

Columbia County
Board of County Commissioners

DATE: June 07, 2007
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
LOCATION: School Board Administration Building
TYPE: Regularly Scheduled Meeting

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In Attendance:

Commissioner Ronald Williams	Dist. 1	Commissioner Stephen Bailey	Dist. 4
Commissioner Dewey Weaver	Dist. 2	Commissioner George Skinner	Dist. 3

Absent:

Commissioner Elizabeth Porter Dist. 5

Others in Attendance:

County Manager Dale Williams	County Attorney Marlin Feagle
Deputy Clerk Sandy Markham	Administrative Secretary Penny Stanley

Commissioner Weaver acted as Chair and asked that everyone not on the agenda limit their discussion to five minutes. Commissioner Bailey opened with prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America followed.

BUILDING and ZONING

Public Hearing - Final Plat Approval

(1) Wester Wood, Unit 2 - Commissioner Porter

County Manager Williams recommended approval subject to approval of County Engineer John Colson.

MOTION to approve by Commissioner Williams. Second to approve by Commissioner Skinner. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING:

(1) Utility Easement Closure - Fairway View, Unit 1, Owner Nick Patel

The public hearing opened and closed without input.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve. Second by Commissioner Skinner. The motion carried unanimously. Resolution No. 2007R-17 Attached.

Water System – Lenvil Dicks

Mr. Lenvil Dicks advised that he has signed a contract to sell four major water systems to the City of Lake City and he believes the City is better able to serve his current customer base than he. The reasons offered were because the City has an inexhaustible supply of water at the new well-field and his water supply is limited. Also, the City will treat the water supplied to the customers by ozinating instead of the current method of gaseous chlorine, which is a toxic substance. For this transaction to be possible, the City needs the County’s assurance that they will be able use the county’s right-of-way to reach the systems they are purchasing from Mr. Dicks. Mr. Dicks asked that the commissioner consent to the sell, approve the proposed resolution, and also give the City permission to utilize public county right-of-way to connect the City’s lines into Mr. Dicks’ water systems. Finally, he explained that prior to planning and zoning

laws, he installed several water mains on road right of ways without any type of permission. He asked the Board to acknowledge and ratify the location of those lines already in existence.

[Clerk's Note: The exact locations were not provided by Mr. Dicks.]

Commissioner Williams stated for the record that should the resolution pass, it will grant the City the right of way for the purpose of tying into the system, and will not allow use of the right-of-way for line expansion.

The County Manager said that he concurs with the request. County Attorney Feagle advised the request and resolution meet legal approval. The caption of the resolution was read. Resolution Attached.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

- (1) Invoice – Hall's Pump & Well Service, Inc. – Ellisville Utility Project - \$7,946.00
- (2) Invoice – GTC Design Group, LLC – Target Site - \$14,395.00
- (3) Invoice – Darabi and Associates, Inc. – Consulting Engineering Services (Closed Landfill Inspection) - \$1,333.79
- (4) Invoice – Darabi and Associates, Inc. – Winfield Groundwater Monitoring - \$5,170.37
- (5) Invoice – Darabi and Associates, Inc. – Winfield Permit Renewal – \$3,882.78
- (6) Bid Award – Renovation of Springville Community Center – Bid No. 2007-C – J.L. Dupree Construction - \$176,363.00
- (7) 9-1-1 Addressing – Naming of Unnamed Road – NW Ridge Glen
- (8) Solid Waste – Consolidated Waste Management Grant Application (Small County Grant FY 07-08) - \$277,316.00
- (9) Agreement – Columbia County/North Central Florida Regional Planning Council – Annual Hazardous Waste Management – \$9,731. Agreement Attached.
- (10) Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. – (S.H.I.P.) – Release of Lien Agreement – Joel and Marilyn Vazquez - \$8,000.00 Agreement Attached.
- (11) Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. – (S.H.I.P.) – Release of Lien Agreement – Andrew and Kathryn McKinney - \$5,000.00 Agreement Attached.
- (12) Proclamation – Florida Water & Pollution Control Operators Association – Recognizing “Florida Water Professionals Week” August 6-10-2007
- (13) Emergency Management – Funding Approval – Federal Fiscal Year 2007 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) – Sub-Grant Funding from Florida Division of Emergency Management – \$11,000.00
- (14) Invoice - Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. - *Covey Court* \$212.00
- (15) Invoice - Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. - *Lear Court* - \$260.00
- (16) Invoice - Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. - *Real Road & Mary Ethel Road* - \$916.00
- (17) Invoice - Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. - *Engineering Services* - \$7,560.00
- (18) Invoice - Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. - *Bascom Norris Drive* - \$112,333.50
- (19) Invoice - Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. – Administrative Services for S.H.I.P. Program - April 1, 2007 through June 30, 2007 - \$7,189.75
- (20) Invoice - Government Services Group, Inc. - (G.S.G.) - Impact Fee Study - (Transportation) - \$19,900.00
- (21) Invoice - Government Services Group, Inc. - (G.S.G.) - Impact Fee Study - (Corrections Facilities) - \$5,000.00
- (22) Budget Amendment - General Fund - BA #06-19 - Access Control System (Courthouse and Tax Collector) - \$43, 127.00

