Columbia County
Board of County Commissioners

Minutes of
January 15, 2026

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners met in a regular scheduled meeting in the auditorium of the School Board Administrative Complex at 05:30 pm. The meeting opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America followed.

Commissioners in Attendance: Chairman, Tim Murphy
Co-Chairman, Robby Hollingsworth
Commissioner, Kevin Parnell
Commissioner, Everett Phillips
Commissioner, Rocky Ford

Others in Attendance: County Manager, David Kraus ("CM")
Assistant County Manager Kevin Kirby (ACM")
County Attorney, Joel Foreman
County Planner, Seth Lane
Landscape & Parks Director, Clint Pittman
Public Information Officer, Dennis Rivera
County Fire Chief, Jeff Crawford
Director of Human Resources, Kari Guy
Economic Development Director, Jennifer Daniels
Finance Officer, Amy Overstreet
Deputy Clerk, Melissa Williams
Greg Bailey
Dale Williams
Greg Bailey, North Florida Professional Services
Mark Magstadt
Robert Domingue, Columbia County Utilities Superintendent

Agenda Additions/Deletions

Additions:

(1) 2025-L Suwannee Valley Communications Tower-$750,000.00

(2) Columbia County CDBG 22DB-OP-33-22-01-H04 Modification – Request (p.53)
(3) Economic Development Advisory Board Recommendation-Suspend Residential Score Sheet
(4) Fort White Speed Bump

Consent Agenda # 2 was pulled and amended by Chairman Timothy Murphy.
BCC Administration-Grant Amendment # 2 – Old Richardson High School Improvements

Deletions: None

Approval of Agenda:

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

Proclamations:

(1) Proclamation No. 2026P-02 – Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) Week (p.1) January 18-24,2026 – Brian Moran was present to receive the Proclamation.

Proclamation was read by County Attorney, Joel Foreman.

MOTION by Commissioner Phillips to approve Proclamation No. 2026P-02- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist- (CRNA) Week January 18-24, 2026. SECOND by Commissioner Parnell. The motion carried unanimously.

(2) Proclamation No.2026P-01- Recognizing TV 20 Chief Meteorologist Mike Potter for his Dedicated Service of Protecting the Citizens of Columbia County for more than 30 years.

Proclamation was read by County Attorney, Joel Foreman.

MOTION by Commissioner Phillips to approve Proclamation No. 2026P-01- Recognizing TV 20 Chief Meteorologist for his Dedicated Service of Protecting the Citizens of Columbia County for more than 30 years. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing

County Planner – Seth Lane

Ordinance NO. 2025-2026, Amending Ordinance NO. 98-1 the Columbia County Land Development Regulations, pursuant to application Z251101, providing for the change of the zoning classification from Commercial General to Commercial Intensive for the identified parcels: Parcel #30-4S-17-08900-001. District 5.

Public hearing was opened:

No comments

Public hearing was closed:

MOTION by Chairman Murphy to approve Ordinance NO. 2025-2026, Amending Ordinance NO.98-1 pursuant to application Z251101 changing the zoning from Commercial General to Commercial Intensive for the Parcel # 30-4S-17-08900-001 District 5. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

MOTION by Commissioner, Hollingsworth to approve the Consent Agenda with additions and amended #2. SECOND by Commissioner, Parnell. The motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

MOTION by Commissioner, Hollingsworth to adopt the amended Consent Agenda. SECOND by Commissioner, Parnell. The motion carried unanimously.

