

Columbia County
Board of County Commissioners

Minutes of
September 16, 2021

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners met in a regular meeting 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 Rocky Ford, Timothy Murphy, Toby Witt, Robby Hollingsworth and Ronald Williams

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

Agenda Additions/Deletions

Additions:

- Tom Moffses from the County Health Department
- Request to move Florida Gateway Fairgrounds Improvements to the beginning of the agenda
- Request for authorization – Receivership Petition for Lake Shore Hospital Authority

Deletions:

- Consent Agenda #3- minutes were previously approved on August 19, 2021
- Consent Agenda #6 and change to a discussion item

MOTION by Commissioner Witt to approve the agenda with additions and deletions. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

Presentation of the Board not requiring Board vote or action

Dr. Thomas P. Moffses, Jr., from the Columbia County Health Department gave the Commission an update on the COVID-19 vaccine distribution and the number of delta variant cases in Columbia County.

Board members commended Dr. Moffses and his staff for the great job they have done in dealing with Covid-19.

Public Hearings

Tim Murphy, Commissioner

(1) Florida Gateway Fairgrounds Improvements- Request to Certify Improvements serve a Public Purpose.

Stephen Bailey, President of Resources for Columbia County Fairgrounds presented to the Board Resolution 2021R-36 to the Board for consideration. The proposed resolution reflect the Board's certification that the improvements proposed to be made at the Florida Gateway Fairgrounds will serve a public purpose. This is required by Chapter 288 F.S. before an application for funding can be considered by the Dept. of Agriculture. The deadline for this grant is October 1, 2021.

The public hearing opened and closed without comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to adopt Resolution 2021R-36 authorizing the request to make improvements at the fairgrounds. SECOND by Commissioner Witt. The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Murphy recusing himself from the vote due to a conflict.

Dale Williams, Executive Director of the Lake Shore Hospital Authority

Dale Williams gave a presentation recommending the County Commission authorize the filing for a petition in receivership making the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners receiver for the assets of the Lake Shore Hospital Authority.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Witt to grant the request for authorization for Lake Shore Hospital Authority and allow a Judge to put into a receivership. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

The motion was rescinded by the Board.

The following citizens offered comment and spoke in opposition:

Barbara Lemley

Stewart Lilker

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Witt to take the request of Lake Shore Hospital Authority and ask the court to place the Board into a receivership. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

Columbia Youth Football Association

Commissioner Ford addressed the Board with concerns in regards to Columbia Youth Football Association. He said that on September 1, 2021 he was advised there was structural damage to the bleachers at to the Memorial Stadium. On September 10th, the eve of the Jamboree, the Commissioner said that Jeff Tyre, President of the CYFA was told that he would not be able to use the stadium for the football Jamboree. At that time, Jeff Tyre requested to only use the field and the stadium bleachers, but was told he could not use the stadium at all. Jeff Tyre reached out to the in search of another option for hosting the Jamboree. However, he did not prevail and the Jamboree was cancelled.

Discussion ensued.

The Board requested staff to bring a revised contract to the Board for discussion by the next meeting.

The following citizens offered comment:

Sylvester Warren

Glenel Bowden

Vanessa George

Befaihtful Coker

Tony Robinson

Shawn Holgrem

Anna Eversole

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to Direct staff and those necessary to pull the licensing agreement with Annie Mattox Complex and schedule individual meetings in the next week with the Commissioners, if they see fit to do so and give their recommendations on changes and bring back to the following meeting for a resolution. SECOND by Commissioner Witt.

Discussion ensued.

The motion carried by a vote of 4 to 1 with Commissioner Williams voting in opposition.

MOTION by Commissioner Witt to also pull any other contract that is similar to Annie Mattox who also receive public funds, and to create a policy and make sure they are all compliant with financials, no sexual offenders on their board, background check,

etc. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried by a vote of 4 to 1 with Commissioner Williams voting in opposition.

Mr. Foreman read the current rules and regulations for information and clarification.

