

# **Columbia County Board of County Commissioners**

**March 21, 2024 5:30 PM**

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled meeting in the auditorium of the School Board Administrative Complex. The meeting was opened with invocation by Commissioner Murphy, followed with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Ron Williams, Chairman

Everett Phillips, Commissioner

Tim Murphy, Commissioner

Rocky Ford, Commissioner

Robby Hollingsworth, Commissioner

**Others in Attendance:** David Kraus, County Manager (CM)

Kevin Kirby, Assistant County Manager (ACM)

Joel Foreman, County Attorney

Staz Guntek, Project Development Manager

Deputy Clerk, Amber Taylor

## **Agenda Additions and Deletions:**

### **Additions:**

- 1) Proclamation No. 2024P-08 Agriculture Day in Columbia County
- 2) Update on Florida Crown

### **Deletions:**

None

**Motion** by Commissioner Phillips to approve the agenda as amended. **Seconded** by Commissioner Hollingsworth. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Presentations:**

### **1) Proclamation 2024P-06 and Presentation - Science Fair Winners**

Proclamation 2024P-06 and Presentation of Science Fair Winners from Ft White High school.  
Proclamation was read aloud by Commissioner Murphy.

**Motion** by Commissioner Murphy to approve Proclamation 2024P-06, **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wayne Olfke (Ft White STEM teacher) gave a brief overview of the trip to California that students from Ft White will be embarking upon to attend the National Science Fair. Mr. Olfke let the Commission know, that despite fundraising attempts, a total of \$5,000 was still needed to secure the hotel accommodations and flights needed for this trip to be possible.

**Motion** by Chairman Williams “to give the Ft White high school \$5,000 to give to these guys so they can go on their trip to Los Angeles” **Seconded** by Commissioner Ford. Motion carried unanimously.

### **2) Proclamation No. 2024P-08 Agriculture Day in Columbia County**

Proclamation 2024-08 Agriculture Day in Columbia County March 19<sup>th</sup> 2024

**Motion** by Commissioner Murphy, **Seconded** by Commissioner Philips. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Presentation of the Board:**

### **1) Woodborough North Update - Nancy Turner**

Mrs. Nancy Turner from Woodborough North subdivision, gave brief update to the Commission. There has been a new HOA board formed and all parties involved (i.e. builders, homeowners and developers) are working together to make positive progress. Modification to solve the flooding issues in this area have not begun, however Mrs. Turner feels that this modification along with storm pumps put in place shall work sufficiently to help solve previous issues. Public sewer is still needed in this area/subdivision.

### **2) Update on Legislative Session**

Staz Guntek presented the Commission with an update on the legislative session.

- Term Limits for County Commissioners bill did not pass
- Continuing Construction Contracts bill increases the maximum from 4 to 7. 5 million passed
- Stricter guidelines going forward on building permits. 10 days for single family dwellings using specified grants
- Emergency Management Director requirements
- Residential Pace bill passed to provide clarification for local jurisdiction.
- Homestead exemption indexing to be amended on the upcoming ballot.
- Electric vehicles bill did not advance.

- Regional Rural development grants were relieved of the requirement to obtain a 25% funding match
- \$800,000 in funding for the Suwannee Valley Tower was appropriated.
- 1.5 Million Appropriation for the Bell Road Extension project.
- The Flat Fields phase one project was appropriated \$750,000
- Well Redundancy Projects in Ellisville were appropriated \$325,000
- Riff Grant for project taking place in Ellisville \$3 million was appropriated.

Mr. Guntek advised that until signed and part of the budget, all of these are subject to veto.

- Small County outreach program \$88.6 Million
- Florida Jobs Growth Grant \$75 Million
- Rolling Infrastructure Fund \$15 Million

### 3) **Mikesville Community Center**

Mr. Wayne Whitten (President of Mikesville Home Demonstration Club Inc.) gave presentation to the Commission in regards to the reviving of the historic Mikesville Community Center. Mr. Whitten informed the board of activities to be happening, going forward, in the Mikesville Center. One of the main focuses of the board members of the Mikesville Home Demonstration Club, is to return the clubhouse to a voting precinct. There are various needs for the Clubhouse to be restored and functioning. One of the most critical needs, is a new well. Mr. Whitten asked the Commission to consider financial funding to help out with the needs of the Clubhouse.

**Motion** by Commissioner Phillips “to donate the grant \$5,000 to the Community Center in Mikesville”. **Seconded** by Commissioner Ford. Motion carried unanimously.

