street – Resolution No. 2014R-43

(12) Operations Department – Utility Permit – Comcast Cable – NW Daughtry Glen

(13) Operations Department – Utility Permit – AT&T SE Florida – SW County Road 240

(14) Operations Department – Utility Permit – City of Lake City – SW Grouse Place

(15) IT Department – Discontinue AT&T HI-CAP Circuits – ($49,982.40) –Contract with Comcast Enterprise Service for ESN Fiber Optic Point to Point Service – ($46,357.11). Add Solid Waste Facility Wireless Microwave Back-haul – ($18,429.80)

(16) Tourist Development – Approval of Website Development Agreement – ITI Marketing – Develop New Responsive Design Website - $15,000.00

(17) Minute Approval – Board of County Commissioners – Regular Meeting – October 16, 2014

Resolution No. 2014R·36· Renewal of COPCN Century Ambulance Service, Inc.
Resolution No. 2014R-39 - Renewal of COPCN Trauma One

The Board discussed renewing Certificates of Public Necessity for Century Ambulance and Trauma One.

MOTION by Commissioner Frisina to approve Resolution 2014R-36. Second by Commissioner Nash. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner Nash to approve Resolution 2014R-39. Second by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

Tropical Storm Debby and FEMA

SM Kraus requested authorization for the County's Emergency Management Director to sign the final worksheet from Florida Department of Emergency Management for reimbursement relating to Tropical Storm Debby. SM Kraus also requested permission to file an appeal with FEMA.

MOTION by Commissioner Frisina to approve. Second by Commissioner Nash. The motion carried unanimously.

Nabors Giblin & Nickerson ("NGN"), P.A. - Legal Service Agreement

The Board considered the proposed updated agreement with NGN. The proposed rates are an increase over the rates contained in the 2003 agreement. However, they are consistent with the firm's current hourly rate and are still lower than the rates charged to other clients.

MOTION by Commissioner Frisina to approve the agreement. Second by Commissioner Nash. The motion carried unanimously.

Cremation of Unclaimed Bodies

It has been determined the disposition of unclaimed bodies should be handled by the Circuit Court through probate proceedings.

Probate proceedings may be extremely lengthy, which presents a problem for many of the local funeral homes who do not have refrigerated coolers to store the human remains in during the judicial process. Those funeral homes that do have coolers charge a fee of $75 per day for storage.

In accordance with Florida Statutes 406.52, a Board of County Commissioners may by resolution or ordinance, in accordance with applicable laws and rules, prescribe policies and procedures for the burial or cremation of the entire unclaimed remains of an indigent person whose death occurred, or whose remains were found, in the county.

In the absence of the court system dispositioning unclaimed bodies for cremation, staff requested permission to draft a policy for the disposition of unclaimed remains of indigent persons whose death occurred, or whose remains were found in the county in accordance with Florida Statute 406.53.

Columbia County was notified by Gateway Forest Lawn Funeral Home that they had an unclaimed indigent body in need of disposition. In the absence of a policy, ACM Scott advised that he authorized the cremation of the unclaimed, indigent individual by Gateway Forest Lawn Funeral Home in accordance with Florida Statutes. Authorization for payment for cremation services in the amount of $500.00 to Gateway Forest Lawn Funeral Home was requested.

MOTION by Commissioner Frisina to allow staff to draft a policy relating to this matter, and to approve ACM Scott's authorization to dispose of the body. Second by Commissioner Nash. The motion carried unanimously.

Carolyn Heights Road Closings

Attorney Feagle requested the Board schedule a public hearing to address closing roads in the Carolyn Heights Subdivision.

Motion by Commissioner Frisina to schedule a public hearing for December 04, 2014. Second by Commissioner DePratter. The motion carried unanimously.

Uniform Method of Collecting Non Ad Valorem Taxes

Motion by Commissioner DePratter to set a public hearing for December 04, 2014. Second by Commissioner Nash. The motion carried unanimously.

Ichetucknee

Considering the alliances in attendance, as a matter of information, County Manager Williams gave accolades to the Board of County Commissioners for their constant attention and efforts to protect the Ichetucknee and to protect water in general. For those who were not aware, he advised that all PILT money is dedicated to protecting the springs, and $250,000 per year is dedicated to hire lobbyist and consultants to aggressively address water issues on behalf of the county. The County has also adopted LDRs with provisions addressing high water aquifer recharge.

Report

Commissioner Frisina, Williams and Phillips gave a brief report on their recent travels and participation at the Florida Association of Counties conference addressing legislative policies.

Public Comments

Stew Lilker, Bob Palmer and Ralph Kitchens commented on Amendment #1.

Sandy Buckcamp offered comments on the policy dealing with unclaimed bodies.

Merrillee Malwitz-Jipson reported having sat in on the new Ban Fracking Committee. She asked the Board to consider an ordinance banning fracking just as many other counties have done.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned.

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ATTEST: Ronald Williams, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

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P. DeWitt Cason
Clerk of Circuit Court