Columbia County Board of County Commissioners

February 01, 2024 9:30 AM

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners met in a regular scheduled meeting in the auditorium of the School Board Administrative Complex. The meeting opened with an invocation by Chairman Ronald Williams, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Chairman, Ronald Williams

Commissioner, Robby Hollingsworth

Commissioner, Tim Murphy

Commissioner, Rocky Ford

Commissioner, Everett Phillips

Others in Attendance:

Davis Kraus, County Manager (CM)

Kevin Kirby, Assistant County Manager (ACM)

Joel Foreman, County Attorney

Jay Swisher, Clerk of Court

Jeff Crawford, Emergency Services

Jennifer Daniels, Economic Development

Staz Guntek, Project Development Manager

Jamie Wachter, Lake City Reporter

Vanessa George, October Realty

Deputy Clerk, Amber Taylor

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Ronald Williams at 9:30 AM.

Additions:

1) Request to accept and approve four Emergency Communications Board Grant
   David Kraus expressed this is a time sensitive issue due to the merging of the 911 system.

Deletions:

2) Remove item #11 pertaining to Zoning Department- Special Family Lot Provision Application 1.0 Acre for Grandmother, to next BOCC meeting. Due to technical issues the backup information was not received, therefore were unable to be attached to current agenda.

Motion to approve addition and deletion to the amended agenda by Commissioner Hollingsworth. Motion **seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentations:

Vanessa George, TwentyEight Fourteen, LLC

1) **Public-Private Partnership for Affordable Housing**
   - TwentyEight Fourteen, LLC was founded in 2019. This is a real estate development company specializing in construction management and development of both residential and commercial properties.
   -Mission, to improve the quality of living by providing affordable housing to rent and purchase within the inner city/urban areas of Lake City.
   -Proposed plan for consideration to BOCC for affordable housing developments Baileys Cove and Muffins Cove. These would provide affordable houses to rent, reduce homelessness throughout community, bolster local economy, as well as adding 40-50 homes to local tax roll.
   - Ms. George called upon the BOCC for the consideration of a $1,000,000.00 investment into this project, with a return of approximately 7-10 years.
   - Expenditure payments would be made by County directly to participating vendors.

   Discussion ensued.

   Chairman Williams vowed to take this proposal under consideration. All board members were in agreeance that they would obtain pertinent information needed in order to familiarize themselves with the partnership venture. Chairman, Williams assured Ms. George that a workshop would be held, along with Attorney Foreman, within the next 30 days to educate the board on this proposal. All board members were in agreeance this would be necessary before moving forward.

Joel Foreman, County Attorney

2) **Notice of Executive Session – Litigation and Settlement Strategies- Columbia County Vs. Bayfield Mitigation – Columbia County Case No. 2019-438-CA**

Through coordination with outside council, a date had been scheduled for the executive session

February 5, 2024 2:00 PM at the board conference room.

Consent Agenda

1) **BCC Administration – Memorandum of Agreement – Columbia County Rural Area of Opportunity Recertification**
2) **BCC Administration – Renewal Agreement – Neighbors, Giblin & Nickerson - $20,000**
3) **BCC Finance – Bills and Vouchers – 1/17/24 - $1,711,482**
4) **BCC Finance – Bills and Vouchers – 1/18/24 - $54,760**
5) **BCC Finance – BA 24-21 – Jail Construction Fund Closeout**
6) **BCC Finance – BA 24-22 – Allocate Insurance Reimbursement to Respective Departments - $118,621**
7) **Emergency Management – Waiving of HMGP Match Requirement for Hurricane Idalia**
8) **Purchasing – Surplus Fixed Assets**
9) **Public Works- Permission to enter private property**
10) **Tourist Development- Original Florida Tourism Taskforce Appointments**
11) ~~**Zoning Department- Special Family Lot Provision Application 1.0 Acre for Grandmother SFLP240101**~~ Item #11 pulled from consent agenda.

Public comment by Mr. Lilker, in reference to #8) of the consent agenda. Mr. Lilker proposed question to the BOCC as to the replacement cycle of vehicles purchased by the county.

(CM) Mr. Kraus and (ACM) Mr. Kirby offered response.

Motion by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve the consent agenda. Motion was **seconded** by Commissioner Ford. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Hollingsworth to adopt the consent agenda. Motion was **seconded** by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Action Items:

Kevin Kirby, Assistant County Manager

1) **Variance on Board ROW policy for SW English St and LM Aaron Dr. -** (ACM) Mr. Kirby, asked that the BOCC grant a variance on the existing policy for this singular project. This variance would pertain to the English St and Aaron Dr. project.

Motion by Commissioner Hollingsworth "to give Mr. Kirby a variance on the English Road situation."

Seconded by Commissioner Ford. Motion carried unanimously.

2) **2023-11 SW English St. and LM Aaron Dr. Roadway Construction**
(ACM) Mr. Kirby, requested motion of approval to bestow Curt's Construction INC. contract on project 2023-11 in the amount of $1,743,364.02 and to approve the agreement.

Motion by Commissioner Phillips **seconded** by Commissioner Ford. Motion carried unanimously.

3) **2024-Traffic Stripe Painting – Jenkins Painting $658,161.96**
(ACM) Mr. Kirby requested motion of approval to bestow Jenkin's Painting contract on project 2024-A in the amount of $658,160.96.

Motion by Commissioner Phillips **seconded** by Commissioner Hollingsworth. Motion carried unanimously.

David Kraus, County Manager

4) **Request to Set Second Public Hearing on DUDA Expansion** - (CM) Mr. Kraus requested motion to set second public hearing pertaining to expansion of the Designated Urban Development Area to the I-10 interchanges for the date of March 21, 2024.

Motion by Commissioner Ford**, seconded** by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried unanimously.

5) **Request to Set Adoption Hearing** - (CM) Mr. Kraus requested motion to set adoption hearing for an ordinance creating a municipal service taxing unit to fund the provision of public infrastructure in the North Florida Mega Industrial Park for March 21, 2024.

Motion by Commissioner Ford, **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

6) **Spending Plan – Florida Opioid Allocation Settlement - $757,101.00**
Columbia County along with 47 other counties were deemed non-qualifying. However, Columbia County was granted funding for a duration of 17 years. Said funding, will be issued to Department of Children & Family Services, and then administered by LSF Health Services. Four vetted programs are being presented for consideration to be utilized: Family Support Services $108,000, Hospital Bridge Program (Partnership with Meridian Health) $222,000 and Drug Awareness Program (Partnership with CCSO utilizing school resource officers) $106,000 and lastly, to establish Opioid Abuse Counselor position at local detention center.

Public Comment by Mr. Lilker requested further clarification from the board as to the breakdown of the allocation of funds in the Florida Opioid Settlement.

Discussion ensued.

Chairman Mr. Williams set forth "motion to adopt the concept of this opioid money with staff bringing back a contract with each entity that received it all". **Motion** moved by Commissioner Hollingsworth, **Seconded** by Commissioner Ford. Motion carried unanimously.

Public comment by Ms. Bee Coker requested clarification as too to any affiliation between LS Health Systems and Lutheran Non- Profit Management out of Jacksonville, FL.

7) **Side Track Rail Agreement**

Motion by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve the SOP sidetrack agreement between Columbia County and Florida Gulf & Atlantic Railroad. **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

8) Request to accept four Emergency Communications Board Grants

(CM) Mr. Kraus, set forth motion to accept, approve, and execute the four (4) Emergency Communication board grants. **Motion** moved by Commissioner Ford, **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Public Comments and or Questions:

Citizen Elthia Gaskin, 539 SE Brandon Drive addressed the BOCC with issues regarding repairs to her home. Commissioner Phillips offered rebuttal on this issue.

Citizen Sylvester Warren III, offered comment regarding Citizen Elthia Gaskin. Mr. Warren also addressed BOCC as to acknowledgement of Black History Month.

Citizen Mr. Lilker, expressed issue to the BOCC, with the state of the audio pertaining to official meetings.

Staff Comments:

None

Updates from the County Manager:

None

Commissioner Comments:

Chairman, Mr. Williams, made mention in recognition of Black History Month.

Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner Hollingsworth.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:28 AM.

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Ronald Williams, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

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James M. Swisher, Jr.
Clerk of Circuit Court