

Columbia County  
Board of County Commissioners

Minutes of  
**January 7, 2021**

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 Rocky Ford, Ronald Williams, Robert Hollingsworth and Timothy Murphy  
(Commissioner Wit is in the hospital)

Others in Attendance: Interim County Manager David Kraus ("ACM")  
Assistant County Manager Kevin Kirby ("ACM")  
County Attorney Joel Foreman  
Clerk of Court James M. Swisher, Jr.  
Deputy Clerk Katrina Vercher

Columbia County Health Department COVID-19 Vaccine Update

Dr. Thomas Moffses, Director, gave an update on the status of the vaccine distribution.

**Agenda Additions/Deletions**

Additions: Vaccine Update

Deletions: None

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

**Consent Agenda:**

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve the consent agenda with items 1, 8, 10 & 15 pulled for discussion or clarification. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy.

Item #8 – Edward Turner and Shane Edge asked questions and expressed concerns. ICM Kraus and Clint Pittman responded.

Items 1, 10 & 15 – Clarification was given by ICM Kraus.

The Chair called for the vote. The motion carried unanimously.

- (1) BCC Administration - Emergency Purchase - Network Switch - \$7,565
- (2) Building and Zoning - Special Family Lot Permit Application - SFLP 2032 – Elizabeth Wickline Deeding 4.24 Acres to her Mother, Victoria Ziegler
- (3) Finance - Bills and Vouchers - December 15, 2020 - \$84,573
- (4) Finance - Bills and Vouchers - December 16, 2020 - \$114,796
- (5) Finance - Bills and Vouchers - December 21, 2020 - \$3,493,405
- (6) Finance - Bills and Vouchers - December 29, 2020 - \$2,639,550
- (7) Finance - Extension of Audit Deadline
- (8) Parks and Landscaping - Emergency Repairs - Soccer Complex Field Lights Repair -\$8,721
- (9) Public Works - BA 21-16 - Women's Club - \$5,000
- (10) Public Works - Local Agency Program Agreement - County Road 252 Sidewalk
- (11) Public Works - Utility Permit - AT&T - CR 240
- (12) Public Works - Utility Permit - Comcast - SW Little Road
- (13) Public Works - Utility Permit - FPL - SW Florida Gateway Drive and Bascom Norris Drive
- (14) Public Works - Utility Permit - Windstream - SW Timuquo Terrace
- (15) 9-1-1 Communications Center - Request to Amend the Fall E-911 State Grant

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

**Discussion and Action Items:**

BA 21-14 – Southside Improvement Project

Staff requested approval of the budget amendment to complete the additional work needed at the complex.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve BA 21-14 for \$406,534 from Reserves/Cash Balance Forward 001-8400-584.90-98 to Capital Outlay/Imp Other Than Buildings 001-9041-572.60-63. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

#### BA 21-15 – Equipment Replacement

A budget amendment to cover the different in the amounts approved for the replacement of several pieces of equipment.

Citizen Stewart Lilker offered comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve BA 21-15 for \$65,070 from Reserves/Equipment Reserves 101-8400-584.92-97 to Capital Outlay/Equipment Purchases 101-4270-541.60-64. SECOND by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

#### BA 21-17 – Bid No. 2020-CC - O'Leno to Ichetucknee Trail Maintenance

Staff recommended awarding the bid to the low bidder Terragreen, LLC, in the amount of \$16,625.

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to approve contracting with Terragreen, LLC for Bid #2020-CC, in the amount of \$16,625. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to approve BA 21-17 for \$16,625 from Reserves/Cash Balance Forward 101-8400-584.90-98 to Contractual Services 001-3710-537.30-34. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

#### BA 21-13 – Capital Projects

Staff recommended approval of the grant reimbursements from State agencies.

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve BA 21-13 in the amount of \$1,938,020. SECOND by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Software Monitoring Purchase

Staff recommended switching from Solarwinds to PRGT Network Monitor for monitoring everything from servers to network equipment.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve switching to PRGT Network Monitor in the amount of \$10,714. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

### Extension of COVID Leave Benefits

The Emergency Paid Leave and Emergency Family Medical Leave mandated by the federal government expired on December 31, 2020. The County has the option to extend this leave benefit until March 31, 2021. Covid-19 exposure by employees, including first responders, will continue into 2021.

Staff recommend extending the leave benefit.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve the extension of COVID Leave Benefits through the end of the Declaration of Emergency and to include persons with less than six months employment. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

### Holiday Policy

The Board would like to see a revision to the Holiday and Overtime Policy. Staff was directed to draft those revisions for Board approval.

### Property Appraiser IT Support

The Property Appraiser has requested the County's IT Department to provide technical support at a fee of \$8,661. This item would create a stipend in the General Pay Plan to cover salary and benefits for two employees to provide this service.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve amending the General Pay Plan to include stipends of \$4,425 for Network Specialist and \$2,925 Desktop Support Specialist with the additional \$1,311 for the cost of benefits.

Citizen Stewart Lilker offered comment.

The motion failed for lack of a second.

Discussion ensued.

No action was taken; this item will be brought back in two weeks.

### Utility Services Update

Staff gave an update on the utility services in target areas:

1. Bell Road/I-10 Corridor
2. SR-47/I-75 Interchange
3. Ellisville
4. US-90

Other Sites:

- Fort White
  - Water and Wastewater
- NFMIP
  - Potential of Water Recharge Related Projects

Project Belle

Staff recommend supporting the EDAB recommendation not to enter an agreement under these terms -- the County cannot guarantee the Phase 1 supply of water and wastewater to Project Belle and the County does not know the outcome of the Consumptive Use Permit {"CUP"} submission. At this time, the proposed terms for an Economic Development Agreement and the January 15<sup>th</sup> deadline cannot be met.

Discussion ensued.

No action was taken.

CARES Act Update

Columbia County is not eligible at this time for more CARES Act monies.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to authorize ICM Kraus to write a letter from this Board, through the Small County Coalition to lobby for more COVID money.  
SECOND by Commissioner Murphy.  
The motion carried unanimously.

**Open Public Comments and/or Questions:**

Members of the public addressed the Board with their comments and/or questions regarding the following items:

There were no public comments.

**Staff Comments:**

ICM Kraus recommended bringing back the Financial Manager position.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to reestablish that position and begin the hiring process. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Rocky Ford, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

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James M. Swisher, Jr.  
Clerk of Circuit Court