Columbia County
Board of County Commissioners

Minutes of
**May 1, 2025**

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners met in a regular scheduled meeting in the auditorium of the School Board Administrative Complex at 5:30 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 Timothy Murphy, Kevin Parnell, Robby Hollingsworth and Everett Phillips, Rocky Ford

Others in Attendance: County Manager David Kraus ("CM")
Assistant County Manager Kevin Kirby (ACM")
County Attorney Joel Foreman
Deputy Clerk Tricia Carter

**Agenda Additions/Deletions**

Additions:

Deletions:

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

**Proclamations**

Tim Murphy, Chairman

1) Proclamation 2025P-11 - National Foster Care Month

The Board of County Commissions of Columbia County, do hereby proclaim May as National Foster Care Month in Columbia County and encourage all citizens to lead the way for other communities in how we work together to utilize our resources and unique giftings to help support our community's foster children, foster families and biological families.

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve Proclamation 2025P-11. SECOND by Commissioner Parnell. The motion carried unanimously.

(2) Proclamation 2025P-12- National Travel and Tourism Week 2025

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners hereby proclaim May 4-10, 2025, as National Travel and Tourism Week in Columbia County and urge the citizens of Columbia County to join me in recognizing the essential role this industry plays in Columbia County.

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve Proclamation 2025P-12. SECOND by Commissioner Parnell. The motion carried unanimously.

**Presentation of the Board not requiring Board to vote on**

Jennifer Goff, Economic Development

1) Economic Development Week 2025

Economic Development Week 2025, May 5–9; a weeklong celebration of connection, collaboration, and community growth. Under the theme "Celebrating Connection: The Business of Building Community," each day will spotlight a unique part of what makes our region thrive—from tourism to infrastructure, business partnerships to local innovation.

Jennifer offered update on Economic Development week.

Staz Guntek, Legislative & Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator

2) Legislative Update

Staz provided a brief Legislative Update.

**Public Hearings**

David Kraus, County Manager

1) Second Public Hearing for FFY 2023 and/or FFY 2024 Grant Application - $1,225,000

This is the second public hearing required to apply for a FFY 2023 and/or FFY 2024 Grant. While other projects were considered, due to time constraints Housing Rehabilitation is being proposed. This will require a $50,000 local match/leverage.

Public hearing opened and closed for comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve for County to apply for FFY 2023 and/or FFY 2024 CDBG Grant for $1,225,000. SECOND by Commissioner Parnell. The motion carried unanimously.

2) Fair Housing Workshop

Antonio Jenkins offered a presentation.

Public hearing opened and closed for public comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth. SECOND by Commissioner Parnell. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:**

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

1) BCC Administration - Request for Road Closure - Columbia High School Graduation-Friday, May 23, 2025 - 6:00 pm to 11:30 pm
2) BCC Administration - Meeting Minutes - Regular Meeting - 7/6/2023
3) BCC Administration - Meeting Minutes - Regular Meeting - 7/20/2023
4) BCC Administration - Meeting Minutes - Budget Workshop - 8/17/2023
5) BCC Administration - Meeting Minutes - Special Meeting - 11/30/2023
6) BCC Administration - Meeting Minutes - Regular Meeting - 12/7/2023
7) BCC Administration - Meeting Minutes - Regular Meeting - 4/17/2023
8) BCC Administration - Meeting Minutes - Regular Meeting - 9/7/2023
9) BCC Administration - Meeting Minutes - Regular Meeting - 9/21/2023
10) BCC Finance - Bills and Vouchers - 04/23/2025 - $6,356,898.66

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

**Discussion and Action Items**

David Kraus, County Manager

1) CDBG Local Housing Assistance Plan & Procedures for FFY 2025-2028

MOTION by Commissioner Phillips to approve CDBG Local Housing Assistance Plan & Procedures for FFY 2025-2028. SECOND by Commissioner Parnell. The motion carried unanimously.

Kevin Kirby, Assistant County Manager

2) 2025-04 Annual Resurfacing Group 3 (SW Dekle Rd, SW Legion Dr, SW Tamarack Lp, SW Upchurch Ave, SW Foxboro PL, SW Madewood Dr, and SW Redmond Gln)

Milling existing pavement of approximately 29,643 LF (5.61 miles) of +/- 20' wide roadways, finishing the milled surface, and placement of new asphalt pavement - 165 lbs/sy.