### 4) **Update from Lake City Humane Society**

Mr. Richard Rossi gave brief update on the Lake City Humane Society. A true working partnership has been established between the County and the humane society. New staff have been put into place at the Humane Society and things seem to be coming together. Mr. Rossi presented the Commission with a request for additional funding of \$3,900 per month, in order to hire an additional kennel tech. This position would help to alleviate over-time pay with current techs as well as accommodate the extra needs during the busy/breeding season.

Brief discussion ensued.

This topic will be tabled and added to the next agenda for further discussion.

### 5) **Mid-Year Report and Restriping Request - Richardson Community Center**

Mrs. Tammy Magstadt and Mike Ferrell from Richardson Community Center, gave a six month budget update as well as information on the re-striping of the Pickle-ball Court. Mrs. Magstadt informed the Commission that \$75,000 listed in the budget, was not awarded by the City of Lake City. Therefore, creating a financial need in-order to continue on with the summer programs for the

upcoming season. On average 70-80 youth per day are participating in various programs offered at the Community Center.

Brief discussion ensued.

This topic will be tabled and added to the next agenda for further discussion.

Sylvester Warren III, gave comment on Richardson Community Center Board and the funding issues between the City of Lake City and Richardson Community Center.

## **6.) Update on Florida Crown**

Larry Thompson, not in a board member capacity, gave an update on Florida Crown. Mr. Thompson wanted the Commission, as well as the public, to have an understanding of the services/programs that Florida Crown provides to the community. Mr. Thompson offered clarity to the Commission as to the financial standing of Florida Crown.

Brief discussion ensued.

Robert Jones (Executive Director, Career Source Florida Crown) gave further clarification to the current standing of Florida Crown. Mr. Jones advised the Commission against moving forward with the proposed Interlocal Agreement that would consolidate Columbia County and Alachua. This agreement would allow Alachua County to have five board votes to Columbia County's one vote. This would create a power dynamic unfavorable to the residents of Columbia County.

Sylvester Warren III, gave comment on the character of Mr. Robert Jones. He commended Mr. Thompson from Florida Crown Board of Directors for his comments of clarification on Mr. Roberts and the financial standing of Florida Crown. Mr. Warren stressed the importance of the programs for youth in Columbia County that the Florida Crown provides.

## **Public Hearings:**

Louie Goodin, County Planner

### **1) Ordinance 2024-03 - CPA0243**

Consideration for Ordinance 2024-03 CPA0243 Continuation of the extension of the urban development area on the North end of Columbia County

**Motion** by Commissioner Murphy to approve Ordinance 2024-03 CPA 0243, **Seconded** by Commissioner Hollingsworth. Motion carried unanimously.

2) **Ordinance 2024-05 - Z240102**

Consideration for Ordinance 2024-05 Z240102 zoning change request on a 17 acre partial, located off of Old Country Club Rd.

**Motion** by Commissioner Murphy to approve Ordinance 2024-05 Z240102, **Seconded** by Commissioner Ford. Motion carried unanimously.

3) **Ordinance 2024-06 - Z240101**

Consideration for Ordinance 2024-06 Z240101 zoning change request for property located on HWY 247 from residential to commercial property listing.

**Motion** by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve Ordinance 2024-06 Z240101, **Seconded** by Commissioner Ford. Motion carried unanimously.

4) **Ordinance 2024-07 - CPA240101**

Consideration for Ordinance 2024-07 CPA240101 zoning change request for property located on HWY 247 from residential to commercial property listing.

**Motion** by Commissioner Murphy to approve Ordinance 2024-07 CPA240101, **Seconded** by Commissioner Hollingsworth. Motion passed unanimously.

Joel Foreman, County Attorney

5) **Vacating a Portion of NW Beauchamp Way**

Mr. Foreman presented the Commission with petition for road closure to a small portion of Beauchamp Way Rd. This portion of the road is on the citizen's property.

**Motion** by Commissioner Ford "to close the NW section of Beauchamp Way Rd." **Seconded** by Commissioner Hollingsworth. Motion carried unanimously.

