

Board of County Commissioners

Minutes of

**January 02, 2003**

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the School Board Administration Office. Commissioner Montgomery opened with prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America followed.

Commissioners in Attendance: Ronald Williams, James Montgomery, Dewey Weaver, George Skinner, and Jennifer Flinn.

Others Present: County Coordinator Dale Williams, County Attorney Marlin Feagle, Assistant County Coordinator Lisa Roberts, and Deputy Clerk Sandy A. Markham.

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On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, Chairman Williams wished everyone a happy and prosperous new year.

I. Ms. **Janice Summers** asked the Board to expand their financial support for youth beyond the football, baseball and soccer fields. The Commission was asked to consider a **land donation** of 15-20 acres for establishing a **horse-riding arena**. Currently, according to Ms. Summers, anyone participating in a riding club now has to travel to Trenton, Branford, Live Oak, or Lake Butler. She told the Board our county is full of young ropers and barrel racers, and that the creation of this type facility would boost the local economy. She explained one large event will result in all hotels being sold out. Ms. Summers concluded by reporting that from personal experience, she is certain that a youth's involvement with horses will assist in keeping them out of trouble.

Ms. Summers told the Board that she assisted with building the **arena at the fairgrounds**. She said it was originally her understanding that that arena was to be the Columbia County **Riding Club Arena**. She expressed concern that sharing or joint use of the fairground arena that is used for a mud bogging may result in high dollar horses (ranging from \$30,000 to \$50,000) being maimed. Therefore, a professional arena that is perfectly maintained at all times is needed. Commissioner Williams recalled that within the past couple of years there was an interest in this type of arena, and that a request was made to the City to donate a piece of land for this purpose. Mr. Dale Williams said as far as he knows, there was never a response to the request, which was submitted by Ms. Janice Summers, to the joint City/County Recreation Committee.

Commissioner Weaver wondered if it would be possible to coordinate the riding clubs' events and cleanups with other events going on at the fair ground. He pointed out there are professional rodeos held at that facility with high dollar

horses. Mrs. Summers responded by saying she has tried, but can't get an answer from anyone, and can't get anyone to work with her on the predicament.

Mr. Vern Hunsinger reiterated that team roping is a large moneymaker. He assured the Board that people will travel long distance to participate.

The Board agreed to discuss the matter with the City at their next joint meeting.

II. At Superintendent Michael Flanagan's request, the Board considered the **Dori Slosberg Driver Education Safety Act**, and the possible adoption of a \$3 **surcharge** ordinance. Mr. Marlin Feagle explained that in 2002, the Florida Legislature passed the Act, allowing County Commissioners in each county to add the \$3 surcharge to **civil traffic violations** for the purpose of generating money to enhance the driver education programs within the school systems. Twenty three counties in Florida have already approved the ordinance adopting the surcharge since October 1, 2002.

Currently one may be charged with up to seventeen (17) items on a traffic ticket, depending on their violation. The overwhelming majority of fees collected on a traffic ticket is done per the Florida Statutes and are mandated to the State of Florida. Columbia County's fee's are one of the lowest ranking compared to the surrounding counties.

The public hearing opened and closed without opposition.

Motion by Commissioner Montgomery to approve the ordinance. Second by Commissioner Weaver. The motion carried unanimously.

**See attached Ordinance.**

### III. Consent Agenda

1. Invoice North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Completion of Annual Verification of Hazardous Waste Management practices Agreement October 25, 2001 October 07, 2002 \$9,731.00

2. Invoice Florida Association of Counties Trust \$1,680.00

3. Invoice CSX Transportation Signal maintenance at **CR 135** \$935.00

4. Invoice CSX Transportation Signal maintenance at **Rhoden Road** \$935.00

5. **Public Library** Agreement between the Public Library and Columbia Literacy Council Contribution of \$4,000. [REDACTED].

6. 911 Addressing Naming of found unnamed roads **NW Romeo Court, NW Juliet Court, and SW Heartsong Court.**

7. **Solid Waste** Renewal Agreement with **Barnett Transportation**  
Transportation of Leachate Bid No. 2001 S. [REDACTED].

8. **Courthouse renovation** Contractors pay request summary Phase I,  
IIA, and IIB \$186,534.06.

9. Invoice Harlis R. Ellington Construction, Inc. **Birley Road**  
\$52,279.08.

10. Invoice **Adopt-A-River Marine Debris Litter Grant**  
Reimbursement request \$1,189.29.

11. **Indigent Burial** Sherrill Guerry Funeral Home **LaMarr McCall**  
**Dell, Sr.**, Deceased \$500.

12. Department of Community Affairs Small Cities **Community**  
**Development Block Grant** El Nino Disaster Program Modification of  
terminating date to grant agreement.

13. 911 Emergency Operations Center Columbia High School **Criminal**  
**Justice Intern Program** Student Experience Permit.

14. 911 addressing naming of found unnamed roads:

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|----------------------|--------------------|
| a) SW Blackbird Lane | b) SW Crow Terrace |
| c) SW Heron Drive    | d) SW Magpie Court |
| e) SW Osprey Terrace | f) SW Pigeon Court |
| g) SW Robin Lane     |                    |

15. Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. State Housing Initiatives  
Partnership **SHIP**) Program Release of Lien Agreement **Mr. & Mrs. James**  
**Wells** \$5,000.

16. 911 Department Transfer of distance measuring Instrument to Public  
Works Department County ID #09783.

17. **Minutes approval** BCC special meeting of March 25, 2002.

18. **Minute approval** BCC regular meeting of December 05, 2002.

Motion by Commissioner Weaver to approve the consent agenda.  
Second by Commissioner Montgomery.

There were no calls for clarification and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. As was discussed in the previous meeting, the County has received bids for the **re-financing** of the **1993 gas tax bond issue**. Four quotes were received. The highest quote was 4.25%, and the lowest quote was from **First Federal Savings Bank**, a local lender at 2.69%. Staff recommended approval to proceed with the 1993 gas tax bond issue refinancing at the rate of 2.69%. Payments will be made quarterly. Over the remaining life of that issue, the County will save approximately \$325,000 in interest. Coupled with what the county saved by refinancing the courthouse debt, the total estimated savings will be approximately \$750,000.

Motion by Commissioner Weaver to approve. Second by Commissioner by Commissioner Flinn. The motion carried unanimously.

V. Building and Zoning

*Preliminary Plat*

SD0121 - **Star Lake Estates** in District III. The developer is John Scott. There are thirty lots. The property is located on Trotter Avenue, f/k/a Brown Road.

Motion by Commissioner Skinner to approve. Second by Commissioner Weaver. The motion carried unanimously.

*Final Plat*

SD0103 - **Turkey Run** in District III. The developer is Everett Phillips. There are forty-nine lots. The property is located on CR 252B, just a mile South of Pinemount Road and U.S. Hwy. 90.

Motion by Commissioner Skinner to approve. Second by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. Mr. Marlin Feagle requested the Board give approval to seek an Attorney General Opinion regarding a **Value Adjustment Board** issue. He told the Board that Petitioner **Earl Thompkins** filed a late petition, and it wasn't considered based upon that reason. He told the Board that almost yearly there is a problem with someone who will file late, and consequently does not have their petition heard. He said the Board has always been consistent in how they handle the issue. However, Mr. Thompkins being unsatisfied with the decision has asked that an Attorney General Opinion be sought regarding the matter to address future late filings.

Motion by Commissioner Weaver to approve the request. Second by Commissioner Flinn. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. Commissioner Weaver and Montgomery having reviewed seven applications to fill the **Planning and Zoning Board vacancies** recommended the following candidates for Board approval: **Robert Matsorand Steven Bailey**.

Motion by Commissioner Montgomery to approve. Second by Commissioner Weaver. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board asked staff to prepare a quarterly report on Planning and Zoning Board attendance.

VIII. Mr. **Vern Hunsinger** explained that a person (Robert Flint) set a fire on property adjoining his own, and the only way the Division of Forestry was able to fight the fire was to utilize a private drive owned by himself and several other property owners. He reported that they were happy to help, but their kindness has now left them with a seriously damaged road from the large trucks. He asked the Board's assistance with repairs. The Board felt that Mr. Hunsinger should make his request to the State since their trucks caused the damage. Mr. Marlin Feagle agreed to do research to determine if there were other options available for Mr. Hunsinger.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

ATTEST:

Ronald Williams,  
Board of County Commissioners

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Chairman

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P. DeWitt Cason  
Clerk of Circuit Court