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.

Commissioners in Attendance: Chairman Rusty DePratter, Scarlet Frisina, Ronald Williams, Bucky Nash and Everett Phillips.

Others in Attendance: County Manager Ben Scott (“CM”)  
Assistant County Manager Scott Ward (“ACM”)  
Safety Manager David Kraus (“SM”)  
Operations Manager Kevin Kirby (“OM”)  
County Attorney Joel Foreman  
Deputy Clerk Katrina Vercher

Guests

Commissioner DePratter welcomed Commissioner Larry Sessions of Suwannee County, Florida and Troop B of the Boys Scouts of America.

Agenda Additions/Deletions

Additions:

- Health Insurance Renewal
- IRFP 2015-F Audit Services

Deletions:

None.

MOTION by Commissioner Frisina to approve the agenda. SECOND by Commissioner Nash. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment on Discussion and Action Items:

Citizen Earl Peeler spoke in opposition to giving Excelsior Ambulance Service a Certificate of Public Necessity.
Citizen Barbara Lemley made inquiries regarding the Communication Services Tax. CM Scott addressed her concerns.

Citizen Stewart Lilker spoke in opposition to the Communication Services Tax, parts of the County Manager’s Contract, and opposed the ranking used for the Auditor RFP. He also inquired as to why the Economic Development Director is not included in the proposed Resolution 2015R-1.

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

Consent Agenda:

(1) External Budget Amendment – Fire/Rescue Department – BA # 15-65 – Repairs to Engine 51 - $10,826.19

(2) External Budget Amendment – Public Library – BA # 15-66 – Requesting Approval to Bring Forward Bernhardt Trust Funds/Virginia Bishop Reserve Funds - $1,937.00

(3) Administration – Health Insurance Renewal

(4) Fire/Rescue Department – Requesting Approval in Enter into a Contract with Hanger 14 Solutions, LLC – Software and Licensing of a Tablet-Based Response Software and Equipment - $10,550.00

(5) Landfill – Declaration of Junk Property – (6) 20 Yard Roll Off Containers, 202, 204, 209, 220, 225, 304 – To be Sold at a Salvage Yard (list attached)

(6) Purchasing – Requesting Approval on RFP 2015-F Audit Services – Ranking of Firms and Permission to Begin Negotiations – Powell and Jones, CPA

(7) Human Resources – Revised 911 Addressing/GIS Coordinator Position Description

(8) Human Resources – Combined Safety Director Position Duties to be Inclusive of Risk Manager Duties in Accordance with BCC Approved 5/28/2015 Reorganization Plan

(9) Administration – SHIP Program Certification for FY 15/16 - $359,645.00

(10) Public Library – Requesting Approval of the Annual State Aid to Public Libraries Agreement
(11) Public Works – Utility Permit – Windstream Florida, Inc. – SW Washington Avenue

(12) Public Works – Utility Permit – Comcast Cable – SW Ridgeview Place

(13) Public Works – Utility Permit – Comcast Cable – SE Fawn Circle

(14) Public Works – Utility Permit – City of Lake City – Baya Drive to Llewellyn Avenue


(16) Public Works – Utility Permit – AT&T Authorized Agent Rebecka Bonts – West US Hwy 90 to NW Brown Road

(17) Public Works – Utility Permit – Carl & Connie Johnson – SW Riverside Avenue

(18) Public Works – Utility Permit – Howard Septic Tank Service, Inc. – SW Riverside Avenue

(19) Landscaping and Parks Department – Requesting Approval for FY 2016/2017 Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program Grant – Westside Community Center - $50,000

(20) Tourist Development Council – Requesting Approval of Contract with Royal Restrooms – FOWA Conference Event - Rum Island and Alligator Lake

(21) 9-1-1 Addressing – Requesting Approval of Road Names – NW Melvin Court and NW Cash Court — District 3 - Commissioner Nash

(22) Administration – Minute Approval – Board of County Commissioners – Regular Meeting – July 16, 2015

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

**Discussion and Action Items:**

**Resolution No. 2015R-1-Revisions to Economic Development Advisory Board ("EDAB")**

CM Scott explained the proposed revisions to the EDAB. The EDAB will serve as a review board for applications for issuance of any Industrial Development Revenue Bonds ("IDRB"). Attorney Foreman spoke with City Manager Johnson regarding the change; Mr. Johnson advised the City would like to be involved with the bond review.
For that reason, Attorney Foreman recommended that the last sentence of Section 4, paragraph I of Resolution No. 2015R-1 be removed.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to include the City on any IDRAB review by removing the last sentence of Section 4, paragraph I. SECOND by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Frisina to add to the Resolution that prior to the expiration date of any sitting Board Members term, the County advertise for interested persons to apply for the seat on the EDAB. SECOND by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued. Commissioner Williams would like to see a woman and someone from Gateway Community College on the EDAB.

