

COLUMBIA COUNTY
BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of
April 01, 2010

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled meeting at the School Board Administration Office. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Ronald Williams (Chairman)
Stephen Bailey
Dewey Weaver
Jody Dupree
Scarlet Frisina

Others in Attendance:

Asst. County Manager Lisa Roberts
Attorney Marlin Feagle
Deputy Clerk Sandy Markham
BCC Secretary Penny Stanley

Public Comments:

Citizen Stewart Lilker voiced opposition to the County revising the **bid process** in the **Purchasing Policy and Procedures Manual**. He said this made no sense and would only cost the taxpayers more money in difficult economic times. He asked that this not be passed.

Mr. Lilker said that he read an article in the Lake City Reporter earlier in the day that read the County Manager is planning to disregard parts of the **mandatory hookup** for **Ellisville**. Mr. Lilker asked that this be explained in more detail since treating one group of citizens differently from another group will only set the County up for lawsuits. He noted that the City does not have mandatory hookup unless the residence has reuse water.

Mr. Lilker addressed the agenda item “**Bascom Norris Connector Road**.” Mr. Lilker asked why an expensive land purchase with an appraisal date of February 12, 2010, was not placed on the agenda before the day of the meeting. Mr. Lilker said regarding the land owners of this property, this is the “Same folks that can’t pay their taxes on the **Blanche Hotel**, by the way.” Mr. Lilker said there is an appraisal for \$696,000 and also an appraisal that is approximately \$50,000 less. Yet, “the group” is only willing to accept \$50,000 “more” than the highest appraisal. Mr. Lilker said times are tough and the County should not pay anything in excess of the appraisal.

Citizen Barbara Lemley said regarding the “**Bascom Norris Connector Road**.” land purchase, that it made no sense to even consider paying more than the appraisal amount. She suggested a compromise would be to split the difference between the two appraisals. She recalled the County paid more than the appraised value on the property purchased on Birley Road for a **community center**. She said if the Board decides to pay top dollar that they should ask the property owners to throw in extra property for a park. She said the person negotiating and bargaining for the County needs to “tighten up.”

Pop Warner Association

Reverend Alvin Baker who serves as the President on the advisory council for the Richardson Community Center/Annie Maddox North Park gave a power point presentation on **football** and **cheerleading** opportunities made available to the youth through **Pop Warner**. A request was made of the Board to financially assist this program in the amount of \$5,000 using year-end closeout monies. Mr. Mike Farrell said that as long as the children meet academic standards, they will be allowed to play. The fee to play last year was \$60 per child. That included insurance, helmet, and uniform for the child. That fee did not cover the cost of equipment, referees, etc. Chairman Williams said that the County would consider their request for year-end funding along with the many other requests received. He encouraged the organization to make a formal request for funding during the budget process next year.

Supervisor of Elections' Space Need Analysis

As requested, Commissioner Weaver worked with the **Supervisor of Elections** and Architects Craig Salley & Associates on generating the additional **square footage needed** for the Supervisor of Elections' Office to operate within the law to comply with early voting requirements. Mr. Weaver reviewed the proposed plan and recommended the County pay the nonrecurring cost to create the needed space, which totals \$44,972.65. See the documents attached to the original minutes for plan details.

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

Regional Utilities Meeting Report

At the February 23, 2010, Joint City/County meeting a committee was appointed to determine whether a **regional utility** would be possible; something that has never been officially determined. The appointments of the City and County met. Commissioner Dupree said that the County was hopeful that the City would be interested in participating in a feasibility study to determine a **governmental water rate**, and study to determine what direction should be taken in order to create a regional utility. Commissioner Dupree said in short that the City expressed no interest in participating in the cost of the study themselves. However, if the County wanted to move forward with the study at the county's expense, once complete, the City would then consider the outcome of the study.

Commissioner Dupree asked if the Board wanted to pay for the **feasibility studies**, understanding in advance that this may do nothing to move the City and the County any closer to a Regional Utility. Before making a final decision, Commissioner Dupree suggested that a RFP be drafted to determine what the study would actually cost the County.

MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to have staff prepare an RFP for the purpose of determining what it would cost to do an intergovernmental rate study. Second by Commissioner Dupree. The motion carried unanimously.