(1) BCC Administration-Authorization Letter Request -Crime Stoppers of Columbia County, Inc.
(2) BCC Administration- Grant Amendment # 2 -Old Richardson High School Improvements-was pulled and amended.
(3) BCC Administration-Release of Lien – Candice Clary
(4) Public Works – BA 26-18 Budget Amendment Mosquito Control Carry-Forward from FY24/25 to FY25/26
(5) BCC Finance -BA 26-17 Additional funds needed to pay invoices for Hurricane Helene-$ 30,000.00
(6) BCC-Finance -Adjusting Journal Entry- $100.000.00
(7) Finance- Bills and Vouchers -12/18/25-$2,243,736.00
(8) Finance- Bills and Vouchers – 1/02/2026-$1,989,547.00
(9) Finance-Bills and Vouchers – 12/31/2025 - $3,076,388.00
(10) Public Works- Request for Memorial Marker
(11) Public Works-Utility Permit – SE Aldine Feagler Drive
(12) Public Works – Utility Permit – SE Country Club Road

(13) Public Works – Utility Permit – SE Giles Martin
(14)Public Works – Utility Permit – SW Midtown Place
(15)Public Works – Utility Permit – SW Tunsil Lane
(16) Public Works – Utility Permit – SW Woodland Ave.
(17) Public Works – Utility Permit – SW Old Bellamy
(18)Public Works – Utility Permit – NW Brown Road
(19) Public Works – Utility Permit – SW County Road 138
(20) Public Works – Utility Permit – SE Drew Feagle Ave.
(21) Public Works – Utility Permit – SW Chesterfield Circle
(22)Public Works – Utility Permit – SW Bay Place
(23) Public Works – Utility Permit – SW CR 138, Normandy
(24) Public Works – Utility Permit – NW Lake Jeffery Road
(25) Public Works – Utility Permit – SW Bobcat Drive
(26) Public Works – Utility Permit – SW Bobcat Drive
(27) Public Works – Utility Permit – SW Old Spanish Road
(28) Public Works – Utility Permit – NW Noegel Road
(29) Zoning Department – Special Family Lot Permit request (SFLP260101) by Cherie Cable
(30)Zoning Department – Special Family Lot Permit request (SFLP260102) by Kenneth and Patricia Carr – District 3
(31) Zoning Department – Special Family Lot Permit request (SFLP260103) by Kevin and Annette Kimball- District 5
(32) Zoning Department – Special Family Lot request (SFLP260104) by Kevin and Annette Kimball – District 5

Discussion and Action Items

Joel Foreman, County Attorney

(1) Resolution No. 2026R-01- Revised Resolution – Economic Development Advisory Board (p.46).

Added to the new revised Resolution No. 2026R-01 section 3-L that at the Economic Development Advisory Board Council meeting they will always have counsel which will be County Attorney Joel Foreman.

See the attached Resolution No. 2026R-01:

MOTION by Chairman Murphy to approve Resolution No. 2026R-01. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

Kevin Kirby, Assistant County Manager

(2) 2026-A – Animal Enforcement Kennel Construction-$126,730.76 (p.55)

Scope of work includes the building, delivery, set-up and installation of 44 dog kennels: 30-4' x 12', 10-5'x12', and 4-8'x8' all 6' inside a 40'x125' metal building. The bid requested pricing for 2 options (Steel and Hot-Dipped Galvanized).
Staff recommends awarding 2026-A Option 2 Hot-Dipped Galvanized to C.A.B. Contracting in the proposed amount of $ 126,730.76.

Commissioner, Rocky Ford asked if we are in budget?

Assistant County Manager, Kevin Kirby stated that we are now, but we may not stay in budget.

Chairman, Timothy Murphy stated to Assistant County Manager, Kevin Kirby as we move forward on the kennels, we need to watch the budget. He further added that he had seen one of these hot-dipped galvanized, he liked them and suggested it was well worth it.

Commissioner, Ford asked what was the bid on the metal building?

Assistant County Manager, Kevin Kirby stated yes, we are in budget on the concrete and the building, but he lacked a thing or two. He stated that we need to get the kennels done quickly, because Humane Society is not taking a whole lot of animals right now.

Chairman, Timothy Murphy requested that Assistant County Manager, Kevin Kirby bring back the numbers for the kennels to the Board.

