

Columbia County Board of County Commissioners

October 03, ²⁰²⁴ 9:30 AM

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, Ron Williams
Commissioner, Rocky Ford
Commissioner, Everett Phillips
Commissioner, Robby Hollingsworth
Commissioner, Tim Murphy

Others in Attendance:

David Kraus, County Manager (CM)
Kevin Kirby, Assistant County Manager (ACM)
Joel Foreman, County Attorney
County Admin Services Director, Lisa Roberts

Agenda Additions & Deletions:

Additions:

- 1.) Hurricane Helene Discussion
- 2.) Emergency Storm Debris Related Ordinance
- 3.) Request for Voluntary Annexation – City of Lake City
- 4.) Permission to enter Private Property – 785 SW 27th

Motion to approve Consent Agenda as amended by Commissioner Murphy. **Seconded** by Commissioner Hollingsworth. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation to the Board:

Representative, Chuck Brannan

Mr. Brannan presented the Board with Annual Legislative Appropriations, as well as updates from Legislative Sessions. Mr. Brannan has worked closely with Senator Jennifer Bradley and feels that this legislative session, will indeed top previous years' success, for Columbia County. Mr. Brannan presented the Commission with check in the amount of \$ 6.525 Million Dollars.

~~Joseph Davis, SBA Public Affairs Specialist~~

Mr. Davis was not present for meeting.

Public Hearings:

Attorney Joel Forman, informed the Board of continuing issues with Private Contractors leaving debris on right of way on Public roads, throughout Columbia County. In an attempt to alleviate this issue, an Emergency Ordinance has been developed, under Florida Statutes 12566. This will allow for repercussion on Private Contractors and will dramatically decrease the expense of debris removal, from the tax payers of Columbia County.

The Commission was in agreeance (5-0 Vote) with the Emergency Basis of this Ordinance.

Mr. Foreman read Columbia County Emergency Ordinance 2024-19 into record.

Mr. Sylvester Warren III, addressed the Commission pertaining to Ordinance proposed. Mr. Warren questioned the Board as to additional funding available to help lower income areas with storm debris cleanup. Mr. Warren asked for clarification to the public, pertaining to County policies for storm debris removal.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Marcy Crosby addressed the Commission pertaining to out-of-town Contractors coming into subdivision, following each storm. This is done so, in an attempt to take advantages of older and unknowing citizens. She asked for clarification from Commission, as to how this Ordinance will be enforced, going forward.

Discussion ensued

Mr. Glenel Bowden addressed the Board in reference to storm debris that needs to be removed on his property.

Lengthy discussion ensued.

Mr. Kirby (ACM) offered further clarification for Citizens of Columbia County. If a citizen of Columbia County chooses to hire a Contractor for storm debris cleanup, the Contractor MUST haul debris from property for disposal. This must be included in pricing from Contractors during the hiring process. The proposed Ordinance is to protect Citizens of Columbia County, from being taken advantage of in this process by Contractors.

Commissioner Murphy made reference to implement Mr. Forman's previous suggestion, of yard signs warning about Code Violations pertaining to Storm Debris. Commissioner Murphy requested purchasing 300-yard sign, to be placed in areas known to have prior issues.

Mr. Sylvester Warren III addressed the Commission to express his gratitude to the Board, for implementing protection from price manipulation, on the Citizens of Columbia County, post storms.

However, Mr. Warren feels that not enough is being done to assist lower income citizens in particular neighborhoods in Columbia County.

Motion to adopt as presented Ordinance No. 2024-19 by Commissioner Murphy. **Seconded** by Commissioner Ford. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adopt Consent Agenda as presented by Commissioner Ford. **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action Items:

Kevin Kirby, Assistant County Manager

1.) Notification of Agreement of Execution

Mr. Kirby (ACM) informed the Board of a sidewalk project on Road 100A.

Motion by Commissioner Ford to approve lap project management of the design of sidewalk from 100A to US HWY 90 and adopt Resolution No. 2024R-44. **Seconded** by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kirby provided the Commission with storm cleanup phase information. The financial impact that the County has encountered, due to price gouging from Contractors. Under the newly adopted Emergency Ordinance, this will be controlled.

Motion by Commissioner Murphy to “piggyback off of a current contract at \$3.52 per cubic yard to allow Contractors to opportunity to haul to our Landfill”. **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

Lengthy Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kraus informed the Board, suggestions were followed to employee additional outside Contractors to help with Post Storm Assessments. This has been done in an attempt to expedite the process.

David Kraus, County Manager

2.) Agreement with Meridian Behavioral Health for Mental Health & Addiction Services

Motion by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve FY 2024-2025 Agreement with Meridian Health. **Seconded** by Commissioner Philips. Motion carried unanimously.

3.) Agreement with State of Florida Department of Health for Operation of the Columbia County Health Department for Indigent Care in Columbia County.

Motion by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve agreement FY 2024-2025 with Florida Department of Health for Operation of the Columbia County Health Department for Indigent Care. **Seconded** by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried unanimously.

- 4.) North Florida Mega Industrial Park West Conveyance and Right to Enter with Temporary Construction Easement Agreement is being requested, this is needed for the construction of AgroLiquid in the North Florida Mega Industrial Park.

Motion by Commissioner Murphy to approve agreement. **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

- 5.) Permission to enter private property 7685 SW 27th Street, Ft White FL for removal of down tree for utility customer, in-order to make necessary repairs.

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

- 6.) Rescheduling/Canceling of Scheduled Meetings.

Motion to “reschedule Joint Meeting with Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners” Commissioner Murphy. **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

- 7.) Tent Rental for Volunteer Storm Worker Services. If a need arises for the rental of additional tents, Mr. Kraus is seeking permission to do so, from the Board.

Motion by Commissioner Murphy to grant permission for additional tent rentals. **Seconded** by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

- 8.) Request by City of Lake City for Voluntary Annexation

Mr. Don Rosenthal (Lake City Manager) addressed the Commission with the request for Voluntary Annexation of property.

The Board requested additional information, before making a decision on this matter.

Open Public Comment:

Sylvester Warren III, addressed the Commission as to gathering’s by Commissioner Murphy, Ford and Hollingsworth, reported to Mr. Warren, by private investigator. Mr. Warren expressed that, he feels these gatherings serve as meetings where plans are made to intentionally undercut certain Communities or Districts.

Mr. Glenel Bowden, addressed the Board as to grass cutting need, on Bascom Norris, post storm as well as a ditch issue that needs repair.

Citizen (Name Inaudible) Posed question to Commission, as to who is contacted when Citizens have issues with Tree Contractors, not removing debris post storms. Attorney Foreman offered clarification on this matter. Any Citizens of Columbia County that are experiencing issues with hired Contractors

not hauling off storm debris, contact County Administration or email him personally (email was given).

Troy Adams (Clay Electric)

Mr. Adams gave a brief update on post storm conditions/outages.

Staff Comments:

None

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Ford offered gratitude to all involved in storm preparedness and recovery.

Commissioner Phillips expressed gratitude to the County Road Department and Mr. Kevin Kirby.

Commissioner Murphy extended the previous Commissioners sentiments.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:24 AM.

Chairman, Ron Williams
Columbia County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Jay M. Swisher, Jr.

Clerk of Court & County Comptroller