Brandon Stubbs, Community Development Coordinator

- (1) Public Hearing of SD 0195- A request by Brad Womble, agent for Cowboy Land Holdings, LLC., Owner, for Final Plat approval of Hawk's Landing

The Planning and Zoning Board held a public hearing on Preliminary Plat on Thursday, July 22, 2021 and voted to recommend approval to the Board of County Commissioners. No members of the public spoke in opposition. The Board of County Commissioners held a public hearing on the Preliminary Plat on August 5, 2021 and voted to approve the Preliminary Plat. No member of the public spoke in opposition. The Planning and Zoning Board held a Final Plat on Thursday, August 26, 2021 and voted to recommend approval to the Board of County Commissioners. No members of the public spoke in opposition. This is the final hearing for adoption.

The public hearing opened and closed without comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve SD 0195 for the Final Plat for Hawk's Landing. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

- (2) SP 21 01- A request by Douglas Jipson as President of Rum 138, LLC, Owner, for a Special Permit for temporary use pursuant to the requirements of Section 14.10.1 of the LDR's to allow for a special event to include an outdoor concert and camping within a Commercial, neighborhood ("CN") Zone District- Tax Parcel Number 25-7S-16-04320-001.

The Planning and Zoning Board held a public hearing on August 26, 2021 and voted to recommend approval to the Board of County Commissioners. At said hearing, no members of the public spoke in opposition.

The public hearing opened and closed without comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to approve SP 21 01 subject to any conditions the Board deems necessary. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

David Kraus, County Manager

(1) Resolution No. 2021R-37- Second Public Hearing- Fiscal Year 2021-2022 – Adoption of Millage Rate- 7.815 Mills

This is the second public hearing to set the Millage rate for Fiscal year 2021-2022. The preliminary rate was set at 8.015 mills. The recommendation is to set a rate at 7.815 mills or 0.72% above the roll back rate of 7.7588 mills.

The public hearing opened and closed without comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to adopt Resolution No. 2021R-37, adoption of the final millage at 7.815 mills for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, which is 0.72% higher than the rolled-back rate of 7.7588 mills. SECOND by Commissioner Witt. The motion carried unanimously.

(2) Resolution No. 2021R-38- Second Public Hearing – Adoption of Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget

This is the second public hearing on the adoption of Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget. As part of public comment, the 3rd Judicial Circuit Court is requesting an additional \$17,282.15 to hire an additional full-time Digital Court Reporting position due to unanticipated closing of the contracted Court Reporting firm. The Board will consider this request as a public comment.

The public hearing opened.

The following citizens offered comment on the budget:

Glenel Bowden
Ken Bochette
Camille Suzo
Robin Tobak-Ward & Richard Rossi
Roy Armstrong
Keith Williams
Sandra Buckcamp

Discussion ensued.

The public hearing closed.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to make a 1 year extension with the increase of \$105,000. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner Witt to approve the request by the Third Judicial Circuit Court for an additional \$17,282.15. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to authorize the county manager and staff to get with Dick Powell and take these increases and expenditures and balance them against the revenues, so that we maintain the current balances and do not change the overall funding level of the county. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to approve the additional funding for the generator at the Richardson Community Center. SECOND by Commissioner Witt. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to adopt Resolution No. 2021R-38, adopting the final budget, as amended, with appropriations and reserves for fiscal year 2021-2022, in the amount of \$168,592,951. SECOND by Commissioner Witt. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

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

- 1) BCC Administration - Minutes - Regular Meeting - August 26, 2021**
- 2) BCC Administration - Minutes - Budget Workshop - August 19, 2021**
Item # 3 has been deleted
- 4) BCC Administration - Minutes - Joint Meeting - August 19, 2021**