EMS Committee Report

At the February 23, 2010, Joint City/County meeting a committee was appointed to try to reach a consensus on issues pertaining to **EMS services**. Commissioner Dupree reported City Manager Johnson obviously went to a lot of effort to draft an RFP. Commissioner Dupree said that the County representatives had issues with two of the tasks in the RFP. One of the tasks was to determine what it would cost to **privatize EMS services** in the City, and it was assumed in the County as well. It was agreed that this task would be pulled and the City would pay for this task as a separate issue.

The second task presenting an issue was with funding sources to pay for EMS. He said the RFP took a different direction than what was anticipated by some. He said that he and others understood the RFP's purpose would be to help determine exactly what dollar amount the City owed the County for services, not "if" the City owed the County for the services.

Commissioner Dupree said that considering the way the RFP was written, there was no way for the consultant to subjectively determine whether the City owed the County money or not, based on the information provided.

Commissioner Dupree said that Attorney Peele and City Manager Johnson voted in favor of the proposed RFP, and that he, along with the County Manager, Citizen Donald Hall and Citizen Mike Lee voted in opposition.

Commissioner Dupree said the County Manager had revamped the City Managers RFP. The City Manager then decided he would not support changing the RFP. Instead City Manager Johnson advised that he would present the City Council with his RFP and request that the Council move forward with the RFP and pay for the entire cost of the study being born by the City.

Commissioner Dupree said that in the end, the committee was not able to reach a consensus.

Commissioner Dupree asked that a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr. Hall for serving on the committee for the county.

Commissioner Weaver said that he told County Manager Williams in advance of the committee meeting that it appeared that a conclusion had already been made, and that the RFP was written to support that conclusion.

Commissioner Bailey agreed with Commissioner Dupree and said that from the time he came onto the Board that EMS was a hot topic. He said that he was hopeful that a resolution would be reached with the City regarding EMS, but he could not support the County paying for a study that would tell the City how they should be charged for EMS, or how the County should fund EMS out of their budgets. Commissioner Bailey said that it appears the County is headed back down the same path once again and that for him, this is "yet another nail in the coffin." He recalled that the County has offered to let the City go into the EMS business if they so choose and to give them the **COCPN** that they need.

Commissioner Williams said he was ready for the City to go into their own business. He said that he is tired of fighting this battle. He suggested the City go into the EMS business if they

can operate their EMS services cheaper. He suggested a letter be written advising the City that they will need to operate their own rescue services.

Commissioner Dupree said that EMS is responding to approximately 11,000 calls per year. He said that the \$250,000 discussed was not as much about reimbursement as it was about being able to have more EMS services to respond to the large volume of calls for emergency assistance. He said that it is his understanding that **privatization** is not a direction the Board of County Commissioners intends to take.

Commissioner Bailey said that he would not support privatization because the County loses their control factors pertaining to response times and more. He said EMS should remain under the control of the Board. Commissioner Williams agreed with Commissioner Bailey.

Commissioner Dupree said that he hates to take the matter off of the table until he is certain of the action the City has taken on the City Manager's RFP. He said if the Council approved the City Manager's RFP, then he feels it is time to notify the City that it's time for them to get into the EMS business.

The Chair said that a decision would be made on the matter at the second Board meeting next month.

Commissioner Bailey asked if possible for staff draft a letter Monday morning to each of the City Council members advising of the County's position. Staff agreed.

Consent Agenda

- (1) External Budget **Amendment – Sheriff's Office - #5 – BA #09-13 - Operating Expenses \$18,095.00**
- (2) External **Budget Amendment – Sheriff's Office - #6 – BA #09-14 – Subsistence Costs Generated at the Detention Facility – \$2,185.42**
- (3) **Pipeline Contractors, Inc. – Change Order #1 – Ellisville Water System Improvements – 1-75 North Water Main Installation – \$51,449.30 (deductive)**
- (4) GWP, Inc. – Change Order #2 – **Ellisville Water System Improvements - Expansion to US 441 – \$30,071.40**
- (5) Columbia County 911 Emergency Communication Center – Requesting to fill **Dispatch Position Vacancy**
- (6) Public Library – Requesting to fill **Library Branch Manager III Vacancy**
- (7) Solid Waste – Requesting to fill **Equipment Operator II Vacancy**
- (8) Amended **Agreement - Columbia County Health Department/Columbia County Board of County Commissioners – FY 2009-2010.**
- (9) Purchasing – One Year Extension – Care Environmental Group – **Collection and Disposal of Household Hazardous Waste – contract renewal.**

