

## **Columbia County Board of County Commissioners**

**June 20<sup>th</sup> 2024 5:30 PM**

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

### **Commissioners in Attendance:**

Chairman, Ronald Williams

Commissioner Rocky Ford

Commissioner Everett Phillips

Commissioner Tim Murphy

Commissioner Robby Hollingsworth

### **Others in Attendance:**

David Kraus, County Manager (CM)

Kevin Kirby, Assistant County Manager (ACM)

Joel Foreman, County Attorney

Deputy Clerk, Amber Taylor

### **Agenda Additions and Deletions:**

#### **Additions:**

- 1.) Request for 2024 Fireworks – Chamber of Commerce
- 2.) Farm to Table Presentation
- 3.) Solid Waste Collection Franchise Application – Republic Services of Florida

#### **Deletions:**

- 1.) Introduction of the Suwannee Valley Transit Authority Director
- 2.) Presentation of the Safety and Risk Manager - Management Member of the Year

**Motion** by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve the agenda as presented. **Seconded** by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation to Board Not requiring Board Action

**Tim Murphy, District**

- ~~1.) Introduction of Suwannee Valley Transit Authority Director~~
- ~~2.) Safety and Risk Management Member of the Year — Ben Skipper~~

**Public Hearings:**

**Louie Goodin, County Planner**

- 1.) Ordinance No. 2024-10 Appealing Ordinance No. 2024-03 This ordinance involves Northern Designated Urban Development Areas in Columbia County. Due to procedural problems, this ordinance must be repealed and then readopted.

No public comment or public opposition given.

**Motion** by Commissioner Murphy to accept appeal of Ordinance No. 2024-10 repealing Ordinance No. 2024-03. **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

- 2.) Ordinance No. 2024-11 CPA 0243, this is a request to approve Designated Urban Development Area.

No public comment or public opposition given.

**Motion** by Commissioner Murphy to approve Ordinance No. 2024-11 – CPA 0243 as presented. **Seconded** by Commissioner Ford. Motion carried unanimously.

- 3.) Forest Cove Final Plat Presentation – This is a request by Rob Stewart for Commission to accept Final Plat of the Forest Cove Subdivision. (See attachment)

No public comment or public opposition given.

**Motion** by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve final Plat of Forest Cove Subdivision. **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

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

**Adoption of Consent Agenda:**

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

**Discussion and Action Items:**

**Louie Goodin, County Planner**

- 1.) Minor Subdivision Replat request. This request is to combine two lots in a local subdivision, so that construction can take place on current property line. (See attached packet)

**Motion** by Commissioner Phillips to approve Subdivision Replat. **Seconded** by Commissioner Ford. Motion carried unanimously.

**Joel Foreman, County Attorney**

- 2.) Proposed Interlocal Agreement – Local Workforce Development Area 26.

Discussion ensued.

**Motion** by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve region 7 interlocal agreement regarding local workforce development area 26 between: Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, Bradford County Board of County Commissioners, Columbia County Board of County Commissioners, Dixie County Board of County Commissioners, Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners, and Union County Board of County Commissioners as prepared by Mr. Norris. **Seconded** by Commissioner Ford. Motion carried unanimously.

Lengthy discussion ensued.

Attorney Joel Foreman, made suggestion to the Board that local representative Chuck Brannon may be of some assistance in the current situation with Local Workforce issues. Mr. Foreman felt that involving Representative Brannon may be beneficial to the citizens of Columbia County. Mr. Foreman and Commissioner Hollingsworth, will construct a letter to Representative Chuck Brannon making him aware of the current unfair advantage that Alachua County will have with the proposed agreement.

**Motion** by Commissioner Ford to authorize the construction and execution of letter to Representative Chuck Brannon's office. **Second** by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried unanimously.

- 3.) AmeriPro Back - Up Emergency Medical Services Contract

Mr. Foreman gave update to the Commission that the first set of deadlines has been reached with all parties involved for EMS services of Columbia County. Mr. Foreman asked that if voting to approve contract that has been put forth, there be a 90 day termination clause added to contract.

**Motion** by Commissioner Ford to accept AmeriPro backup Emergency Medical Services contract with 90 day termination amendment. **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

**Kevin Kirby, Assistant County Manager**

4.) Mosquito Control for Columbia County – Detailed Work Plan Budget FY24/25

**Motion** by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve and execution of detailed work plan budget for fiscal year 2024-25 to FDA CS in the amount of \$65,494.12. **Seconded** by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried unanimously.

5.) Small County Consolidated Waste Grant Agreement FY24/25 This agreement pertains to litter control/removal on roadsides in Columbia County.

