

Columbia County
Board of County Commissioners

Minutes of
February 06, 2014

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners met in the auditorium of the School Board Administrative Complex at 5:30 p.m. The meeting opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Commissioners in Attendance:	Stephen E. Bailey	Rusty DePratter	Scarlet Frisina
	Ronald Williams	Bucky Nash	

Others in Attendance:	Administrative Manager Lisa Roberts ("AM")
	Safety Manager David Krauss ("SM")
	Operations Manager Kevin Kirby ("OM")
	Attorney Joel Foreman
	Deputy Clerk Sandy Markham

Chairman Williams announced for the record that County Manager Dale Williams and County Attorney Marlin Feagle were participating in a court ordered mediation session relating to Overflow Land Trust and could not be in attendance.

AGENDA

MOTION by Commissioner Frisina to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. L J Johnson addressed the issue of Emerald Lakes street lighting.

Mr. Stewart Lilker addressed Emerald Lakes, rules by the Committee for the Disadvantaged, football field repairs at Columbia High School, and letters regarding fire coverage for the south end of the county. He also addressed the fact that the Boards Meeting Rules and Procedures do not require him to personally complete and submit his public comment card in order to speak to the Commission.

Proclamation #2014P-1

The Board considered a proclamation designating the week of February 15th through February 22, 2014 as National FFA Organization week in Columbia County.

Commissioner Frisina read the proclamation.

MOTION by Commissioner Bailey to approve the proclamation. Second by Commissioner DePratter. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

- (1) External Budget Amendment – Supervisor of Elections – BA # 14-33 – Bonuses - \$14,696.61
- (2) External Budget Amendment – Emergency Management – BA # 14-37 – US Department of Homeland Security/FEMA Grant for Training Exercises - \$10,900
- (3) Fire Rescue – Approval of Donation – Columbia County School Board – School Bus (Junk Property) – Extrication Training
- (4) Safety Manager – Approval of Two (2) Change Orders – George Construction – 335 S.E. Craig Street
 - a. \$4,700, Structural Damage to House
 - b. \$1,100, Replace 100 ft. of Fence and Repair the Remaining 200 ft.
- (5) Safety Manager – Approval of Three (3) Change Orders – John R. Freeney Construction – 185 S. E. Greg Place –
 - a. \$4,200, Repair Dryer Vent and Water Spigot
 - b. \$800, Replace a Bad Vanity in Second Bathroom
 - c. \$1,150, Replace Entrance Doors with Steel Six Panel Doors
- (6) Property Appraiser's Office – Requesting New Truck for Department – State Contract - \$23,880.00
- (7) Building and Zoning – Requesting Approval of 4 (four) Special Family Lot Permits –
 - a. Brannon Koontz – Jacky & Bobbie Steele, Property Owners
 - b. Brenton Koontz – Jacky & Bobbie Steele, Property Owners
 - c. Katherine M. Williams – Shirley J. Hutchinson, Property Owner
 - d. Takerra S. Capers – James Capers, Jr., Property Owner
- (8) Public Library – Requesting Approval to Close Library Easter Weekend – April 18- 20, 2014
- (9) Recreation Department – Acceptance of Mr. Bill Rivers, Intern – Columbia County Recreation Department – 6 weeks (no cost to county)
- (10) Proxy – Hartford Life Insurance Company – Putnam Global Equity Fund
- (11) Operations Manager – Requesting Approval of Engineering Firm – Arcadis U. S., Inc. – Design and Engineering of U.S. 90 to Lowe's Project - \$36,247.00

- (12) Operations Manager – Requesting Approval of Contract – Arcadis U.S., Inc. - Bell Road Paving Contract – \$155,478.00
- (13) Operations Manager – Requesting Approval of Extension Contract – Sandy Kishton, Realtor – From February 16, 2014 thru February 15, 2016
- (14) Operations Manager – Requesting Approval of Two (2) Task Orders – North Florida Professional Services, Inc. - SW Brim Street (\$17,880) and Old Wire Road, Phase III (\$89,020)
- (15) Operations Manager – Requesting Permission to Enter Private Property – Dead Tree Removal – Thomas & Beth Barritt, Property Owner
- (16) Operations Manager – Requesting a Pay Increase – William Britt - \$1.00 per hour – Landscaping and Parks
- (17) Utility Permit – AT&T SE Florida – Long Leaf Drive. S.W. Pinehurst Drive
- (18) Utility Permit – Comcast Cable – Sunbeam Way
- (19) Human Resource – Position Description – Sports Marketing Director – Tourist Development Council. The salary range is \$27,851 - \$41,766. The salary, plus any benefits will be paid by TDC.
- (20) Minute Approval – Board of County Commissioners – First Budget Hearing – September 9, 2013
- (21) Minute Approval – Board of County Commissioners – Regular Meeting – October 17, 2013
- (22) Minute Approval – Board of County Commissioners – Regular Meeting – November 21, 2013
- (23) Minute Approval – Board of County Commissioners – Regular Meeting – January 2, 2014
- (24) Minute Approval – Board of County Commissioners – Regular Meeting – January 16, 2014

There was additional information and clarification provided prior to the vote on items #4(a) and #19.