- (10) Purchasing – Approval of a **Quote from Ring Power – Landfill Compactor** – Piggybacking off New River Solid Waste Association Bid No. 08-01 - \$563,173.00
- (11) County Planner – Request for Subdivision Preliminary Plat Approval Extensions – **SD 0222 – Cypress Lake Business Park** – March 19, 2011, SD 0234 – Windswept Industrial Subdivision, Unit 3 – July 19, 2011, PRD – Price Creek – April 19, 2011 – PRD – Price Creek, Unit 2 – April 19, 2011
- (12) **Florida Highway Patrol** – Seven (7) Kustom Golden Eagle **Radars** – **Request to Transfer** from Florida Highway Patrol to Sheriff's Office
- (13) **Resolution – Florida Association of Counties Trust** – Expanding Capabilities of the **Insurance Trust** to Provide Additional Lines of Coverage for Member Counties
- (14) **Agreement – Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.** / Columbia County Board of County Commissioners – **Encroachment – Ellisville Fire Station**
- (15) **Agreement – Scaff's, Inc.** / Columbia County Board of County Commissioners – **Ellisville Utilities – Share Costs & Expenses for the Operation**, Improvement & Maintenance of Easements & Piping System
- (16) **Agreement – Florida Department of Transportation -Traffic Signal Maintenance and Compensation Agreement** – Amendment #1
- (17) **Minute Approval** – Board of County Commissioners/Industrial Development Authority – Joint Workshop – February 11, 2010
- (18) **Minute Approval** – Board of County Commissioners – Scheduled Meeting – March 2, 2010
- (19) **Minute Approval** – Board of County Commissioners – Workshop – March 2, 2010
- (20) **Minute Approval** – Board of County Commissioners – Regular Meeting – March 18, 2010
- (21) Utility Permit – Comcast Cable – **SW Neighbors Glen**
- (22) Utility Permit – Comcast Cable – **SE Alfred Markham Street**
- (23) Public Works – Declaration of **Surplus Property** – Items to be Sold at Auction – 1989 Chevy Truck, Mileage 175,618, County ID 5154, and 1993 Ford Pickup, Mileage 176,531, County ID 07884
- (24) Human Resource – Approval of Position Descriptions – 911 **Public Safety Telecommunicator I** and 911 Public Safety Telecommunicators II .
- (25) Human Resource – Request to Unfreeze Position – Placing Employee from **Equipment Operator II** to a **General Laborer**
- (26) **Contract for Employment – Mosquito Control Operator – James M. Albritton** - \$7.87 per hour

from April 2010 till October 2010

- (27) **Contract for Employment** – Mosquito Control Operator – Ronald O. Brooks - \$7.87 per hour from April 2010 till October 2010
- (28) **Contract for Employment** – Mosquito Control Operator – **Ronald W. Hanks Sr.** - \$7.87 per hour from April 2010 till October 2010
- (29) **Contract for Employment** – Mosquito Control Operator – **Robert L. Timmons** - \$7.87 per hour from April 2010 till October 2010
- (30) **Contract for Employment – Mosquito Control Operator** – Jerry V. Ward - \$7.87 per hour from April 2010 till October 2010
- (31) Building and Zoning – Request for Approval – **Special Family Lot Permit** – William D. **Porter** – **Margaret Witt**, Parcel Owner

Commissioner Bailey announced he had two items to pull from the consent agenda. Commissioner Frisina stated that she also had items to pull.

MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Commissioner Bailey.

The Chair asked if there were any items to be pulled for clarification.

Commissioner Bailey asked that items #14 and #15 be pulled. He said that he believes there is a conflict on the Board with item #15.

Commissioner Frisina said that she would not be voting on item #18 since she and two other commissioners (Weaver and Bailey) were not at that particular meeting.

Commissioner Weaver asked if items #14 and #15 need to be pulled from the agenda with no action to be taken or if they were pulled for clarification purposes. Chairman Williams replied the items were pulled for clarification.

Commissioner Bailey stated that item #14 needs to be pulled completely from the consent agenda. He said the Board could take action on #15, but a conflict needs to be declared on #15.