**Motion** to approve and execute Small County Consolidated Waste Grant Agreement FY24-25 in the amount of \$93,750. **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

6.) Mr. Kirby (ACM) gave update to the Commission on issues facing Rum Island in Columbia County. The costs that tax payers of Columbia County are incurring to maintain this park compiled with the inability to access the park by residents, due to the influx of out of County park goers, has created issue. This park is meant to accommodate 35 vehicles and a limited number of visitors. A recent activity research project conducted by Mr. Clint Pittman, discovered that during the most recent holiday weekend, overcrowding has become a critical concern. This coupled with the destruction of facilities and property in the park, Mr. Kirby seeks recommendations from the Commission as to direction towards Rum Island. A suggestion of hiring off duty law enforcement to monitor Rum Island Park, was made.

Lengthy discussion ensued.

Clint Pittman gave further information and pictures of damage done by park goers at Rum Island.

The Commission requested that Attorney Joel Foreman research the original deed on Rum Island to see if a possibility of leasing the park to be managed by an outside entity or what other options might be available. Mr. Foreman will report back with information.

**David Kraus, County Manager**

- 7.) Insurance Renewal by Insurance Committee recommendation – Insurance Advisory Committee board made up of County Commissioners and Constitutional officers from Columbia County have met and have made recommendation on renewal of insurance policy.

Ms. Ann Edenfield from Gallagher gave a brief overview of proposed policy.

**Motion** by Commissioner Murphy to approve Insurance Renewal. **Seconded** by Commissioner Ford. Motion carried unanimously.

- 8.) Recommendation of Auditor Selection Committee – Columbia County received two responses to RFP 2024-G for professional auditing services. After the Audit Selection Committee reviewed and voted on their choice. It is the recommendation of the Committee, to award contract negotiations to Powell and Jones CPA.

**Motion** by Commissioner Ford to approve ranking and authorize negotiations with Powell and Jones CPA. **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

- 9.) BA 24-47 Approval of Grant F0135 in the amount of \$436,363.64 This grant is for the design of a new public safety complex, to be constructed in Columbia County. Funding was allocated during Hurricane Idalia to Columbia County. Mr. Kraus is requesting the Board vote to authorize the execution of the grant agreement and approve BA 24-47 appropriating the funds.

**Motion** by Commissioner Murphy to approve BA 24-47 Grant F0135 agreement. **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ford requested a workshop with Shane and 911 emergency personnel in anticipation for the upcoming hurricane/summer storm season. The purpose behind requested workshop, is to discuss preparedness along with issues that arose during previous storms. This workshop will be held on Wednesday July 3<sup>rd</sup> after the scheduled morning Board of County Commissioners meeting.

- 10.) Emergency Generator – Current emergency generator at Communications Department recently experienced failure of the EOC tower. Generator needs to be repaired or replaced. Estimates to repair or replace said generator are as follows:

- \$25,296.96 with 30 day warranty
- replacement cost \$32,355.50 with 2 year warranty

**Motion** by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve emergency purchase for generator replacement. **Seconded** by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried unanimously.

- 11.) BA 24-48 North Florida Water Utility Authority - Seed money in the amount of \$100,000 is requested from the Commission to fund the startup venture of the NFWUA. Suwannee County and Columbia County representatives, are to approach their Commissions with request for funding in the amount of \$100,000 in order to cover expenses incurred during the initial development of NFWUA.

**Motion** to approve BA 24-48 by Commissioner Ford, **Seconded** by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried unanimously.

- 12.) E. Byrne Justice Assistance Grant – This is an annual countywide program from the Justice Department. The Columbia County Sheriff's Office as well as the Lake City Police Department would like utilization of funds allocated by this program.

Commissioner Ford asked for some clarification on how the funds were allocated and the process of determining who oversees this procedure. He suggested to Mr. Kraus that someone on the staff of the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners, serve as Coordinator and be designated to oversee & disperse grant funding.

**Motion** by Commissioner Ford to approve application for E. Byrne Justice Assistance Grant with stipulation the Columbia County Board of Commissioners serve as Coordinator of the funds. **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

- 13.) 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks – Approval is needed in order to close down roads Mary Ethel Road and Bascom Norris Roads as they are effected by holiday gathering for Independence Day.

**Motion** by Commissioner Ford to approve the closing of roads for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration 2024. **Seconded** by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried unanimously.

- 14.) Solid Waste collection franchise application by Republic Services of Florida was presented to the Commission.

**Motion** to approve application for franchise by Commissioner Ford.

**Motion does not carry, due to lack of Second.**

#### **Open Public Comment:**

Bonnie Coffee, Abolish Abortion Florida

Ms. Coffee requested the Commission adopt a resolution that formally opposes Amendment #4 pertaining to abortion laws. See attachments

**Staff Comments:**

None

**Updates from County Manager:**

None

**Commissioner Comments:**

None

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, this meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM

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Ron Williams, Chairman  
Columbia County Commissioner

ATTEST:

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James M. Swisher, Jr.  
Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller

