



COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FORM

The Board of County Commissioners meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month in the Columbia County School Board Administrative Complex Auditorium, 372 West Duval Street, Lake City, Florida 32055. The first meeting of every month is at 9:30AM while the second meeting of every month takes place at 5:30PM. All agenda items are due in the Board's office one week prior to the meeting date.

Today's Date: 2/10/2025 Meeting Date: 2/20/2025

Department: BCC Administration

1. Nature and purpose of agenda item:

Meeting Minutes - 9/5/24 - Regular Meeting

2. Recommended Motion/Action:

Approve

3. Fiscal impact on current budget.

This item has no effect on the current budget.

Columbia County Board of County Commissioners

September 5th 2025 5:30 PM

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled meeting held in the auditorium of the School Board Administrative Complex. The meeting opened with invocation followed by Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Chairman, Ron Williams
Commissioner, Rocky Ford
Commissioner, Everett Phillips
Commissioner, Robby Hollingsworth
Commissioner, Tim Murphy

Others in Attendance:

David Kraus, County Manager (CM)
Kevin Kirby, Assistant County Manager (ACM)
Joel Foreman, County Attorney
Clerk of Court, Jay Swisher
Deputy Clerk, Amber Taylor

Agenda Additions & Deletions:

Additions

- 1.) Interlocal Agreement for secondary radio system with States Attorney Office of the Third Judicial Circuit.
- 2.) Interlocal Agreement for radio systems secondary agreement with Baker County

Deletions:

- 1.) Lake City Humane Society request for funding.
- 2.) Contract for Suwannee Valley Transit Authority
- 3.) Fundraising miscommunication.

Motion to approve agenda as presented by Commissioner Hollingsworth. **Seconded** by Commissioner Ford. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearings:

David Kraus, County Manager

1.) Carolyn Heights Street Lighting MSBU Resolution No. 2024R-35

Motion to approve Final Resolution No. 2024-36 by Commissioner Williams. **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

2.) Emerald Lakes Street Lighting MSBU Resolution Number 2024R-36

Motion by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve Final Resolution No. 2024R-36. **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

3.) Laurel Lakes Street Lighting MSBU Resolution No. 2024R-38

Motion by Commissioner Murphy to approve Final Resolution No. 2024R-38. **Seconded** by Commissioner Ford. Motion carried unanimously.

4.) Spring Hallow Lighting MSBU Resolution No. 2024R-37

Motion by Commissioner Williams to approve Final Resolution No. 2024R-37. **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

5.) Pine Ridge Local Improvement and Maintenance Assessments Resolution No. 2024R-34

Motion by Commissioner Ford to approve Final Resolution No. 2024R-34. **Seconded** by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried unanimously.

6.) Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Services Resolution No. 2024R-32

Motion by Commissioner Phillips, to approve Final Resolution No. 2024R-32. **Seconded** by Commissioner Ford. Motion carried unanimously.

7.) Fire Protection Services Resolution No. 2024R-33

Motion by Commissioner Murphy to approve Final Resolution No. 2024R-33. **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

8.) Adoption of Millage Rate 7.815 for the Fiscal Year 2024-25

Motion by Commissioner Murphy to approve adoption of Millage Rate for the 2024-25 Fiscal Year at the rate of 7.815. **Seconded** by Commissioner Ford. Motion carried unanimously.

9.) Adoption of Fiscal Year Annual Budget for 2024-25

Public Comment by Jeanne Van Arsdale with Gateway Art Gallery and Laura Null, pertaining to requesting funds for the art gallery.

Motion by Commissioner Ford to approve Annual year budget for 2024-25. **Seconded** by Commissioner Hollingsworth. Motion carried unanimously.

Brief discussion ensued.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented by Commissioner Ford. **Seconded** by Commissioner Hollingsworth. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adopt Consent Agenda as presented by Commissioner Ford. **Seconded** by Commissioner Hollingsworth. Motion carried unanimously.

Today's meeting is the first of the two required evening budget meetings. The next meeting will take place on September 19th 2024.

Mr. Kraus gave a brief overview of the projected budget.

Discussion & Action Items:

~~1.) Lake City Humane Society Request for Funding (This item was removed)~~

Joel Foreman, County Attorney

2.) Establishment of designated open public Camping or Sleeping Areas

A lengthy discussion was had pertaining to local campground regulations and restrictions. No action was taken on this issue.

3.) Purchase of Mitigation Credit –Victory Holdings, LLC

Discussion ensued.

Motion by Commissioner Hollingsworth to purchase Mitigation in the amount of \$105,000 to Victory Holdings, LLC. **Seconded** by Commissioner Ford. Motion carried unanimously. Motion carried unanimously.

Kevin Kirby, Assistant County Manager

~~4.) Co-ed Softball Tournament –American Prodigies Fundraiser (This item was removed)~~

5.) Acquisition of Property

Motion by Commissioner Ford to donate 5,371 square feet property, located at the corner of Bascom Norris to FDOT to accommodate drainage improvements. **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

6.) Ellisville Transportation RFQ Engineering Services-RFQ 2024-11

Motion by Commissioner Phillips to approve RFQ 2024-11. **Seconded** by Commissioner Hollingsworth. Motion carried unanimously.

7.) Road Work on County Road 240 – Anderson Columbia No. 2024-10

Motion by Commissioner Ford, to approve Bid # 2024-10 in the amount of \$293,521 to Anderson Columbia. **Seconded** by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried unanimously.