David Kraus, County Manager

6) **Ordinance 2024-04 - Municipal Service Taxing Unit for Industrial Park**

Consideration for Ordinance 2024-04 Municipal Service Taxing Unit for Industrial Park

**Motion** by Commissioner Ford to approve Ordinance 2024-04. **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Approval of Consent Agenda:**

**Motion** by Commissioner Murphy to approve consent agenda, **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- (1) BA 24-29 - Friends of the Library Donation and Florida Department of Management Services Disbursement (pg. 1)
- (2) BCC Administration - Meeting Minutes - Regular Meeting - 12/7/2023
- (3) BCC Administration - Meeting Minutes - Regular Meeting - 02/15/2024
- (4) BCC Administration - Release of Lien - Lance Leguire
- (5) BCC Finance - BA 24-31 - Ellisville Wastewater Treatment Plant Final - \$7,125
- (6) BCC Finance - Bills and Vouchers - 3/13/24 - \$3,759,195
- (7) Public Works - BA 24-32 - Budget Amendment Mosquito Control Carry-Forward from FY22/23 to FY23/24
- (8) Public Works - Utility Permit from Comcast Requesting to Run a Cable along SE County Road 252
- (9) Public Works - Utility Permit from Duke Energy Requesting to Replace a Pole on SW Holsein Ave

**Motion** by Commissioner Ford to adopt consent agenda. **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Discussion Items:**

#### Kevin Kirby, (ACM)

##### **(1) Malcom Randall VA Hospital, Alachua Waste Acceptance Request**

Malcom Randall Veterans Hospital of Alachua requests permission to dispose of medical waste in the Columbia County landfill. The amount of medical waste generated by the VA hospital, would be an additional approximate 180 tons of medical waste per year, in comparison to the 90 tons of medical waste that is currently generated in Columbia County and taken to landfill.

**Motion** by Commissioner Murphy to deny this request. **Seconded** by Commissioner Ford. Motion carried unanimously.

**(2) County Right of Way Connection to County Road Permit**

ACM Kirby explained that the Traffic Connection Permit being requested is simply a tool. Temporary driveways will be possible through this permit process, but nothing will be made permanent with driveways until the end and final user is established for the property.

ACM Kirby requested a motion to, “Approve county right of way connection to road permit.”

**Motion** by Commissioner Hollingsworth, “So moved.” **Second** by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried unanimously.

**(3) BA 24-30 - DOT SCOP Grant for Dortch Street Reconstruction - \$512,240**

Budget Amendment 24-30 this is to reallocate funding in the amount of \$512,240 to be used for the Dortch Street Reconstruction.

**Motion** by Commissioner Ford, “So Moved.” **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

**(4) FY 24-25 FDOT Lighting Agreement**

Request for approval of payment for the FDOT lighting agreement FY 24-25 in the amount of \$170,568.80.

**Motion** by Commissioner Hollingsworth, “So Moved.” **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

**(5) Bid # 2024-01 - Repaving Contract - C.A. Boone Construction - \$1,573,000**

Two bids were received for Repaving Contract #2024-01. Anderson Columbia in the amount of \$1,691,000 and CA Boone in the amount of \$1,573,000. Mr. Kirby (ACM) asked the Commission to approve Bid # 2024-01 to CA Boone Construction in the amount of \$1,573,000.

**Motion** by Commissioner Hollingsworth, “So Moved.” **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

David Kraus, County Manager

**(6) Non-Qualified Counties (NQC) Opioid Settlement Funds**

Opioid settlement funds for Non-Qualified Counties must follow the criteria set by Department of Children and Family Services (DCF). Approval for the vending purchase order agreements put forth by LSF, which is the vendor chosen by DCF to oversee funding is requested by Mr. Krause (CM)

**Motion** by Commissioner Murphy, “So Moved.” **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

**(7) NFMIP Industrial Rail Agreement**

Discussion pertaining to NFMIP Industrial Rail Agreement with New Gulf Atlantic LLC ensued. Attorney Foreman offered some clarification as to the proposal. This project was added to the agenda for discussion so that the Commissioners could familiarize themselves with the agreement, in preparation for a vote to approve in the future.

**(8) Private Investor-Owned Utility Regulation and Resolution Establishing the 2024 Price Index at 3.24%**

Establishing of the 2024 price index in order to regulate for private utilities investors. This is done in place of conducting rate cases in an attempt to be financial conscientious. Mr. Kraus follows the PSE recommendation of Price Index at 3.24% to the Commission for approval.

**Motion** by Commissioner Ford, “approve 2024 price index. “ **Seconded** by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comments:**

Terrance Walker, citizen gave comment about suspicious out of town people trespassing in his neighborhood and wanted to make sure the Commission was aware of incidents/vandalism and would notify the Sheriff’s office to make the aware as well.

**Staff Comments:**

None.

**Commissioner Comments:**

Commissioner Phillips proposed question about an update on the school building in Ft. White. Mr. Kraus (CM) responded that he did not currently have an answer, however he would follow up.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

ATTEST:

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Ronald Williams, Chairman

Board of County Commissioners

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Jay M. Swisher, JR.

Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller