

Columbia County  
Board of County Commissioners

Minutes of  
**December 17, 2020**

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 Rocky Ford, Ronald Williams, Robert Hollingsworth, Toby Witt and Timothy Murphy

Others in Attendance: Interim County Manager David Kraus ("ICM")  
Assistant County Manager Kevin Kirby ("ACM")  
County Attorney Joel Foreman  
Clerk of Court James M. Swisher, Jr.  
Deputy Clerk Katrina Vercher

**Agenda Additions/Deletions**

Additions:

1. CARES Amendment with City of Lake City
2. CARES Amendment with Town of Fort White
3. Columbia County Health Department Update

Deletions:

None

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve the agenda as amended.  
SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

**Re-Organization In Accordance with the Columbia County Charter:**

a. Selection of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to select Commissioner Ford as Chairperson.  
SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to nominate Commissioner Hollingsworth as Vice Chairperson. SECOND by Commissioner Ford. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ford took his place as the new Chairman.

- b. Confirmation for the Location, Time and Place of holding all Regular Meetings of the Board of County Commissioners. [Resolution No. 2020R-54]

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to adopt Resolution 2020R-54. SECOND by Commissioner Witt. The motion carried unanimously.

Columbia County Health Department COVID Update

Dr. Thomas Moffses, Director, gave an update on the status of COVID-19 and the vaccine.

**Public Hearings**

Special Exception 0621 – Appeal

SE 0621 is a special exception that was granted by the Board of Adjustment on August 27, 2020, to Jesse and Elizabeth Hubbard and their company, Hubbard Legacies, LLC.

Nineteen petitioners through their attorney, Terrell Arline, have appealed the special exception. Mr. Arline presented the petitioners arguments to the Board.

The landowners were represented by attorney David Theriaque.

The following persons testified at the hearing:

Brandon Stubbs	Beth Fewell	Carlton Bussey	Marisa Bussey
Ann Ritch	Betty O'Day	John Ritch	Robert Adams
Gary Bussey	Elizabeth Hubbard		Keitha Adams

MOTION by Commissioner Witt to grant the appeal and deny the special exception. SECOND by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2020-27 – Private-to-Public Road Program

An Ordinance amending Chapter 94, Article III of the County Code of Ordinances relating to the establishment of a private to public road special assessment program.

Public hearing opened and closed without comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Witt to adopt Ordinance No. 20-27. SECOND by Commissioner Ford. The motion carried by a vote of 4 to 1 with Commissioner Williams voting in opposition.

**Consent Agenda:**

MOTION by Commissioner Witt to approve the consent agenda. SECOND by Commissioner \_Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

- (1) BCC Administration - Minutes - Regular Meeting - October 15, 2020
- (2) BCC Administration - Minutes - Regular Meeting - November 5, 2020
- (3) BCC Administration - Minutes - Regular Meeting - November 19, 2020
- (4) Building and Zoning - Special Family Lot Permit Application - SFLP 20 33 - Michael and Marcia Brinker Deeding 1 Acre to Their Daughter, Tara Brinker
- (5) Building and Zoning - Special Family Lot Permit Application - SFLP 20 34 - Joshua and Maria Latimer Deeding 2.38 Acres to Maria's Father, Daniel Diaz de Arce
- (6) Clerk to Board Finance - Bills and Vouchers - November 12-13, 2020 - \$3,678,474
- (7) Clerk to Board Finance - Bills and Vouchers - November 23, 2020 - \$3,245,589
- (8) Clerk to Board Finance - Bills and Vouchers - December 1, 2020 - \$246,986
- (9) Clerk to Board Finance - Bills and Vouchers - December 9, 2020 - \$2,653,567
- (10) Public Works - Utility Permit - AT&T - 879 NW Bell Road
- (11) Public Works - Utility Permit - AT&T - 3154 NE Washington Street
- (12) Public Works - Utility Permit - Comcast - 549 SW Dockery Lane
- (13) Public Works - Utility Permit - Comcast - 1485 SW Pinemount Road
- (14) Public Works - Utility Permit - Hargray of Florida - SW Bascom Norris Drive Segment 5
- (15) Public Works - Utility Permit - Hargray of Florida - SW Bascom Norris Drive Segment 7
- (16) Public Works - Utility Permit - Hargray of Florida - SW Bascom Norris Drive and Marvin Burnett Road
- (17) Public Works - Construction and Maintenance Agreement - FDOT District-Wide School Zone Improvements
- (18) 9-1-1 Communications Center - Request to Apply for Fall 2020 State E-911 Grant

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to adopt the consent agenda.  
SECOND by Commissioner Witt. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Discussion and Action Items:**

#### Resolution No. 2020R-51 – County Re-bidding Policy

A resolution rescinding the policy of rebidding of all contracts on no more than five-year intervals to permit negotiation of contracts with terms greater than five years.