8.) Waste Tire Disposal Services- Immac Power Solutions No. 2024-J

Motion by Commissioner Phillips to approve Bid No. 2024-J for waste tire disposal service fees, in the amount of \$750 per load. **Seconded** by Commissioner Hollingsworth. Motion carried unanimously.

9.) Small County Consolidated Solid Waste Grant Agreement-FY24/25

Motion by Commissioner Ford to award bid No. 2024-1J to Anderson Columbia and approve service agreement. **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

10.) County Employee Vehicle Use Charge

A lengthy conversation took place regarding employee charges, occurred from using County owned vehicles.

Motion by Commissioner Hollingsworth to compensate employees to offset the vehicle use fee incurred, when they are required to take home a County owned vehicle, for on call purposes. **Seconded** by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried unanimously.

David Kraus, County Manager

11.) 2024 Price Index Adjustment for Lance Utilities – 2.77% increase

Lengthy conversation ensued.

Ms. Charyll Bradley gave comment in opposition of the rate increase for Lance Utilities. She is 10 year customer of Lance Utilities and informed the Commission of unfair and unethical business practices that Lance Water Utilities are invoking onto their customers.

Mr. Matthew Hare spoke to the Commission about water issues that citizens in Woodgate subdivision are facing with Lance Water Utilities.

Motion to deny price increase adjustment for Lance Utilities by Commissioner Ford. **Seconded** by Commissioner Hollingsworth. Motion carried unanimously.

Lengthy discussion concerning Lance Water Utilities.

Mrs. Brenda Coker, a citizen of Woodgate Subdivision, and customer of Lance Utilities gave further examples of unethical business practices by Lance Water Utilities.

Motion by Commissioner Ford to grant permission for Columbia County Attorney, Joel Foreman to assist the citizens operating under Lance Water Utilities, in the filing process of a petition to PSC under chapter 367, for revocation of the Certificate of Authority and to allow Mr. Foreman to find alternative utility options for these citizens. **Seconded** by Commissioner Hollingsworth. Motion carried unanimously.

12.) New Gulf & Atlantic Rail Development Agreement

Motion by Commissioner Phillips to approve New Gulf & Atlantic Rail Development Agreement. **Seconded** by Commissioner Ford. Motion carried unanimously.

13.)AgroLiquid Economic Development Agreement

Motion by Commissioner Rocky Ford to approve the Economic Development Agreement with AgroLiquid up to \$400,000. **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

14.)Utility Extension Agreement- Grady H. Williams, Jr, LLM

Mr. Lilker questioned commission as to contract with Grady Williams, serving as attorney for Utility Authority. Mr. Lilker is concerned there could be a conflict for Attorney Williams in this instance.

Motion by Commissioner Ford to approve Utility Extension Agreement and extension of contract for one year. **Seconded** by Commissioner Murphy, Motion carried unanimously.

15.)Powell & Jones- Contract for Audit services

Motion by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve contract for audit services to include liquidated damages, by Powell & Jones. **Seconded** by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried unanimously.

16.)Sweetwater Housing Project-Hurricane Housing Recovery Program

Motion by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve use of Hurricane Housing Recovery Program grant funds for Sweetwater Housing Project. **Seconded** by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried unanimously.

17.) State Aid to Libraries Application 2024-25

Motion to approve 2024-25 State Aid to Libraries Application and certification by Commissioner Ford. **Seconded** by Commissioner Philips. Motion carried unanimously.

18.)State Emergency Communications Board Rural Grant

Motion to approve application for State Emergency Communications Board Rural Grant for the 2024-25 year. **Seconded** by Commissioner Ford. Motion carried unanimously.

19.)Resolution No. 2024-R39 Resending a State of Emergency for Hurricane Debbie

Motion to approve resolution No. 2024-R39 resending State of Emergency issued during Hurricane Debbie. **Seconded** by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried unanimously.

~~20) Suwannee Valley Contracts (This item was a deleted.)~~

21) Updated Position Descriptions- Assistant Director of Libraries, Building Inspector and Certified Water/Wastewater Technician

Motion by Commissioner Hollingsworth to adopt new language on position title changes. **Seconded** by Commissioner Ford. Motion carried unanimously.

22) Interlocal Agreement for radio system with 3rd Judicial Districts office

Motion by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve Interlocal Agreement with 3rd Judicial District office. **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

23) Interlocal Agreement for radio system with Baker County Sheriff's Office.

Motion by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve Interlocal Agreement with Baker County Sheriff's Office. **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Public Comment:

Mr. Ron W. Williams, II addressed the Commission on behalf of Sweetwater project funding.

Mr. Lilker spoke on Attorney Grady Williams, and his lack of Utility experience. Mr. Lilker informed the Commission of a robbery that took place on his property, where \$30,000 worth of items were stolen. He also informed the Commission about seeing white county trucks with logo, in the area of his property where he was recently bitten by Brown Recluse Spiders. Mr. Lilker stated that "Hope you all had nothing to do with that."

Mr. Matthew Hare Thanked the commission for their help in the Woodgate Subdivision.

Staff Comments:

Mr. Foreman offered sympathy to Mr. Lilker for his recent spider encounter.

Mr. Kirby informed the Commission that organic debris pickup from recent storm, by the weekend

Updates from County Manager:

None

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Ford, gave update on activity on local springs on the recent Holiday Weekend.

Chairman, Williams gave update on the North Florida Water Utilities.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:22PM.

ATTEST:

Chairman, Ron Williams
Columbia County Commissioner

James M. Swisher, Jr
Clerk of Circuit & Comptroller