MOTION by Commissioner Frisina to approve Resolution No. 2015R-1 as amended, SECOND by Commissioner Nash.

Commissioner Frisina asked that as seats on the EDAB become available, Commissioner Williams’ suggestions be taken into consideration when filling that position. Discussion ensued.

The Chairman called for a vote. The motion carried 4 to 1 with Commissioner Williams voting in opposition.


On August 15, 2013, the Commission voted to issue a COPCN to Excelsior Ambulance Service if they were awarded a contract by the Department of Veterans Affairs. On July 15, 2015, the Commission received notice that Excelsior Ambulance Service had been awarded a Department of Veterans Affairs Contract (No. VA248-14-Q-2350). Excelsior Ambulance Service is now requesting that the Commission issue the COPCN.

MOTION by Commissioner Phillips to deny Resolution No. 2015R-15, SECOND by Commissioner Williams for discussion.

Discussion ensued. Commissioners Phillips and Williams both withdrew their motion.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to table this item to allow for further research by Attorney Foreman and discussion by the Board. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.
Health Insurance Proposal (Prior Consent Agenda Item #3)

On July 23, 2015, CM Scott received notice from Sheriff Mark Hunter that the Sheriff’s Office would no longer be participating in the County’s insurance plans. This reduction in the number of members participating caused a rate adjustment of a 1.56 percent in the premium. The County will incur additional costs of $50 per year per employee; employees increase will range from $26.40 to $188.16 annually depending on the plan chosen.

The insurance committee met on August 3, 2015 to discuss these changes and recommended the Commission approve the renewal offered.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve the Insurance Committee’s recommendation, SECOND by Commissioner Nash. The motion carried unanimously.

RFP 2015-F Audit Services (Prior Consent Agenda Item #6)

On June 17, 2015, the Audit Committee met and reviewed the RFP. Each member ranked the firms. Based on that ranking, Staff recommends the approval of the firm ranked number one which is Powell and Jones.

MOTION by Commissioner Frisina to take staff recommendations to approve RPF2015-F. SECOND by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

County Manager’s Contract

As directed by the Commission at the March 5, 2015 meeting, a contract was negotiated with then ACM Ben Scott.

Attorney Foreman addressed the concerns that were raised in the public comments.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Nash to approve the contract with the provision that the termination clause mirrors the charter. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2015-15-Code Enforcement Board to Special Magistrate

Attorney Joel Foreman requested approval to set a public hearing on Ordinance No. 2015-15. The ordinance would dissolve the Code Enforcement Board and establish a Special Magistrate. The magistrate would have the authority to hold hearings and assess fines against violators of the respective county codes and ordinances.
MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve setting the adoption hearing and publishing appropriate notice for the August 20, 2015 regular scheduled meeting. SECOND by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2015-19-Tourist Development Tax

Attorney Foreman requested approval to set public hearings on Ordinance No. 2015-19 to amend Ordinance No. 84-1, whereby increasing the Local Tourist Development Tax by 1 percent.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve setting the adoption hearing, and publishing appropriate notice for the August 20, 2015 regular scheduled meeting. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2015-20-Communications Services Tax

Attorney Foreman requested approval to set a public hearing on Ordinance No. 2015-20 to increase the Communications Services Tax from 1.3 percent to 5.1 percent.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve setting the adoption hearing, and publishing appropriate notice for the August 20, 2015 regular scheduled meeting. SECOND by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

Temporary Closing of NE Jem Street

Commissioner Williams received a request from Salvation Holiness Church for a temporary street closure at 212 N.E. Jem Street on August 8, 2015, from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. for a Back to School Activity the church will host. He asked his fellow Commissioners to approve this closing.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve the temporary street closing. SECOND by Commissioner Nash. The motion carried unanimously.

Open Public Comments:

Christa Pribble spoke in favor of an Arts Council in Columbia County.

James Brinkley with LifeGuard Ambulance Service announced that they have received accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (“CAAS”). LifeGuard invites all citizens and visitors of Columbia County to join with them to celebrate this prestigious award. The event will be held on August 14, 2015, from 4:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the National Guard Armory on Lake Jeffery Road.
Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

ATTEST:  
Rusty DePratter, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

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P. DeWitt Cason  
Clerk of Circuit Court