The Chair announced the three consent agenda items were pulled from the vote.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to **pull item 14** from tonight's meeting. Second by Commissioner Dupree.

Attorney Feagle explained that he needs to review the indemnification agreement further and that there are a couple of other items to be looked at.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Dupree said that he needed to declare a **conflict of interest on item #15** for reasons previously noted. The Chair stated, "So note." The Chair asked Assistant County Manager Roberts to prepare the necessary paperwork for the Commissioner to abstain from the vote. Commissioner Dupree informed the Chair that he had already completed the "paperwork."

MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to approve item #15. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Dupree abstaining from the vote.

MOTION by Commissioner Dupree to approve item #18. Second by Commissioner Bailey. Voting in favor of the motion was Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Dupree. Abstaining from the vote was Commissioners Weaver, Bailey and Frisina.

Revision of Purchasing Policy and Procedures

Assistant County Manager Roberts said that in accordance with the Board's request, Section 304.6.3 of the **County's Purchasing Policy and Procedures Manual** has been revised relative to the local bid preference. The revision provides for a sliding scale for purchases under local bidding preference, and the preference percentage decreases as the amount of the project increases. The revision further defines "resident" and provides a scoring system in the event more than one bidder is entitled to preference as a resident of the County. In the event the local business is not the lowest bidder but is tentatively awarded the bid as a result of **local bid preference**, the award shall be contingent upon the local bidder reducing their bid amount to no more than the overall gross bid of the otherwise lowest qualified bidder. This policy will not apply to projects where federal or state funding is involved and where local preference is prohibited. This is the first presentation of the revised policy. The Board was asked to provide comment after they have taken time to review the proposed revisions. This revision will come back to the Board for action at the next Board meeting.

Bascom Norris Connector Road

Two appraisals have been received on Parcel #6, which is owned by **Lake Jeffery Land Trust**. The parcel is located south of Lake Jeffery Road, west of New Millennium Steel Factory and North of CSX Railroad. The property is approximately 21.76 acres and is required in connection with the **Bascom Norris Connector Road Project**.

Appraisals were provided by Candler Appraisal Services, Inc. [\$653,000] and Appraisals Services Company [\$696,300]. The Lake Jeffery Land Trust has agreed to accept the higher of the two appraisals, and to sale to the County with the condition that the closing be expedited. Staff requested approval of the offer and an expedited closing.

MOTION by Commissioner Dupree to offer to purchase the property at \$674,000, based on the appraisals. Commissioner Dupree said the amount would be splitting the difference between the two appraisals. Second by Commissioner Weaver. The motion carried unanimously.

Non-Agenda Items

Commissioner Frisina recalled the resolution recently passed by the Board supporting the designation of an Enterprise Zone. **House Bill 843** with companion **Senate Bill 1724** is sponsored by Representative Debbie Boyd and Senator Charlie Dean.

Commissioner Frisina explained that Columbia County does not currently have a demographic area that qualifies for an enterprise zone, but the bill will cover all three **RACEC** areas for the state. An enterprise zone would be an additional marketing tool for the RACEC catalyst site in Columbia and Suwannee County. She said that an Enterprise Zone provides additional tax credits and will be an incentive for industry to locate in the area. The Bill must go through two more committees before making it to the House and Senate floor.

Commissioner Weaver thanked Commissioner Frisina representing Columbia County in Tallahassee on this matter. Commissioner Frisina voiced that she enjoyed the experience.

Commissioner Dupree said there would be a **town hall meeting** held in his district toward the end of the month. Once the date, time and location are determined, the meeting will be advertised in the newspaper.

Chairman Williams addressed the **Florida Crown** issue with Commissioner Weaver. He told him that it was very important that he move forward with reaching a resolution with Florida Crown. He said to get with staff to set up a meeting.

Commissioner Weaver replied that staff is working on this. Commissioner Weaver said for the benefit of the Board that he intends to “go with” the directions given by the Board of County Commissioners in the past, unless formal action is taken to change those directives. A meeting will be scheduled within five days.

Commissioner Williams said that his son arrived home from Afghanistan last week. He expressed appreciation for all of the prayers and encouraged everyone to continue in their prayers for all other service personnel.

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

ATTEST:

P. DeWitt Cason
Clerk of Circuit Courts

Ronald Williams, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners