

Columbia County
Board of County Commissioners

Minutes of
September 21, 2017

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners met in a regular meeting at 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, and Everett Phillips.

Commissioners Absent: Tim Murphy and Bucky Nash

Others in Attendance: County Manager Ben Scott ("CM")
Assistant County Manager Scott Ward ("ACM")
Assistant County Manager Kevin Kirby ("ACM")
County Attorney Joel Foreman
Deputy Clerk Katrina Vercher
Clerk Finance Director Chad Crews

Agenda Additions/Deletions

Additions:

- Request to set adoption hearing for Internet Café Moratorium
- Herlong Road Project – Farnell Acquisition
- Resolution 2017R-48
- Cross Country Track Meet
- Lease Agreement (former consent item #2)

Deletions:

- Century Ambulance Request

MOTION by Commissioner Phillips to approve the agenda as amended.
SECOND by Commissioner DePratter. The motion carried unanimously.

Ministerial Matters:

Risk Manager David Kraus introduced the new General Manager for the Lake City Animal Shelter, Tom Barrett. Mr. Barrett briefly addressed the board.

Building and Zoning Hearings:

Land Development Regulations ("LDR") Amendment

Z 0576 --To amend the text of the Official Zoning Atlas of the LDR, by amending the zoning district from rural residential to residential, single family for a portion of parcel number 02973-000. [Ordinance No. 2017-14]

The public hearing opened and closed without comment.

MOTION by Commissioner DePratter to approve Z 0576, Ordinance No. 2017-14. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

Final Budget Public Hearing

CM Scott presented the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget. A copy of the Final Budget is attached to the original minutes.

Resolution No. 2017R-43 Final Millage Rate

CM Scott read Resolution No. 2016R-34. A Resolution adopting the final levying of Ad Valorem Taxes for Columbia County for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018, setting the final millage rate for Columbia County Board of County Commissioners at 8.015 mills for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, which is more than the rolled back rate of 7.9504 mills by .81%.

The public hearing opened.

Citizen Sandra Buck-Camp inquired about raises for County employees.

The public hearing closed.

MOTION by Commissioner DePratter to adopt Resolution No. 2017R-43, setting the final millage Rate for Columbia County Board of County Commissioners at 8.015 mills for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, which is more than the rolled back rate of 7.9504 mills by .81%. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2017R-44 Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Final Budget

CM Scott read Resolution No. 2017R-44. A Resolution adopting the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. The total appropriation and revenue estimates for the budget is \$147,160,534.

The public hearing opened.

Citizen Barbara Lemley offered comment on Olustee Festival funding.

Citizen Ralph Kitchens offered comment on Suwannee Valley Transit.

Citizen Stewart Lilker offered comment on the Bed Tax and Olustee Festival funding.

The public hearing closed.

MOTION by Commissioner Phillips to adopt Resolution No. 2017R-44, adopting the Final Budget for the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners for the 2017-2018 fiscal year in the amount of \$147,160,534. SECOND by Commissioner DePratter. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment on Consent Agenda:

There was no public comment offered.

CM Scott requested a correction to item # 6, description says pay grade 115, it should be 118.

MOTION by Commissioner Phillips to approve the consent agenda as amended. SECOND by Commissioner DePratter. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

- (1) BCC Administration - Requesting Approval of License Agreement with Three Rivers Estate Property Owners Inc.
- (2) Columbia County Fire/Rescue - Amend Building Lease Agreement Between Century Ambulance and Columbia County
- (3) County Attorney - Requesting Approval - Declaration of Restrictive Covenant and Access Easement Agreement - County Landfill
- (4) Library - Requesting Approval of the Library's Annual Plan of Service - A Requirement for the State Aid to Libraries Grant Application
- (5) Human Resources - Requesting Approval of Two (2) Position Descriptions – Columbia County Fire Department - Fleet Maintenance Supervisor and Division Chief/Inspections/PIO
- (6) Public Works - Requesting Approval of Equipment Operator IV Position
- (7) Public Works - Utility Permit - AT&T - Mandiba Drive
- (8) Public Works - Utility Permit - Comcast - SW Maudlin Avenue
- (9) Public Works - Utility Permit - Comcast - NE Granger Mill Avenue
- (10) Public Works - Utility Permit - Comcast - NE Washington Street

- (11) Public Works - Utility Permit - Comcast - SE Golf Club Avenue
- (12) Public Works - Utility Permit - Comcast - SE Montrose Avenue
- (13) Public Works - Utility Permit - Florida Power & Light - NW Pillsbury Drive, NW Honeysuckle Way, and NW Bronco Terrace
- (14) Public Works - Utility Permit - Windstream Florida, LLC -SW Plymouth Avenue

MOTION by Commissioner Phillips to adopt the consent agenda.
SECOND by Commissioner DePratter. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Action Items:

Century Ambulance Building Leases (former consent item #2)

Century Ambulance will be moving from the fire station in Fort White to the station on CR 18. The lease agreement between Columbia County, Florida and Century Ambulance Service must be amended to remove the rent on the building in Fort White and reflect the rent on the building on CR 18. Staff suggested the new rent be \$400. The Board requested that be changed to \$600 in rent on the new location.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner DePratter to approve the requested change.
SECOND by Commissioner Phillips.

Public comment:

Citizen Stewart Lilker offered comment on public comment of agenda items, meeting rules and the rent on the new location.

Citizen Sandra Buck-Camp offered comment on the rent and Century's fees.

The Chairman called for the vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Additional Inmate Squad

CM Scott presented the Board an agreement with the Department of Corrections ("DOC") to provide the County an additional inmate work crew. The crew will be supervised by a DOC trained County employee and therefore will be no cost to the County.

MOTION by Commissioner DePratter to approve inmate labor agreement between Columbia County and Columbia Correctional Institution. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

RFQ 2017-Y – County Acquisition Agent

CM Scott presented the Board with an RFQ for a County Acquisition Agent and recommended approval.

Discussion ensued.

The Board requested the word “team” on page seven (7) be changed to “firm”.

MOTION by Commissioner DePratter to approve the RFQ with the above mentioned change. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

Cross Country Track Event

There is a cross country track event scheduled for September 30, 2017, at Alligator Park. The park is currently under water due to Hurricane Irma. Brad Dicks, has offered to hold the event at The Oaks but has requested help with preparing the grounds. Staff is recommending County Staff to mow the property.

MOTION by Commissioner Phillips to take staff recommendation. SECOND by Commissioner DePratter. The motion carried unanimously.

Herlong Road Project Alignment

The Board made a motion on September 7, 2017, to reconsider the alignment of Herlong Road back to the original design should Mr. Mann accept the Board’s offer. Mr. Mann accepted the offer.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Phillips to go back to the original S curves and do away with the 90’s. SECOND by Commissioner DePratter. The motion carried unanimously.

Internet Café Moratorium

County Attorney Forman presented the Board with the requested ordinance enacting a temporary moratorium to prohibit the filing, acceptance or processing of any permit, development order or any other official action having the effect of allowing the construction or operation of any internet gaming/gambling business within Columbia County and requested permission to set a public hearing on October 5, 2017, at the regular scheduled meeting.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner DePratter to approve setting adoption hearing on October 5, 2017. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

Herlong Road Project - Farnell Acquisition

County Attorney Foreman presented the Board a counter offer from Mr. Farnell's attorney. The Board had approved an offer of \$44,500 for the purchase of both parcels. Mr. Farnell's attorney has offered to accept the offer with an additional \$5,000 for attorney's fees and that the County relocate the fencing on the Farnell property.

Public comment:

Citizens Sandra Buck-Camp, Barbara Lemley and Stewart Lilker asked questions and/or offered comment on the offer.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Phillips to approve the offer. SECOND by Commissioner DePratter.

Discussion ensued.

The Chairman called for the vote. The motion carried 2 to 1 with Commissioner DePratter voting in opposition.

MOTION by Commissioner DePratter to tack on to Mr. Mann's check the same amount we are over the offer to Mr. Farnell which would be \$5,000 plus the cost of the fence.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Foreman will research the legality of doing this.

SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried 2 to 1 with Commissioner Williams voting in opposition.

State of Emergency Extension – Resolution 2017R-48

Declarations of a State of Emergency are only good for 7 days, to extend the time a new resolution is necessary.

MOTION by Commissioner DePratter to approve resolution 2017R-48. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

State of Emergency Repairs

When the County is in a State of Emergency there are a different set of rules about repair of damage caused by the storm on private property. Using the attached PowerPoint, Mr. Foreman outlined the requirements for authorizing repair of any damage and requested approval of the repair on Corwin Glen.

Public comment:

Citizen Willie Saulsby offered comment on private roads.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Phillips to authorize repairs. SECOND by Commissioner DePratter. The motion carried unanimously.

Open Public Comments:

Citizen Laura Hook addressed the Board on behalf of several property owners in the area around Upchurch Road concerning flooding. CM Scott responded. The Board requested that this issue be placed on the agenda for discussion.

Citizen Barbara Lemley offered comment on animal control and a licensing fee for all pets.

Citizen Sandra Smith spoke about Hurricane Irma and offered comment on shelters in Columbia County.

Citizen Stewart Lilker offered comment on the Constitution and items being put on a meeting agenda.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Williams requested a workshop be scheduled to discuss the proposed sales tax increase.

Commissioner DePratter asked staff to compile a list of all private roads for further discussion.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

Ronald Williams, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

P. DeWitt Cason
Clerk of Circuit Court