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to award bid to Anderson Columbia Co., Inc for the proposed amount $1,167,746.43 SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

3) 2025-05 Annual Resurfacing Group 4 (SW Ring CT, ST Hudson LN, SW Greenridge LN, and SE Rossi DR)

Milling existing pavement of approximately 13,019 LF (2.47 miles) of +/- 20' wide roadways, finishing the milled surface, and placement of new asphalt pavement - 165 lbs/sy. Scope of work includes milling, levelling, reworking and finishing milled surface, asphaltic concrete pavement, grassing, painted pavement markings, and incidental items.

MOTION by Commissioner Phillips to award bid to Anderson Columbia Co., Inc for the proposed amount $910,296.63. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

4) FY 25-26 Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement - $129,475

The reimbursement will be $129,475.

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve FY 2025-2026 Traffic Signal Maintenance and Compensation Agreement (TSMCA) and Resolution 2025R-14. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously

5) Safe Streets for All - Columbia County Comprehensive Safety Action Plan

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to adopt the proposed Comprehensive Safety Action Plan conducted by Kimley-Horn. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

David Kraus, County Manager

6) Resolution No. 2025R-15 - Providing for the Location, Time and Place for Holding a Joint Workshop at Florida Gateway College

Resolution No. 2025R-15 - Providing for the Location, Time and Place for Holding a Joint Workshop at Florida Gateway College.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve Resolution No. 2025R-15. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

7) BA 25-37 Spring 2025 Rural County 911 Reimbursement Grant Program Grant 25-04-06 - $131,284.58

Staff requested to accept Rural County Grant 25-04-06 from the State Emergency Communications Board for $131,284.58 for maintenance and support of our 911 Call Processing Equipment.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve BA 25-37 and execute Springs 2025 Rural County 911 reimbursement grant program, grant 25-04-06. SECOND by Commissioner Ford. The motion carried unanimously.

8) Request to Apply for Emergency Communications Board State Grant for Equipment Refresh of 911 Call Processing Equipment. Grant application #4759996566 - of $339,418.47

5-year refresh of the County's Motorola VESTA 911 Call Processing Equipment (CPE).

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve the next 911 cycle. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

9) RFQ 2025-D Public Safety Complex Design

Columbia County was awarded a grant by the Florida Division of Emergency Management to design a public safety complex. This is one of the Capital Projects in the FY 2025 budget. The County received six (6) responses to RFQ

2025-D Public Safety Complex Design Services. Staff requested to approve ranking and authorize negotiations with the Top Three Ranked Firms (PQH Group Design, North Florida Professional Services, CRA Architects).

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve the ranking and authorize staff to begin negotiations. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

10) Interlocal Agreement - North Florida Mega Industrial Park Water Supply Agreement - City of Lake City

This interlocal agreement would allow the City of Lake City to supply water to the North Florida Mega Industrial Park in partnership with Columbia County.

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to table this decision until after the workshop is held. Motion failed for lack of a second.

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the amendment that whoever owns the waterline in the land, will be the owners if something goes wrong and also do a quarterly true-up instead of monthly. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

11) North Florida Mega Industrial Park Potable Water Project

Columbia County received a 2024 Legislative Appropriation of $5.716 with the intent to provide potable water to the NFMIP. A new option to provide potable water to the NFMIP from the City of Lake City has emerged. This option meets the intent of the Appropriation and requires a grant modification.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve requesting modification of the grant. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

12) RFP 2025-B Comprehensive Plan Services - Kimley-Horn - $278,000

Columbia County solicited proposals from qualified planning consulting firms/individuals interested in updating to the Columbia County Comprehensive Plan. Staff has completed the negotiation of the contract.

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve agreement for RFP 2025-B with Kimley-Horn for $278,000.00. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

13) Resolution 2025-R16 - HB1221 is a bill that would negatively impact Tourist Development. Currently this is still in flux at the Legislature, so this is a placeholder

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve Resolution 2025-R16. SECOND by Commissioner Parnell. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Members of the public offering comment were:

**Staff Comments:**

CM Kraus mentioned that a work shop is going to be set in June.

**Commissioner Comments:**

Commissioner Ford asked CM Kraus what was going to be talked about in the next workshop on May 15, 2025. CM Kraus answered saying that it was going to be for everyone to see the "bigger picture."

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:09 P.M.

_____
Timothy Murphy, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

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