- 5) **BCC Administration - Meridian Behavioral Healthcare - 2021-2022 - Agreement for the Provision of Mental Health and Addiction Services - \$250,736**
- 6) **BCC Administration - On Eagle's Wings - Renewal of Agreement**
- 7) **BCC Administration - Palms Medical Group - Letter of Agreement - Health Care Administration**
- 8) **BCC Administration - Suwannee River Economic Council - SHIP Sub-recipient Administration Agreement**
- 9) **BCC Finance - Bills and Vouchers - 9/2/21 - \$439,204**
- 10) **BCC Finance - Core Contract - State of Florida Health Department - Operation of the Columbia County Health Department 2021-2022**
- 11) **Building and Zoning - Special Family Lot Permit Application - SFLP 2130 - Terry Thomas deeding 1.01 Acres to his Daughter, Shelby Bright**
- 12) **Library - Annual Plan of Service, 2021-22**
- 13) **Library - Food for Fines Project**
- 14) **Library - Holiday Closings**
- 15) **Public Works - 2021-2022 Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement**
- 16) **Public Works - FY 21/22 Annual Certified Budget- Mosquito Control**
- 17) **Public Works - Interlocal Agreement - Town of Fort White-Florida DOT SCOP Project - Jordan Street**
- 18) **Public Works - Resolution No. 2021R-31 - SW Jordan Street**

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

Discussion and Action Items:

David Kraus, County Manager

- (1) Resolution No. 2021R-35- Expressing support for the Sweetwater Apartments Phase II affordable Housing Project- Greater Lake City CDC

The Board of County Commissioners received a presentation on September 2, 2021 outlining a proposed affordable housing project known as "Sweetwater Apartments, Phase II", an 84 unit complex proposed for construction on approximately 6.5 acres with frontage on Martin Luther King Street and Davis Avenue in Lake City, Florida (the "project") by the Greater Lake City Community Development Corporation. The Greater Lake City CDC requests that the County Commission commit to loan three million dollars (\$3,000,000) to be used in construction of the project. The Resolution 2021R-35 expresses the Board's support for the project.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Commissioner Witt to approve Resolution 2021R-35 expressing support for the Sweetwater Apartments Phase II Affordable Housing Project. SECOND by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Ford voting in opposition.

(2) North central Florida Regional Planning Council- Local Government Planning Services Renewal

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve the agreement with North Central Florida Regional Council for Local Government Comprehensive Planning Services in the amount of \$35,000. SECOND by Commissioner Witt. The motion carried unanimously.

(3) North Central Florida Regional Planning Council- Annual Monitoring of Hazardous Waste Generators Renewal- \$9,731

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve the agreement for Monitoring of Hazardous Waste Generators in the amount of \$9,731. SECOND by Commissioner Witt. The motion carried unanimously.

(4) Revision of Position Description

The Director of Information Technology, GIS Specialist and Desktop Support Specialist positions have been revised to reflect the current Administrative Code and organizational chart revisions adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on June 3, 2021.

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve position description revisions as amended. SECOND by Commissioner Witt. The motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Murphy voting in opposition.

(5) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program- Purchase of Property- \$823,500

As part of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grant, Emergency Management Department requests the Board of County Commissioners authorize of seven (7) homes for flood mitigation.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve the purchase of listed homes under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. SECOND by Commissioner Witt. The motion carried unanimously.

(6) Columbia CARES Business Assistance Program Proposal

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners have authorized staff to proceed with developing a business assistance program. County staff has developed an on-line application system based upon the attached program guidelines.

MOTION by Commissioner Witt to approve the Columbia CARES Business Assistance Program with the amendment that the number of employee requirement be removed and it's up to \$21,000 for relief. SECOND by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Murphy addressed the Board in regards to item #6 on the consent agenda. On Eagle's Wings- Renewal of Agreement

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy contingent on a received and approved audit acceptable by this Board before we release any future funds to Eagle's on the Wings. SECOND by Commissioner Witt. The motion carried unanimously.

Open Public Comments and/or Questions:

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

Citizen Sandra Buckcamp offered comment.

Citizen Stewart Lilker offered comment.

Staff Comments:

No comments.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Williams informed the Board that his meeting with the landowners in the Bell Road corridor was a good meeting.

Commissioner Williams also addressed the issue with rural mowing in Columbia County and asked staffed to put together a budget for rural/urban mowing for the future.

Commissioner Hollingsworth asked staff to research different insurances for county employees.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:13 p.m.

ATTEST:

Rocky Ford, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

James M. Swisher, Jr.
Clerk of Circuit Court