MOTION by Chairman Hollingsworth to approve awarding the 2026-A Option 2 Hot Dipped Galvanized to C.A.B. Contracting, LLC in the proposed amount of $ 126,730.76. SECOND by Chairman, Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

(3) 2025-14 2025-2026 Annual Resurfacing – Odum Heights (SE Montgomery Pl, SE Emma Pl., SE Margaret Drive)- $ 172,857.00 (p.111)

Milling existing pavement of approximately 2475 LF (0.47) of +/- 20' wide roadways, finishing the milled surface and placement of new asphalt pavement – 165 lbs./Sy.

Staff recommend awarding 2025-14 to Norton Home Improvement Co., NC D/B/A Bubba's Site Prep & Paving in the proposed amount of $ 172,857.00 and approving the Construction Agreement.

Before the motion was made, Commissioner, Everett Phillips pulled his vote because he is employed by this company. Chairman, Timothy Murphy told Commissioner, Everett Phillips to get with County Attorney, Joel Foreman to sign the appropriate paperwork.

MOTION by Commissioner, Hollingsworth to approve awarding 2025-14 to Norton Home Improvement Co., NC. dba Bubba's Site Prep & Paving in the amount of $ 172,857.00. SECOND by Commissioner, Ford. The motion carried 4 to 1 with Commissioner Phillips's vote pulled due to a conflict of interest.

(4) 2025-10- Skye and Jordan from Tyrus to SR 20 Sidewalk Improvements-
$333,073.22. (p.167)

The project scope for the Skye Avenue and Jordan Street from Tyrus Way to SR 20 (US 27) sidewalk improvements, consists of 5-ft wide concrete sidewalk on the west side of SW Skye Ave. from Wilson Springs Rd. to Jordan Street and sidewalk replacement and sidewalk replacement and ADA improvements on W Jordan Street from SW Tyrus Way to US 27. Construction also includes signing, pavement markings, and associated work.

Commissioner, Rocky Ford asked Assistant County Manager, Kevin Kirby if this 2025-10 is paid for by Grant money? Assistant County Manager, Kevin Kirby stated yes.

MOTION by Commissioner, Ford to award and approve Construction Agreement for 2025-10 to Curt's Construction, Inc. for the proposed amount of $333,073.22. SECOND by Commissioner, Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

(5) SCRAP, SCOP, CIGP and TAP Submissions- (p.225)

Recommending the following for submission to FDOT SCRAP, SCOP, CIGP, and TAP for funding in 2030.

(1) CR 250E (NE Gum Swamp Road)
(2) SW Arrowhead/Cannon Creek
(3) CR 18 (US 27 to US 41)

MOTION by Commissioner, Parnell to approve the submission to FDOT SCRAP, CIGP, and TAP for funding in 2030.SECOND by Commissioner, Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

(6) Issuance of Building Permit- Woodborough (North) (p.227)

All issues relating to the Woodborough (North) subdivision have been satisfied by Suwannee River Water Management District. Therefore, I am requesting the

County to begin the issuance of building permits upon approval. Assistant County Manager, Kevin Kirby stated that this is for Turkey Creek Road.

See letter attached from Suwannee River Water Management District.

MOTION by Commissioner, Ford to approve for the County to begin the issuance of building permits for the Turkey Creek. SECOND by Commissioner, Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

(4) Addition # 4 placed on the agenda –The town of Fort White requested Speed Humps to be installed at Deese Memorial Park on Colon Ave. and Wells Street. The request was sent to the County Manager, David Kraus after the Town of Fort White did a vote.

Assistant County Manager, Kevin Kirby spoke about the roads in Fort White and the speed humps they are requesting. There is a cut through road which would require a traffic study. He also stated that there is a policy that the Commissioners can deem unsafe.

Commissioner, Rocky Ford stated that at Deese Memorial Park there is new playground equipment with only a small board fence around it. There are no sidewalks. The Town of Fort White feels like they need the speed humps to slow down the traffic because children will be there playing and it is not safe.

County Attorney, Joel Foreman spoke about it being more of an interlocal and there is a speed hump policy in place. It is up to the Commissioners. County Attorney, Joel Foreman stated that he can do a memorandum about the need for the speed humps in Fort White.

MOTION by Commissioner, Ford to approve speed humps to be installed on Colon Ave. and Wells Street to slow down traffic by Deese Memorial Park for safety. SECOND by Commissioner, Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

<u>County Manager, David Kraus</u>

(7) RFP 2025-A Solid Waste Assessment – Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.- $68,350.00 (p.229**)**

The County granted RFP 2025-A to Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. on April 3,2025, with the purpose of evaluating and revising the special assessment studies related to Solid Waste and Fire Protection. With the solid Waste Contract out to bid, the County anticipates the cost to increase. Staff requests to modify the existing contract to enable Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. to perform a new study for the Solid Waste Collection Assessment to allow the County to adjust the assessment to reflect the new costs.

Stantec will honor the Study price from 2025 (33,850.00) and will charge $1.50 per notice they have mailed (approximately 23,000 notices or $34,500.00).

Staff recommend amending the current contract to include the additional Solid Waste Collection Assessment Study and increasing the contract amount by $ 68,350.00-total. Will be effective October 1, 2026.

Solid Waste Study - $33,850.00
Notices and Postage - $ 34,500.00

MOTION by Commissioner, Ford to approve RFP-2025-A. SECOND by Commissioner, Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

(8) 2025 – V-ARPA Housing Rehabilitation Group 10 -$144,998.00 (p.233)

The County's consultant for the housing, Guardian CRM, Inc. has provided a detailed Bid Tabulation for each of the four (4) projects in Group 10 of the ARPA Housing Rehab Program. There were four pre-qualified contractors. One lowest bidder did not fall within the program recommended awards and is recommended award to the lowest bidder within the HAP Policy. The remaining three (3) lowest bidder within the HAP Policy. The three (3) lowest bidders fell within the estimated project cost estimate.

Staff hereby recommends the Board award one (1) project to Cardinal, LLC ($22,470.00 – Elliot 1155 SW Fairfax), two (2) projects to Fla. Homes, Inc. ($19,750.00-Demeritte 488 NW Dixie / $29,950.00 – Adams 659 NE Broadway).and one (1) to Patriot Response Group ($72,828.00 – Portee 428 NE Fairview)as per the attached Bid Tabulation.

Chairman, Timothy asked the County Manager, David Kraus if Guardian CRM was handling the Grant issue. County Manager, David Kraus answered yes.

See the attached Letter and Bid Tabulation.

MOTION by Commissioner, Ford to approve 2025-V-ARPA Housing Rehabilitation Group. SECOND by Commissioner, Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

(9) Donation of Property to City of Lake City – 854 SE Monroe Street (p.236)

In 2018, the County acquired this parcel via tax deed. We were made aware of the parcel when City Code Enforcement contacted the County. Since that time, the City has expressed interest in the parcel as surplus and authorize the donation of the parcel to the City of Lake City.

Approve declaring 854 SE Monroe Street as surplus and authorizing the donation of the parcel to the City of Lake City.

See the attached parcel map of the property from the Property Appraiser. MOTION by Commissioner, Parnell to approve declaring 854 SE Monroe Street as surplus and authorizing the donation of the parcel to the City of Lake City. SECOND by Commissioner, Ford. The motion carried unanimously.

(10) Utility Update (p.238)

Update the Board on Utility issues including, but not limited to, North Florida Water Utilities Authority meetings and Engineering Report for the Consent Order at the Ellisville Wastewater Treatment Plant.

County Manager David Kraus spoke about major water line leak in Fort White that required a one-day boil water restriction. The leak was repaired overnight by the NFWUA and the County.

County Manager, David Kraus turned the meeting over to Commissioner, Rocky Ford who is the Chairman of the NFWUA. Commissioner, Rocky Ford stated that the water line was repaired overnight. He asked Executive Director of the NFWUA, Shannon Roberts, to come up and do an update on the utilities.

Executive Director of NFWUA, Shannon Roberts stated let's go back a couple of weeks. The Engineering Evaluation was submitted on time for the Ellisville Project. There was another call with DEP, and the next step is the Engineering design piece consent order that is due in 90 days. DEP will provide more time if needed.

Shannon Roberts stated that the first call was made to DEP for Suwannee County's warning letter. The call to DEP went well and they will receive a consent order, which is the tool that DEP uses to bring everything back into compliance. The list will come out but used as a tool to correct issues.

Shannon Roberts stated that the main water line was completed and repaired on 01/07/2026, it was a big repair.

Shannon Roberts stated that the engineering RFQ'S closed on 01/12/2026 and had 12 respondents. There will be a committee working on the score cards. They will bring the results to the Utilities Board in February.

Shannon Roberts spoke about the emergency services RFP for utilities closes on 01/26/2026 for emergency vendors to get on board.

Shannon Roberts also spoke about the DEP Grant that is approved for $1.9 million dollars and is be used for the sewer for the Busy Bee Project.

Commissioner, Rocky Ford asked what is more important at this time to work on? He also asked if we could use the funds on the sewer plant?

Chairman, Timothy Murphy asked what the Grant was for? Shannon Roberts stated that it was for the design and upgrade of 2 lift stations and for 6000 feet of piping east to west down 75 to the plant.

County Manager, David Kraus spoke about there only being one force main. Robert Domingue, Columbia County Utilities Superintendent spoke about the Busy Bee going to have 68 restrooms, 60 showers and laundry facilities. That will push a lot of water. There is a 4-inch force main, and it will not handle it. Chairman Timothy Murphy stated that we have a contract with Busy Bee.

Chairman, Timothy Murphy talked about how we may need to in the future talk about impact fees. They would have been nice to have now. He addressed County Manager, David Kraus to look at this in the future because the money is short there. Commissioner, Rocky Ford stated he was thinking about the Grant money, but whatever we need the most is where the money will go.

Discussion ensued.

Executive Director, Shannon Roberts spoke about the water line in Fort White, the sensor valve is fixed and now we can add treatment to the line. But now the altitude valve would not shut off the flow to fill the tanks. The company Fluid Control Specialist are coming out on 01/21/2026 to explain the problem. If it is a warranty problem, then it should be fixed at no cost. He will not know till they come out.

Chairman, Timothy Murphy asked Executive Director, Shannon Roberts we are not selling water at this point. Shannon Roberts answered no.

Greg Bailey, North Florida Professional Services, stated that they used a 12-inch line done with HPTD thermal joint machine that heats the ends of the pipes together. That material should be flushed out. The report is that there is still debris in the line that is not flushed out. Greg Bailey went down himself to look at it, they did have a bleed offline they were using, they had a brand-new water meter that was clogged and could not read the load. It is a simple valve that works on pressure, it is simple to work.

Chairman, Timothy Murphy asked if the plant manager is documenting the problems they are having, and do you think it is the shavings issues. Greg Bailey stated that he feels like the valve is very complex.

Commissioner, Rocky Ford stated that if you mess with the valve, it may void the warranty.

Chairman, Timothy Murphy stated that he wanted to confirm the date that the Fluid Control Specialist were coming. Executive Director, Shannon Roberts confirmed that they are coming on 01/21/2026.

County Manager, David Kraus stated that he confirmed this with County Attorney Joel Foreman that we have a Interlocal agreement with NFWUA. They are the providers and the County are the owners of the facilities. NFWUA are the operators.

County Manager, David Kraus spoke about letters from the DEP Portal that Assistant County Manager, Kevin Kirby and himself received about the B-maps and reducing the amount of nitrogen. Chairman Timothy Murphy spoke about the plant in Ellisville. Commissioner Robby Hollingsworth spoke about the plans always changing and the lady who does consent order will always be busy.

Discussion ensued.