- (23) Sheriffs Office - Release of Funds - Contraband Forfeiture Trust Funds - Local Advertising Public Assistance in Reporting Drug Activity in the Community - \$3,424.68
- (24) Bid Award - L & L Construction - Falling *Creek* Fall Project – Bid No. 2007-I - \$27,550.00
- (25) Bid Award - Rickey Smith - Maintenance of O'Leno to Itchetucknee Trail - Bid No. 2007-M - \$21,330.00
- (26) Human Resources - Revised Position Description - Landscape & Parks Department - Landscape & Parks Department Director, *Crew* Leader, Maintenance Technician, Maintenance Worker 1
- (27) Human Resources - Revised Position Description/Pay Grade Building Official 1 - 1 & 2 Family Dwelling Inspector
- (28) Sheriffs Office - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program FY 2007 Local Solicitation
- (29) Utility Permit - City of Lake City - NW Turner Road to NW Ash Road
- (30) Utility Permit - Bell South Telecommunications - *County* Road 242
- (31) Public Works - Removal of (4) Large Oak Trees on County right-of-way - SE Hedge Place
- (32) American Century Funds - American *Century* Growth Fund Nationwide Life Insurance Company - Voting Proxy
- (33) American *Century* Funds - American *Century* Ultra Fund Nationwide Life Insurance Company - Voting Proxy
- (34) Facilities Maintenance Director - Property Damage - Tim Harley Moving Equipment - 50% Price of New Beams - \$1,620.48

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve. Second by Commissioner Skinner.

There was a public call for clarification on items #22, #29, and #34. The County Manager assisted with clarification.

The motion carried unanimously.

Occupational License (County Business Taxes)

There is a case in the 17th Judicial Circuit in Broward County where a consortium of pawn brokers sued the City of Deerfield Beach regarding the amount of money they charge for county business license. In considering this case, Attorney Feagle is reviewing the ordinance that addresses county business taxes to ensure the fees are fair and equitable.

Ring Power/Equipment Purchases – Continuation from 5/17/07 Board Meeting

The needed equipment purchase would be paid from through the Transportation Trust Fund. Because of the property tax reform issue, the County needs to ensure it does not obligate itself legally to a future payment. Public works currently has \$193,956.00 available for equipment purchases. Ring Power has a program for leasing. There is a non-appropriation exemption within the lease that would allow the county to return the equipment (loader, dozer, mixer), without it affecting credit scores, if it is unable to pay next year's lease payment. This is being offered over a 5 year period on three pieces of equipment, with a 7 percent interest rate. There is also a guaranteed buy-back on all three pieces of equipment. All three pieces are priced on the basis of state contract, making no issue with the lease price of \$109,251.93 per year, which is within the balance of Equipment Purchases. This making no negative impact on the budget, Staff recommended approval of the lease.

This will leave a balance of \$74,704.07. The cost of the three dump trucks is \$341,512.95. The trade in of the three trucks will generate \$88,000, leaving the county with a shortfall of approximately \$179,000. Staff sought the Board's directive.

MOTION by Commissioner Bailey to approve lease for loader, dozer and mixer. Second by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried unanimously. Lease Attached.

The Board agreed to wait on the dump trucks.

Burn Ban - Ordinance 2007-16

Mr. Keith Osteen with the Division of Forestry addressed the burn ban. Both the state and county burn bans are still in place. The County has received recent rainfalls and weather conditions look favorable for more rain. There is a good possibility the state will amend their burn ban Saturday morning.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to waive the normal 10 day notice requirement and to temporarily lift the burn ban in Columbia County. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously. Ordinance Attached.

Light Detection and Ranging ("LIDAR")

This is aerial photography that when complete provides a panel that shows features on the surface of land, including natural features such as rivers, highways, railroads, etc. The Suwannee River Water Management discussed with County Staff the possibility of Columbia County contributing to the cost of mapping the county with LIDAR. The cost for one panel is (one square mile) is \$1,200. The total cost for the county (excluding the City of Lake City and the Town of Fort White) is \$184,400. The County's portion will be to pay for the cost of the mapping through the stormwater mitigation fund (50% county - 50% SRWMD). The Board was asked to consider participation subject to SRWMD's agreement with the proposed method of payment. County Manager Williams said the engineering community feels this would be very beneficial from a county planning aspect. It was also noted that this information would also be very useful to the engineering firms that will be doing the individual basin assessments. The overlays are also being requested.

MOTION to approve LIDAR mapping subject to the SRWMD's concurrence that it be paid from the stormwater mitigation monies. Second by Commissioner Skinner. The motion carried unanimously.

Office Purchase

Staff requested permission to purchase, move and setup a refurbished portable (10x36) office now located in Jacksonville. The office will be setup at the Winfield Solid Waste Facility and used by Code Enforcement. The cost is \$17,000 and will come from the New Jail Reserve Account.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.

Special Projects – District 1

Permission to allocate \$2,300 to the Columbia County Fire Auxiliary to be used as a fund raiser. Proceeds will be used to benefit the County Fire Department. [The name of the fundraiser was not provided]

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.

Spruce Road

Permission was sought to grade Spruce Road, a private road used in support of the Bugaboo Fire efforts.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve. Second by Commissioner Skinner. The motion carried unanimously.

HOWELL ROAD INTERSECTION

Permission was sought to enter private property in order to remove vegetation on a very sharp curve in order to secure a proper line of sight.

MOTION by Commissioner Bailey to approve. Second by Commissioner Skinner. The motion carried unanimously.

Governor's Office

Commissioner Williams expressed appreciation that the Governor's office has stayed in contact with Columbia County during the Bugaboo Fire crisis. He said that he has put the Governor's office on notice that Columbia County will be seeking reimbursement for overtime hours paid to firefighters and deputies. The Commissioner has also spoken with that office encouraging them to provide relief for private property owners who lost timber.

Public Input

Citizen Russ Osburg, a member of Our Santa Fe Organization spoke. He said their concern relates to water bottling plants along the Santa Fe River. Currently, there is one bottling plant owned by Coca Cola in Gilchrist County. There are four other permits being sought; two of the permits being for Columbia County. One permit by Santa Fe LLC to locate south of Fort White, and the other at July Springs is currently on hold due to a legal conflict. The concern is that if all of these companies are allowed to extract water from the aquifer in that area, it will result in a loss of over one million gallons per year. Mr. Osburg noted the aquifer is now approximately 4 feet low and the river is 3 feet low. He asked the Board to consider wells in the area as well as the plants, animals, recreation, tourism, sinkholes, and the traffic increase the plants would cause.

The Commission stated they share the same concerns. The Board is aware applications have been filed with SRWMD, but currently there have been no applications for permits made in Columbia County. Commissioner Weaver said that in the past, it has been the policy of the Board of County Commissioners to make every effort to keep its water from being shipped out, but until an application is made to the Board there is nothing the commissioners can do.

Citizen Stewart Lilker suggested the Board send a letter stating its position regarding the bottling plants to Gilchrist County and to the Legislature.

Mr. Lilker asked when the Board discussed filling the Planning and Zoning Board vacancy and when the vacancy was advertised. County Manager Williams said that he would find out if the position had been advertised and let Mr. Lilker know. Mr. Lilker suggested there be a written procedure for soliciting applicants and for appointing members to the Planning and Zoning Board and other like Boards. Commissioner Williams added that approximately a year ago the County ran an advertisement seeking the names of citizens interested in serving on committees. From that, the county put together a pool of pre-qualified names and filed them for future use. The County Manager concurred and added that when a person walks into the office and expresses an interest, their application is accepted and is also placed in the file. Mr. Lilker

asked that the record reflect his recollection that when he asked about this matter at the May 17th Board of County Commissioner's meeting, he was told that only one person applied for the vacancy and that the pool of names on file was not considered.

Regarding the water pipeline on Turner Road. Mr. Lilker said it was his understanding that approximately 37 people applied for city water in the Turner Road area over a year ago. He stated that according to the County's LDRs when a publicly owned water supply is available within a reasonable distance citizens have the right to hook on. Now that the City is running a water pipeline down Turner Road in order to get to Mr. Dicks' water plant, those nearby residents should be allowed to hook onto the City's water. He asked if the County would object to the hook on and if the county eventually intends to run their water pipe line parallel to the City's lines. The County Manager responded the County does not believe the law gives the City the absolute right to serve those customers in the unincorporated areas, and if there is a pocket of people in need of a better quality of water the County would not want to stand in the way of them receiving it if they can be best served by the City. If they cannot be best served, the County has other options in which to try to provide the service. The Turner Road area has been declared as a county service area. Mr. Lilker asked whether or not the LDR that addressing publicly owned water supply counts. The Chair told Mr. Lilker the County Manager would respond to his question in writing.

Citizen Thomas P. Browning read a letter expressing his irritation that his 90 year old mother was shaken and disturbed after receiving a late night, computerized call relating to the Bugaboo Fire, which ordered her to evacuate her home. He explained that he also received the same call and that neither he nor his mother live in the areas referenced on the recording. Mr. Browning said unrelated to the call, he is not happy with the 911's Dispatch Services he has received over the past two years when his mother needed assistance. He said the technology was insufficient to get rescue to her home without assistance.

Citizen Marilee Malwitz-Jipson is a member of the Santa Fe River Group expressed that she also opposes the bottling water.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

Board of County Commissioners

P. DeWitt Cason
Clerk of Circuit Court