Discussion ensued.

The possibility of a five (5) year extension added to the resolution.

MOTION by Commissioner Witt to approve Resolution No. 2020R-51 with the amendment. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth.

Citizen Stewart Lilker offered comment.

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

#### Code of Ethics Ordinance

The County Attorney requested approval to set an adoption hearing for the Code of Ethics Ordinance on January 21, 2021.

MOTION by Commissioner Witt to approve setting the hearing for the second meeting in January. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Century Ambulance Contract Extension

Staff has expressed concern about bidding both the solid waste collection and ambulance/EMS contracts in the same year. Based on staff's experience, it is inefficient to bid and negotiate these contracts so close together. The Waste Pro contract has no provision for extension; the Century Ambulance contract does. Staff recommended authorizing Chief Crawford to negotiate with Century for a one-year extension or a 3 year extension with more equipment dedicated.

MOTION by Commissioner Witt to authorize Chief Crawford to negotiate with Century. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Dog Bite Complaints

This Board would like to see a better procedure for dealing with dog bite complaints.

Sheriff Hunter and Robin with Animal Control addressed the Board

The Chair directed Commissioner Murphy, Sheriff Hunter and County Attorney Foreman to work together on amending the ordinance and bringing it back to the Board for approval.

#### Lake City Tennis Association

The County has purchased 500+ acres of land for Recreation Tourism along Bascom Norris Drive. Tennis was identified as one of the potential uses at this site.

Citizen Mike Null addressed the Board.

#### Resolution No. 2020R-52 – MedTrust Medical Transport

A resolution issuing a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (“COPCN”) to MedTrust Medical Transport.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve Resolution No. 2020R-52. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Amendment to CARES Act Agreement with School District

Staff requested approval of an amendment to the CARES Act Agreement with the Columbia County School Board.

MOTION by Commissioner Witt to approve the CARES Act amendment if the monies are available. SECOND by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

#### RFP 2020-09 – SW Sparrow Terrace

Staff recommended awarding the bid to the low bidder C.A. Boone Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$139,933.

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve RFP 2020-09. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

#### BA 21-10 – Office Equipment

This budget amendment is to purchase the Tourist Development and the Economic Development departments some needed new equipment.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve BA 21-10. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

### Asset Disposal

Staff requested approval of the attached asset disposal list for either sale or destruction.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve the asset disposal list. SECOND by Commissioner Witt. The motion carried unanimously.

### CARES Act Update

ICM Kraus gave an update in the CARES Act money.

### BA 21-11 – Supervisor of Elections – Budget Surplus

The Supervisor of Elections Office requested the return of their budget surplus in the amount of \$4,007.10 due to unforeseen requirements placed by the State's Division of Elections office.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve BA 21-11. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

### BA 21-12 – Clerk of Court – Budget Surplus

The Clerk of Court requested year-end funds to support budget short falls in the amount of \$88,645.67.

MOTION by Commissioner Witt to approve BA 21-12. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

### Resolution No. 2020R-56 – Employee Bonus

A resolution authorizing a bonus to be paid to employees and providing guidelines.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve Resolution No. 2020R-56 giving bonuses in the amount of \$ 1,000. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

### CARES Act Amendments- City of Lake City – Town of Fort White

The City of Lake City and the Town of Fort White requested additional monies under the CARES Act.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy that the Board accept the amendments from the City of Lake City and the Town of Fort White should the monies be available.

Discussion ensued.

Motion withdrawn by Commissioner Murphy.

This item is tabled until after the New Year.

**Open Public Comments and/or Questions:**

Members of the public addressed the Board with their comments and/or questions regarding the following items:

Sandra Buck-Camp – the virtual meetings

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Rocky Ford, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

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James M. Swisher, Jr.  
Clerk of Circuit Court