(11) RFP 2025-X 250th Anniversary July 4th Fireworks -$ 50,000.00 (p.236)

Columbia county requested proposals from qualified and professional fireworks production companies to work in conjunction with a laser show contractor/company for the purposes of providing a fireworks display for Columbia County's 250th Anniversary – Fourth of July Celebration and additional future Fourth of July celebrations. There is a Grant from the Governor for $40,000.00 for the purchase of Flags. You will see them around the Courthouse and celebrations at the schools. We will be celebrating for the first 6 months of the year.

Chairman, Timothy Murphy asked about if there is any cost after the $65,000.00 that was put in the budget will that come from donations. County Manager, David Kraus stated that we have a second Grant from the Governor.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner, Ford to approve and award the service agreement for RFP 2025-X to option 1 to Master Pyro Display LLC for the proposed amount of $50,000.00. SECOND by Commissioner, Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

(12) Department of Financial Services Grant Agreement for Bunker Gear- $40,141.70 (p.285)

The Florida Department of Financial Services awarded a Grant for $40,141.70 to the Fire and Rescue Department to purchase Bunker Gear. The Department was not awarded funds for extrication equipment

MOTION by Commissioner, Ford to approve and execute the Grant Agreement for $ 40,141.70 with the Florida Department of Financial Services. SECOND by Commissioner, Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

(1) Additions to the Agenda: County Fire Chief, Jeff Crawford

Columbia County proposes to construct a 300-foot Public Safety rated communications tower (Risk Category III-IV) site consisting of an E1/2 Dual LED Navigation and Obstruction beacon system.

Columbia County Staff are seeking to utilize our existing contract with Omnicom under RFQ 2015-H, which is due to expire on 08/05/2026. The attached proposal outlines the erection of the Suwannee Valley Communications Tower for a total of $750,000.00. Staff is requesting approval to use RFQ-2015-H to construct the Suwannee Valley Communications Tower for the proposed $750,000.00.

County Fire Chief, Jeff Crawford stated that they need to break ground before June 1,2026. This does not affect the budget. Chairman Timothy Murphy asked if the County Fire Chief, Jeff Crawford would be overseeing the Grant and if the designs were done. Jeff Crawford answered yes to both questions.

See attached agreement:

MOTION by Commissioner, Ford to approve using RFQ 2015-H with Omnicom Consulting Group, Inc. to construct the Suwannee Valley Communications Tower for the proposed amount of $750,000.00. SECOND by Commissioner, Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

(2) Additions to the agenda: County Manager, David Kraus

Columbia County CDBG 22 DB-OP-33-22-01-HOA- Modification Request 3.

(p. 53). Housing Grant Modification agreement giving the County a 6-month extension to the work plans.

Chairman, Timothy Murphy asked who is handling this Grant? County Manager David Kraus answered, Guardian CRM.

MOTION by Commissioner, Phillips to approve Columbia County CDBG 22DB-OP-33-22-01-H04- Modification Request 3- Housing Grant Modification. SECOND by Commissioner, Parnell. The motion carried unanimously.

(3) Additions to the Agenda: Economic Development Advisory Board Recommendation – Suspend Residential Score Sheet – County Manager, David Kraus

County Manager, David Kraus spoke about the Economic Board's meeting that was held this morning and made a recommendation to suspend the residential score sheet. Chairman, Timothy Murphy stated this will not affect anything that is already approved. Also, they look at the Commercial and Industrial scoresheet.
The score sheet will not be in use till it has been reviewed and voted on. The recommendation was to set up a workshop. Chairman, Timothy Murphy stated that Joey O'Hern and Economic Development Director, Jennifer Daniels are going to work on setting up a workshop and he encourages all the County Commissioners to attend. County Attorney, Joel Foreman stated to Chairman, Timothy Murphy that this is the Board's policy and they will need to make a motion to suspend the score sheet.

MOTION by Chairman, Timothy Murphy made a motion to suspend the Residential Score Sheet till further notice. SECOND by Commissioner, Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

BCC Administration- Grant Amendment # 2 -Old Richardson High School Improvements-was pulled for the Consent Agenda.

County Manager, David Kraus spoke about part of this grant which may have to be returned due to not having 100% drawing done till recently. Chairman, Timothy Murphy stated that it was not the person who did the drawings which was Danny Kail with Kail's Partners. County Manager, David Kraus stated they did not have enough time to go out to bid based on Assistant County Manager, Kevin Kirby and Maintenance & Facilities. County Manager, David Kraus, stated that himself and Finance Officer, Amy Overstreet, were on the phone with the Grant managers working on a Grant extension and part of the money getting refunded back to the Grant. Chairman, Timothy Murphy asked County Manager, David Kraus if the extension report was turned in. David Kraus

stated yes and about $60,00.00 is what will get refunded when the extension is done.

Commissioner, Kevin Parnell asked Shannon Williams with Gateway Grants Writing and Administration to come and speak about the Grant. She spoke about her writing the Grant with permission from former County Commissioner, Ron Williams. The total was $500,000.00 thousand dollars and another one was done for $650,000.00 that we scored for the Grant that was done in Spring of 2024 and was taken away due to a bad hurricane season. So, in defense of Danny Kail with Kail Partners he thought back in March 2024 he was working on plans for over $1.2 million dollars. Shannon Williams stated that the plans were not 100% done till December 2025. So, she could not go out to bid without 100% plans. Shannon Williams has been working as a vendor for other Counties also. She made a bid for $1.7 million dollars for generators from a sole source that was awarded. Currently, she does not have a contract with the County.

Commissioner Kevin Parnell stated at this point, we cannot do anything with this Grant. Shannon Williams stated that maybe they could get 3 bids to get the asbestos and the lead removed from the building.

Commissioner, Kevin Parnell wanted to know why this Grant was the one that fell through. He asked the County Manager David Kraus if we had lost a Grant before. County Manager, David Kraus stated no we have not lost a Grant. Commissioner, Kevin Parnell wants to know out of all the Grants why this one.

County Manager, David Kraus stated that Representative in Tallahassee stated that we could reapply in April for around $1 million.

Shannon Williams stated that she had worked with former Commissioner, Ron Williams who did the first Grant in 2023 and the second Grant was done by Mario Coppock in 2023. The State signed it in December 2023.

Commissioner, Kevin Parnell stated that this is a Historic Grant for the Richardson Community that needs it. He requested to get this Grant done or we need to apply for another one, and to get it done today.

Commissioner, Rocky Ford was asking about the Grant Coordinator that was hired. County Manager, David Kraus, stated it is a position that was hired by the Clerk of Court.

County Manager Manger, David Kraus stated there was a lot of things that happened we went back and forth with the windows that Danny Kail with Kail Partners were not done Historic. All plans are now done ADA and 100% plans Historic done per Shannon Williams. and they are ready to re-apply in April

when the cycle opens for 60 days. If they score, the funds should be available by the end of the year.

County Attorney, Joel Foreman stated that the Board needs to adopt this extension.

Chairman, Timothy Murphy stated he wanted to make this clear, the problems with this Grant has nothing to do with the Clerk of Court office. Chairman, Timothy Murphy stated that he had sat in on monthly quarterly meetings, he had talked to Donny DuPree about this Grant, and he stated that it was noted there was no communication and the County Manager, David Kraus decided to sole source this Grant. Listening to Shannon Williams speak today that she did have communication with the County Manager and his office. This is his opinion.

MOTION by Chairman, Timothy Murphy to approve the extension and the modification of this Grant and filed to get the money that was expended and get the refund. SECOND by Commissioner, Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner, Robby Hollingsworth stated that he wants to get this done, this is near and dear to Commissioner, Kevin Parnell and the Richardson Community.

Finance Officer, Amy Overstreet stated that she had talked to Donny DuPree, and he stated that he has a bid to remove the asbestos and it is less that $35,000.00. She asked if they can they do that after the extension is done? Chairman Timothy Murphy stated yes as long it is done by June 31st, 2026.

Commissioner, Kevin Parnell stated to stay in clear communication and send out emails with him on the list. This effects the Community and they need to work together.

Commissioner, Rocky Ford stated that he thinks that the County should make all the decisions since the building is owned by the County.

Chairman, Timothy Murphy stated that we need to look at all the Grants and Management.

County Manager, David Kraus stated that all his employees are doing a good job. Many of his employees also do Grants, a select few grants have fallen through the cracks. Chad Williams also works Grants. The Board identified there was a problem and we are working on fixing it.

MOTION by Chairman, Timothy Murphy to re-address the Grant with the extension later. SECOND by Commissioner, Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

Open Public Comments to the Board:

Slyvester Warren made a comment.

Staff Comments:
County Attorney, Joel Foreman spoke about the Grant extension and making sure we recover the $60,000.00 that has already been spent. If you make a motion to reapply it will be for the Legislature 2027.

Commissioner, Rocky Ford stated that he did not think that the Board had made a motion to reapply. County Attorney, Joel Foreman asked if the Board wants to reapply for a new Grant for the next cycle in April. Commissioner, Rocky Ford stated that Shannon Williams stated that you could piggyback the next Grant in April 2026 when the cycle begins.

MOTION by Commissioner, Parnell to re-apply for the Historical Grant for Richardson in April 2026 when the cycle opens again. SECOND by Commissioner, Ford. The motion carried unanimously.

Updates from the County Manager: David Kraus

Corridor Study – County Manager, David Kraus stated he plans on going to the Planning and Zoning to discuss about doing an overlay study especially in the area from downtown to I-10.

Commissioner, Rocky spoke about there being a speeding problem in Columbia County. If we can slow people down without speed bumps, he is all for it. Commissioner, Robby Hollingsworth stated that people like the turnabouts.

Greg Bailey, North Florida Professional Services spoke about going back to your LDR and looking at the standards. There are DOT Standards for Subdivisions to move traffic. Do a traffic study and see what everybody is driving. Speed bumps not done correctly will affect the fire trucks and ambulances.

Assistant County Manager, Kevin Kirby, has stated to send an email addressing the subject to him.

Request for Potential Work Session

Commissioner, Rocky Ford, suggested the need to have a workshop to talk about where Columbia County is going. Chairman, Timothy Murphy stated that they need to sit down and make short term goals to get to the long-term goals.

Discussion ensued.

County Manager, David Kraus spoke about the proposed workshop and getting it set up. Commissioner, Rocky Ford spoke about impact fees. Chairman, Timothy Murphy stated let's get it set up and coordinate with Jennifer Daniels Economic executive director and get it scheduled.

Upcoming Commission Schedule

County Manager, David Kraus spoke about the Commissioner being very busy the next week.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner, Rocky Ford addressed the kennels, he wanted to talk about picking up dangerous dogs. County Attorney, Joel Foreman stated that they will pick up any dogs. If they cannot identify the owners, then they take them to the kennel. It is not a public facility nor is it not an adoption center. BOCC is Animal Control.

Assistant County Manager, Kevin Kirby stated that the Humane Society is no longer picking up animals, and he got an email stating they are no longer taking in animals at this time.

County Manager, David Kraus stated we do not do owner surrender. We do Public Safety and Enforcement Business for Animal Control.

Chairman, Timothy Murphy stated to have Public Information Officer, Dennis Rivera put that on the BOCC website.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner, Everett Phillips asked what about cats? Is there anyone that will pick up cats?

Commissioner, Rocky Ford stated there is a cat rescue in Fort White and a lady runs it. County Manager, David Kraus is trying to help her get a Grant.

<u>Open Public Comments to the Board</u>:

Jeff Todd made a comment about the impact fees.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 07:30 PM.

ATTEST:

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Timothy Murphy, Chairman
Board of County Commissioner

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James M. Swisher, Jr.
Clerk of Court & County Comptroller