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

EMERALD LAKES

Residents living within Emerald Lakes Phase 1, 2, 3, and 4; Arbor Greene at Emerald Lake Phase 1 & 2; Arbor Greene Addition; and Kelly Lake Re-plat subdivisions were balloted on November 4, 2013 to determine interest in creating a MSBU for the imposition of a non-ad-valorem special assessment for street lighting. A favorable vote of 75% was needed for implementation. The ballot results were:

Total Ballots Mailed	217
Total Ballots Returned	117
In Favor	92
In Opposing - Returned Ballots	25
In Opposing - Not Returned Ballots	100

If the "Not returned" ballots are considered as opposing votes, only 42% of the residents voted in favor. If the "Not returned" ballots are given no consideration, the vote is 79% in favor of a MSBU for street lighting.

The Board discussed scheduling a public hearing to consider adopting a county ordinance that would provide for the maintenance of lights by levying of a special assessment against the properties benefitting from the lighting.

Commissioner Nash suggested that the wording in ordinances be amended so that only ballots returned are counted, and that the ballots not returned be given no consideration at all. There was discussion by the Board and varied opinions on this matter.

MOTION by Commissioner Nash to reconsider the Street Lighting Ordinance, if there is one, with modifications relating to the "no" votes, and to schedule it for a public hearing on March 20, 2014. The ordinance should read that ballots not returned to the county will not be counted or considered. Second by Commissioner DePratter. The motion carried unanimously.

The lights continue to be in jeopardy of losing power before this matter is settled. It would be unfortunate if the subdivision loses power. Commissioners pointed out that there are many subdivisions within the county who do not have the luxury of street lighting, and all that the county could do is request another extension on behalf of the residents. Commissioner Nash said that he would work with the electric company in an effort to obtain another extension or an agreement to keep the lights on.

MOTION by Commissioner Nash to override the ballots declaring this matter to be a safety issue, and move forward with the MSBU imposing the street lighting assessment (\$38 per year). Second by Commissioner DePratter.

The motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Bailey voting in opposition.

CHS Football Field

The County's assistance is needed with repairing the football field at Columbia High School. At Staff's direction, OM Kirby conducted an analysis on the field to determine what the needed repairs would cost. OM Kirby told the Commission that the actual cost to repair the field would be \$78,525. That is with all labor and equipment being provided by the County. The cost for the county to purchase the equipment that will be needed to maintain the field is approximately \$63,000. Once the field repair work is complete, the field will be maintained by the school.

MOTION by Commissioner Nash to approve Phase I, the field repair, and to approve the equipment purchase with the stipulation that OM Kirby will present the Board with an itemized list of equipment and the exact purchase price prior to buying. Second by Commissioner Frisina.

There was discussion as to whether the county would retain ownership of the equipment when purchased, and who would be responsible for the equipment maintenance. Commissioner Bailey would like to see an agreement regarding the matter, and explained his reasons for wanting to see the County maintain ownership of that equipment and be responsible for the maintenance.

The agreement will be considered at the same time the equipment purchase prices come back before the Board. The Chair said that the County retaining ownership and assuming responsibility for equipment maintenance would be "*a consensus into the motion.*"

Commissioner DePratter said that he wanted to ensure this arrangement would not put the County in a position acquiring recurring costs.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

MOTION by Commissioner DePratter to have Fire Chief Boozer send an informational letter to each household that is affected by the new fire stations and changes as an effort to help save on fire insurance. Second by Commissioner Nash. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Frisina reported three sink holes at the edge of Pinknee Hill Cemetery needing evaluating and possibly filling in.

MOTION by Commissioner DePratter to enter private property. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Frisina reported a very large, dead tree located across the road from Pinknee Cemetery that threatens the County's right of way.

MOTION by Commissioner Frisina to enter private property for the purpose of removing the tree down. Second by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Stewart Lilker offered input pertaining to the votes received from residents of Emerald Lakes. He also asked for assistance with clearing up a bill that he continues to receive from Suwannee Valley Transit for public records he has never gotten.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

ATTEST

Ronald Williams, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

P. DeWitt Cason
Clerk of Circuit Courts