

Columbia County  
Board of County Commissioners

Minutes of  
**September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners met in a regular scheduled meeting in the auditorium of the School Board Administrative Complex at 5:30 a.m. The meeting opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America followed.

Commissioners in Attendance: Chairman Rocky Ford, Robby Hollingsworth, Timothy Murphy, Everett Phillips and Ronald Williams

Others in Attendance: County Manager David Kraus ("CM")  
Assistant County Manager Kevin Kirby (ACM)  
County Attorney Joel Foreman  
Deputy Clerk Olga Armas

**Agenda Additions/Deletions**

Additions:

- Disaster Recovery Center being put into Lake City Reporter Building
- Phillips (FEMA)

Deletions:

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

**Presentation not requiring Board vote or action**

1) Chuck Brandon, State Representative

Mr. Brandon presented the County with a check of \$10,343,500.00 for the appropriations of upcoming projects for this year.

## **Public Hearings**

- 1) Final Rate Resolution No. 2023R-48 - Carolyn Heights Street Lighting MSBU

The public hearing opened and closed without public comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve Resolution No. 2023R-48.  
SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

- 2) Final Rate Resolution No. 2023R-49 - Emerald Lakes Street Lighting MSBU

The public hearing opened and closed without public comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve Resolution No. 2023R-49.  
SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3) Final Rate Resolution No. 2023R-50 - Laurel Lakes Street Lighting MSBU

The public hearing opened and closed without public comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Phillips to approve Resolution No. 2023R-50.  
SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

- 4) Final Rate Resolution No. 2023R-51 - Pine Ridge Local Improvement and Maintenance Assessments

The public hearing opened and closed without public comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Ford to approve Resolution No. 2023R-51. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

- 5) Final Rate Resolution No. 2023R-52 - Spring Hollow Lighting MSBU

The public hearing opened and closed without public comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve Resolution No. 2023R-52.  
SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

- 6) Final Rate Resolution No. 2023R-53 - Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services

The public hearing opened.

Sheila Haggerty offered comment.

The public hearing closed.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve Resolution No. 2023R-53.  
SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

7) Final Rate Resolution No. 2023R-54 - Fire Protection Services

The public hearing opened.

The following citizens offered comment:

- Jeff Jenkins
- Sheila Haggerty
- Jana Horton
- Anthony Ambrose
- Mary Dicks
- Sylvester Warren
- Randy Welch

The public hearing closed.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve Resolution No. 2023R-54.  
SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

8) First Hearing - Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Adoption of Millage Rate - 7.815

The public hearing opened and closed without public comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve millage rate of 7.8150. SECOND  
by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

9) First Hearing - Adoption of FY2023-2024 Budget

The public hearing opened.

The following citizens offered comment on topic:

- Jeff Jenkins
- Sheila Haggerty
- Louise Jones
- Sylvester Warren
- Joshua Garner

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to adopt the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 with the second Public Hearing to be held on September 21, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried 4-1, with Commissioner Murphy voting in opposition.

**Consent Agenda:**

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve the consent agenda. SECOND by Commissioner Ford. The motion carried unanimously.

- 1) BCC Administration - Agreement Between the County and North Central Florida Regional Planning Council - Comprehensive Planning Services
- 2) BCC Administration - Agreement Between the County and North Central Florida Regional Planning Council - Annual Monitoring of Hazardous Waste Generators
- 3) BCC Administration - Minutes - Regular Meeting - August 3, 2023
- 4) BCC Administration - Minutes - Budget Workshop - August 11, 2023
- 5) BCC Administration - Request from Sheriff for Federal Forfeiture Fund - \$39,961
- 6) BCC Finance - Bills and Vouchers - Aug. 16 ,2023 - \$2,923,515
- 7) BCC Finance - Revision to Capitalization Policy
- 8) Communications - Addendum to Customer Agreement for Transport Connectivity
- 9) Communications - Revisions to First Amendment to PCS Site Agreement with SprintCom LLC (T-Mobile)
- 10) Tourist Development - Approve Smith Travel Report (STR) Contract for \$9,600
- 11) Tourist Development - Columbia County's Advertisement in the 2024 Visit Florida Vacation Guide
- 12) Public Works - Ellisville I-75 Interchange- Grant Application
- 13) Public Works - Utility Permit - FP&L - SW Bascom Norris Drive
- 14) Public Works - Utility Permit - AT&T - SE Pounds Hammock Dr.

15) Public Works - Utility Permit - Flock Safety - County Road 100A

16) Public Works - Utility Permit - Comcast - SW Randall Ter

17) Public Works - Utility Permit - Comcast - SE CR 245

18) Public Works - Utility Permit - Comcast -143 SW Lexington Ct.

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

### **Discussion and Action Items**

#### Kevin Kirby, Assistant County Manager

1) FY 23/24 Annual Certified Budget – Mosquito Control

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve and sign per F.S Chapter 388. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

2) Bid No. 2023-06 - SE Academic Ave Ditch Repair

Repairing of SE Academic Ave. Major items of work will include maintenance of traffic, erosion repair and control, clearing and grubbing, earthwork, drainage, asphalt paving, grassing, signs and new pavement markings.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to award bid to the lowest qualified bidder; Curt's Construction at \$370,847.19. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

3) Request for Salary Adjustment - Central Communications

Staff requested a salary adjustment for the position of Radio/Communications specialist in the Central Communications department. The current salary is \$77,376 annually. Staff recommended an adjustment to \$96,240 annually.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve adjustment of \$96,240 annually. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

#### David Kraus, County Manager

4) Utility Director - Part Time

The County's Utility Director recently resigned effective September 22, 2023. This item requested the Board to authorize a Part Time Utility Director to fill in until the County can hire a permanent replacement.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to authorize part time Utility Director. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

5) Columbia County Fire Rescue Pay Schedule

Staff requested to revise the pay schedule for Fire Rescue Department to add educational incentives in the pay schedule: Fire Officer I, Fire Officer II and Live Fire Training Instructor.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to accept the revised pay schedule for Fire Rescue. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

6) Request to Apply for State Emergency Communications Board Rural Grants for 911 - \$186,846

Staff requested for Board approval of 3 State Emergency Communications Board Rural Grants for 911 - .5-year service Agreements.

- 1) INdigital for Rapid SOS Premium (accurate location data services)
- 2) ESInet 911 Core Services (Next Gen 911 services)
- 3) EIM Module for our Motorola VESTA 911 CPE (receive call data)

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve applications. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

7) FEMA Agreement to use Lake City Reporter building to use as Disaster Center

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve agreement. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

8) Commissioner Phillips (FEMA)

Commissioner Phillips asked the Commissioners if there was anything that could be done for the elderly community, in regards to Hurricane Idalia. There have been many calls from elderly citizens not being able to remove heavy debris from their yard. They also do not have the funds to hire a company to remove this debris.

The following citizens offered comment on topic:

- Harris Walker
- Sylvester Warren
- Sheila Haggerty
- Joshua Garner

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

Members of the public offering comment were:

- Stew Lilker
- Joshua Garner
- Sylvester Warren
- Ronald Williams
- Mary Dicks

**Staff Comments:**

None.

**Commissioner Comments:**

None.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 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