

Columbia County
Board of County Commissioners

Minutes of
December 04, 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: Chairman Ronald Williams, Rusty DePratter, Scarlet Frisina, Bucky Nash and Everett Phillips.

Others in Attendance: County Manager Dale Williams
Assistant County Manager Ben Scott ("ACM")
Safety Manager David Kraus ("SM")
Operations Manager Kevin Kirby ("OM")
County Attorney Marlin Feagle
Deputy Clerk Sandy A. Markham

AGENDA

Additions:

- Scheduling a public hearing regarding the Rave Ordinance
- Memorandum of Understanding with Collective Bargaining Unit

Deletions:

- Consent Agenda item #16; Bid Award No. 2014-15

MOTION by Commissioner Frisina to approve agenda as amended. Second by Commissioner Nash. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT(s)

Citizen Stew Lilker spoke in opposition to approving the engagement letter relating to lobbying services. He also commented on an unidentified correspondence from a prior agenda between the County and Preble-Rish, Inc. regarding "a county employee." He asked the county to be more forthcoming when discussing employees by stating their names.

5 YEAR WORK PROGRAM

Jordan Green, Public Transportation Manager reviewed the Department of Transportation's Five Year Work Program.

Mr. Jordan discussed the following FDOT projects:

- Lighting at the Hwy. 41 and Hwy. 441 interchanges
- Baya Avenue Resurfacing Project
- SR 247 (Branford Hwy.)
- Sidewalk Project near Columbia High School on CR 252
- Sisters Welcome Road Resurfacing Project
- Olustee Bridge Construction Project
- Sidewalk Project from Pinemount Elementary School to U.S. 90
- Resurfacing Project from Mt. Carmel/Troy to CR 252
- Callahan Sidewalk Project Status

The Board was also informed that the U.S. Hwy. 90 widening project will commence in January 2015.

Mr. Jordan announced:

The Department will hold a public workshop on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the FDOT District Two Office in Lake City, Florida. The meeting will be informal and will be conducted as an open house.

The Department will hold a public hearing on Thursday, December 11, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the FDOT office in Jacksonville. This meeting will serve as the official public hearing. There will be a formal presentation of the Tentative Five-Year Work Program.

Commissioner Frisina asked that consideration be given to installing a traffic signal at SR 47 and Hwy. 240 (instead of a beacon light).

Commissioner Williams asked that consideration be given to widening and resurfacing Leonia, Queen and Shambrea Roads. He also reminded Mr. Green that street lighting is needed from the Sports Complex over to U.S. 90 near Wal-Mart.

BUILDING & ZONING

Public Hearing - Text Amendment to the Land Development Regulations

LDR 14-01 Board of County Commissioners. Amendment to Section 4.17.5 entitled "Special Exceptions to Add Churches and Other House of Worship as a Permitted Special Exception Within the Industrial (I) Zoning District."

The public hearing opened and closed without public input.

Commissioner Williams said he had no problem with the amendment so long as there is clear wording that industry will be allowed to do what they do on Sunday

MOTION by Commissioner Nash to approve Ordinance No. 2014-13. Second by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

CAROLYN HEIGHTS - PUBLIC HEARING

Attorney Feagle reviewed Resolution 2014-R47. This resolution would close a group of unimproved roads which are a part of a recorded plat that was approved in January 1963. The roads are: Tulip, and those portions of Rose and Live Oak streets north of Bascom Norris (CR 100). The drainage easement which parallels Tulip is not being abandoned.

Commissioner Phillips questioned the impact these roads would have on drainage. There was discussion. SM Kirby added that he did not believe the closing of the roads would have any impact on the drainage.

The public hearing open and closed without public input.

MOTION by Commissioner Phillips to approve the resolution to close the roads. Second by Commissioner DePratter. The motion carried unanimously.

COLLECTION OF NON-AD VALOREM SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS

Attorney Feagle reviewed Resolution 2014-R37; a resolution electing to use the uniform method of collecting non-ad valorem special assessments.

