Columbia County
Board of County Commissioners

Minutes of
December 7, 2023

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners met in a regular scheduled meeting in the auditorium of the School Board Administrative Complex at 9:33 a.m. The meeting opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America followed.

Commissioners in Attendance: Chairman Ronald Williams, Timothy Murphy, Robby Hollingsworth, Everett Phillips and Rocky Ford

Others in Attendance: County Manager David Kraus ("CM")
Assistant County Manager Kevin Kirby (ACM")
County Attorney Joel Foreman
Clerk of Circuit Court James M. Swisher Jr.
Deputy Clerk Olga Armas

Agenda Additions/Deletions

Additions:

- BA 24-15 FY 2022-2023 Constitutional Officers Financial Report Revision Supervisor of Elections - $20,102.32
- No Charge Change order – Motorola Solutions
- Authorize County Manager to sign Bethlehem Community Center Contract Documents

Deletions:

- Discussion of Christmas Holiday Policy

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve the agenda. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

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

1) BCC Administration - BA 24-13 - Funding Additional Veteran Service Officer Position - $32,308.00

2) BCC Administration - Meeting Minutes 08/17/2023

3) BCC Administration - Meeting Minutes 10/05/2023

4) BCC Administration - Meeting Minutes 10/19/2023

5) BCC Administration - Meeting Minutes 11/02/2023

6) BCC Administration - Meeting Minutes 11/16/2023

7) BCC Administration - Donation of Hazardous Materials Response Trailer

8) BCC Administration - Request for Leave - County Manager

9) Emergency Management - Adopting the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement by the County

10) Finance - Bills and Vouchers - 11/22/23 - $3,020,715

11) North Florida Economic Development Partnership's (“NFEDP”) 2024 Regional Rural Development Grant application

12) Public Works - Permission to Enter Private Property for the Purpose of Limb Removal

13) Public Works - Permission to Enter Private Property - for the Purpose of Driveway Repair

14) Public Works - Utility Permit - AT&T Requesting to Run a line at 5881 NW Lake Jeffery Road

15) Public Works - Utility Permit - Hargray of Florida Requesting Permission to Run a Cable at NW Lake City Ave

16) Public Works - Utility Permit - Hargray of Florida requesting to run a cable along SW Sisters Welcome Road

17) Public Works - Utility Permit - Hargray of Florida Requesting to Run Cable Along the area of NE Buddy Ave and NE Milton

18) Public Works - Utility Permit - AT&T Requesting to Place a Cable on SE County Road 245

19) Zoning Department - SFLP231101

20) Zoning Department - SFLP 231102

21) Zoning Department - SFLP 231005

22) Zoning Department - SFLP 231103

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to adopt the consent agenda as amended. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Action Items

Kevin Kirby, Assistant County Manager

1) Change Order for 2023-M - Concrete Foundation Traffic Operations Building

Staff requested approval of Change Order for Project 2023-M Traffic Ops Building due to an increase in the building size. Original Contract building and bidded amount was 150' long. After the contract issuance, the building size is actually 200' long.

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve the change order amount of $11,540. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

2) RFQ 2023-Qv – Solid Waste Engineering Services

Selection of qualified engineers and engineering firms, pursuant to section 287.055 Florida Statues Consultant Competitive Negotiation Act ("CCNA"), to provide professional engineering services in support of the County Solid Waste Management Program, and also in support of the County Engineer.

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to award Locklear & Associates. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to send Mr. Frank Darabi a letter of appreciation for the years that he served as an engineer for the County, for

Solid Waste. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

3) Interlocal Agreement - Suwannee River Water Management District- Quail Heights Storm water Pond

The Suwannee River Water Management District has agreed to convey property to the County for the County to construct a storm water runoff, flood management pond on property at Quail Heights.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve Inter-Local Agreement for Quail Heights pond. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

4) Amendment to Agreement for Grant Compliance Services - Hi Dri Storm water Improvements

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to approve amendment to agreement for grant compliance. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

5) Amendment to Agreement for Grant Compliance Services - Parnell Hill Stormwater Improvements

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to approve amendment to agreement for grant compliance. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips . The motion carried unanimously.

6) BA 24-12 – TDC I-75 Billboard Project

Budget Amendment 24-12 moves funds from TDC reserve to I-75 Billboard Project. The TDC sign was damaged by storms and the repairs will exceed the budget. The County submitted a claim to the insurance carrier. The Amendment will use TDC Fund Reserves to complete the project with all insurance proceeds returned to the reserves when received.

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve BA 24-12 moving $90,000 from TDC Reserves to the Sign Repair project. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

7) 2023-P I-75 Billboard Project

Staff recommended the Board to award 2023-P to i2 Visual Inc. for the construction and replacement of the TDC/I-75 Billboard and to approve the Agreement.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to award bid i2 Visual Inc. for $169,905.03 and approve contract. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

David Kraus, County Manager

8) Expansion of Designated Urban Development Area

The County has already submitted a request to expand the Designated Urban Development Area (DUDA) in the I-10 corridor region. With the connection of the Ellisville and Fort White water utilities, does the Board wish to consider amending the request to include expanding the County's Designated Urban Development Area in south Columbia County?

Louie Good, County Planner, offered comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to authorize Staff to work on the DUDA for Ellisville and Fort White. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

9) Lake Jeffery Property Acquisition - $150,000

The Board previously approved pursuing the acquisition of a lot adjacent to County property on Lake Jeffery Road via a tax sale. The owner paid the taxes and offered the property to the County for $150,000. The lot appraised for $192,000. The lot is immediately adjacent to the practice fields/fire station as well as portions of the County properties located on Bascom Norris Road. Staff considers it important to the TDC and Landscaping & Parks long range plans.

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to approve the purchase of parcel 25-3S-16-02284-102 for $150,000. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

10) Broadband Grant Support Procedure

To create additional steps for Internet Service Providers that wish to receive support from Columbia County in relation to Broadband Infrastructure Grants.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve procedures for Commissioner's Support of Broadband Grant request. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

11) Third Amendment to Lease for Duval Place - $441

The Third Amendment to Lease for Duval Place adds additional space for the lease or storage for the Supervisor of Elections. Storage in the TDC/ED hallway will be relocated to this additional space.

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to approve the proposed Third Amendment to the Duval Please Lease. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

12) Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney - $96,000

The County wishes to replace one of the lobbyists, Merchant McIntyre, by expanding the contract with Buchanon, Ingersol and Rooney to include federal efforts. The existing vendor did not yield results and Buchanon, Ingersol and Rooney has provided excellent service on the State level. The additional cost is $500 per month.

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to approve Appendix A to agreement with Buchanon, Ingersol and Rooney. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

13) Lease Agreement with Century Ambulance

Columbia County has an active lease agreement with Century Ambulance for 960-sqft office space and 100 sqft enclosed parking space of Station 49 that has remained unchanged since 2016. New lease agreement to Total Monthly Rent to $1,200.00 monthly.

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve agreed lease agreement. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

~~14) Discussion of Christmas Holiday Policy~~

15) FY 2022-2023 Constitutional Officer's Annual Financial Reports - Property Appraiser - $75,587

Discussion only

16) FY 2022-2023 Constitutional Officer's Annual Financial Report - Tax Collector - $205,298

Discussion only

17) FY 2022-2023 Constitutional Officer's Annual Financial Reports - Clerk of Court

18) BA 24-15 FY 2022-2023 Constitutional Officers Financial Report Revision Supervisor of Election - $20,102.32

The Supervisor of Elections is asking for $20,102.32 to be returned to her office for the purpose of maintaining the integrity of the voting process for the scheduled elections in FY 2023-2024.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve BA 24-15. SECOND by Commissioner Ford. The motion carried unanimously.

19) BA 24-14 – FY 2022-2023 Constitutional Officer's Annual Financial Reports and Reversion – Sheriff's Office - $112,956.89

The Sheriff is asking for $112,956.89 to be returned to purchase Taser equipment.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve BA 24-14 failed due to a lack of a second.

20) Sheriff's Office – Budget Amendment #1 Request - $331,374

The Sheriff has provided additional information and requested the Board to reconsider his Budget Amendment.

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve Sheriff's Office Budget Amendment #1 - $331,374. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion failed 2-3 with Commissioner Ford, Murphy and Williams voting in opposition.

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to take the $112,000 of funds returned by the Sheriff that was originally requested for Tasers; take $48,000 from the funds returned by the Tax Collector; plus the Sheriff's original $104,000 from BA 24-10 (School Resource Officer Contract), which would total to $264,000, and use as reoccurring funds for Salaries. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

Nicholas Albrecht offered comment.

21) No Charge Change order – Motorola Solutions

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to approve No Charge Change Order. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

22) Authorize the Chairman and County Manager to sign Bethlehem Community Center Contract

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to authorize the Chairman and County Manager to sign Bethlehem Community Center Contract Phillips. SECOND by Commissioner. The motion carried unanimously.

Open Public Comments and/or Questions:

Members of the public offering comment were:

- Nicholas Albrecht
- Stew Lilker

Staff Comments:

CM Kraus offered comment on Solid Waste contract with Fort White.

Commissioner Comments:

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

_____
Ronald Williams, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

_____
James M. Swisher, Jr.
Clerk of Circuit Court