The public hearing opened and closed without public comment.

MOTION by Commissioner DePratter to approve Resolution 2014-R37. Second by Commissioner Frisina. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Item #16 was deleted.

Prior to approval, there was a call for clarification on items #15 and #12. County Manager Williams assisted with clarification.

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

- (1) Purchasing Department – Flagler Construction - Approval of Bid Award No. 2014-L – Purchase a Wheel Loader for the Landfill Department - \$95,500.00

- (2) Extension Office – Declaration of Junk Property – HP Laptop Computer, County ID, #12915 – Dell Optiplex 755 Desktop Computer, County ID, #13516 – Dell Optiplex 760 Desktop Computer, County ID, # 13697 – Dell Optiplex 380 Desktop Computer, County ID, # 13845
- (3) Operations Department – Request Approval to Enter Private Property – 1106 NW Ash Drive, Arthur & Janet Hoffman – Correct Proper Drainage and to Collect Water off of Ash Drive
- (4) Operations Department – Request Approval to Enter Private Property – Falling Creek Chapel – Removal of Pine Trees That Have Been Struck by Lightning and are in the County's Right-of-Way
- (5) Utility Permit – Comcast Cable – SW Deputy J. Davis Lane
- (6) Utility Permit – Comcast Cable – NW Savannah Circle
- (7) Utility Permit – AT&T SE Florida – US 90 & Florida Gateway Drive
- (8) Utility Permit – Comcast Cable – County Road SW Pinehurst Drive
- (9) Operations Department – Agreement with Florida Department of Transportation, Small County Outreach Program/ Columbia County Board of County Commissioners – Reconstruct Herlong Street, Phase 1 & 2 – Resolution No. 2014R-48
- (10) External Budget Amendment – BCC Administration – BA # 15-11 – Purchase Data Disaster Recovery Hardware and Software - \$12,719.00
- (11) External Budget Amendment – 911 Combined Communications – BA # 15-12 - Acceptance of Rural E-911 Grant - \$51,467
- (12) Operations Department – Resolution No. 2014R-34 – Voluntary Stormwater Maintenance Program Fee Schedule
- (13) Safety Manager – Acceptance of a Donation of Real Property – 464 Chris Terrace from Wells Fargo Bank – To Be Used for Flood Mitigation Efforts
- (14) Central Communications – Request Approval for the Renewal of Service Agreement – Motorola Solutions through First Communications, Inc. – Radio Communications Equipment – (\$10,843.80)
- (15) Purchasing Department – Bid Award No. 2014-15 – John C. Hipp Construction – County Road 250 – Lake Jeffery - \$1,912,735.43

(16) Purchasing Department – Bid Award No. 2014-16 – Anderson Columbia Company – US 90 West and Bascom Norris - \$843,763.18

(17) BCC Administration – Request to Add American Fidelity Assurance Company as Vendor for Disability and Life Insurance - Payroll Deduction

(18) Minute Approval – Board of County Commissioners – Regular Meeting – November 5, 2014

LAKE HARRIS DRY WELL - Budget Amendment #15-09

A dry well was installed at Lake Harris after the 2004-2005 hurricanes. As a condition of the permit, each of the older, smaller wells within Lake Harris were to be closed since the depths they reached were unknown and could have negative impacts on the aquifer. The Suwannee River Water Management District has obtained a permit for the County to construct a second drywell; however, construction funding is not available.

The Board was asked to consider funding a second dry well at the edge of Lake Harris near the #6 hole at the golf course, an area previously identified by Suwannee River Water Management.

The Commission did not fund this project in the 2014-15 Budget. Therefore, a budget amendment in the amount of \$146,000 would need to be approved to use General Fund Cash Balance Forward funds. It was also noted that permanent access to the well would be needed, which the owner of the County Club has agreed to provide.

MOTION by Commissioner Nash to approve the funding for the drywell. Second by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

LOBBYING SERVICES

North Florida Water Working Group

The Board considered two engagement letters for continued executive and legislative branch lobbying services. The services primarily, but not solely, relate to assistance with water issues and concerns. Staff recommended approval of the engagement letters with Sniffen & Speilman, P.A. and Metz, Husband, Daughton, P.A.

MOTION by Commissioner Frisina to approve Staff's recommendation. Second by Commissioner Nash. The motion carried unanimously.

DRAINAGE EASEMENTS on PRIVATE PROPERTY

The purpose of drainage easements created during initial construction of roadways by FDOT were to facilitate proper drainage for the roadways. All numbered county roads have

FDOT easements and upon acquisition of these roads by the county, the easements were included through inheritance. These identified easements provide necessary drainage functions.

It was staff's recommendation that the County work with citizens who have conflicts involving the easement on their property without vacating any of the FDOT easements as they serve as a viable function to protect roadways.

There was discussion by the Board indicating a consensus. SM Kirby will draft a policy formalizing the foregoing recommendation and present to the Board at a later date for action.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

In accordance with the Columbia County Charter a selection of a new chairperson and a vice chairperson needed to take place. County Manager Williams explained that while there is no rule or policy requiring it, historically the vice chair (Frisina) becomes the chair and the sitting member with the longest amount of time without being the chair becomes the vice chair.

MOTION by Commissioner Nash to nominate Commissioner DePratter to serve as chairman. Second by Commissioner Phillips.

There being no other nominations offered, and no opposing votes offered, the motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner Phillips to nominate Commissioner Nash as vice chairman. Second by Commissioner DePratter.

There being no other nominations offered and no opposing votes cast, the motion carried unanimously.

MEMORANDUM of UNDERSTANDING ("MOU")

County Manager Williams reviewed the MOU with the Laborers International Union of North America, Local 630. The Collective Bargaining Contract is essentially unchanged other than it will provide for members making under \$41,000 per year to receive the same \$1,000 pay raise as other county employees have received. The raise will be retroactive to October 01, 2014. The raise will be reflected in employees' next payroll check.

MOTION by Commissioner DePratter to ratify the MOU. Second by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

RAVE ORDINANCE

The Board was asked to schedule a public hearing on December 18, 2014 to discuss this ordinance.

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

FORMER COMMISSIONER STEPHEN BAILEY

Chairman Ronald Williams presented former Commissioner Bailey with a commemorative plaque recognizing him for eight years of dedicated service to Columbia County.

CHANGING CHAIRS - GAVEL PRESENTATION

Chairman Ronald Williams thanked the Board for their confidence and support while serving as chairman for the past year. He reviewed some of the Board's accomplishments and congratulated Commissioner DePratter and Nash on their appointments to chair and vice chair.

Commissioner DePratter assumed the position of Chairman and presented Commissioner Williams with a ceremonial gavel of appreciation. On behalf of the entire Board, Chairman DePratter expressed appreciation for Commissioner Williams' service, and thanked Commissioner Frisina for her service as vice chairwoman.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stew Lilker asked the Board to announce applicable names and dollar figures in their discussions in the future. Occasionally a commissioner will not clearly voice their vote. Therefore, Mr. Lilker asked that the Board consider having the Clerk begin polling the Board after each vote. He also asked that the Blanche Hotel be scheduled as an agenda item so that the public can be brought up-to-date on the matter and have an opportunity to learn the position of the commissioners as to this potential project.

Responding to Mr. Lilker's comments, Commissioner Williams explained that when a vote is not voiced, it is counted as a "yes" vote.

Answering a question from Mr. Lilker, Chairman DePratter advised that new microphones are in the Board's future.

L.J. Johnson agreed that the Board should be polled, and that all commissioners should clearly place their vote on the issues and not sit in silence.

John Colson, a former engineer of the county gave input as to the flooding and drainage issues in Columbia County. He told the Commission that he has provided the current county engineer with his thoughts and opinions.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

P. DeWitt Cason
Clerk of Circuit Courts

Ronald Williams, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners