

Columbia County
Board of County Commissioners

Minutes of
April 20, 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 p.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:

- Florida Crown Board
- ACM Kirby, Enter Private Property

Deletions:

None.

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

Public Hearings

Commissioner Hollingsworth

1) Florida Crown Board

The State of Florida is realigning the Florida Crown Boards into bigger districts. This item is to discuss the proposal by Alachua County concerning the Florida Crown Board.

Robby Jones offered comment.
Stew Lilker offered comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to oppose any offer that doesn't have 1 vote per county and that Alachua County does not run all the day to day activities. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

Connie Brecheen, Community Development Coordinator

- 2) Comprehensive Plan Amendment – CPA 0243 – Expansion of the Designated Urban Development Area to the I-10 interchanges

Expansion of the Designated Urban Development Area to the I-10 interchanges

The public hearing opened and without closed with not public comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve Resolution No. PZ/LPA CPA 0243 – Comprehensive Plan Amendment. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously. See attached Resolution.

- 1) SD 0192 – Preliminary Plat Approval for Tara Luna Subdivision

The public hearing opened and closed with no public comment.

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve the preliminary plat approval for Tara Luna subdivision. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

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

- 1) BCC Administration - BA 23-46 - Transfer Economic Development Future Enhancement Funds to Professional Services
- 2) BCC Administration - BA 23-48 Loan Allocation for Capital Improvements Loan with First Federal
- 3) BCC Administration - Minutes - Work Shop - February 02, 2023
- 4) BCC Administration - Minutes - Regular Meeting - February 02, 2023
- 5) BCC Administration - Minutes - Regular Meeting - February 16, 2023
- 6) BCC Administration - Minutes - Regular Meeting - March 02, 2023

- 7) BCC Administration - Request by Crime Stoppers of Columbia County, Inc - Recognize Crime Stoppers of Columbia County, Inc. as the official crime stoppers program in Columbia County
- 8) BCC Administration - Road Closures - Columbia High School Graduation
- 9) Finance - Bills and Vouchers - 3/29/23 - \$2,374,974
- 10) Finance - Bills and Vouchers - 4/12/23 - \$3,830,782
- 11) Information Technology - County Road Name Request
- 12) Library - Pronunciator Agreement - \$1,995.00
- 13) Public Works - Permission to Enter Private Property
- 14) Public Works - Utility Permit
- 15) Public Works - Utility Permit
- 16) Solid Waste Collection Franchise Application - Dale's Excavation

Item # 1 from Consent Agenda pulled for discussion.

- BCC Administration - BA 23-46 - Transfer Economic Development Future Enhancement Funds to Professional Services

Stew Lilker offered comment.

No action was taken.

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

Discussion and Action Items

Kevin Kirby, Assistant County Manager

- 1) Trail Agreement – Columbia County/Duke Energy Florida

Trail Agreement between the County and Duke Energy as it relates to the installation of the trail from U.S. Hwy 27 at Ichetucknee River with revisions made to Paragraph 19 and 20 in order to be consistent with Suwannee County's Trail Agreement.

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

- 2) Sports Marketing – RFP 2023-G - \$39,000

The TDC is seeking a Sports Marketing Agency to represent Columbia County and received 2 proposals.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to award Airstream Ventures and approve consulting contract. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3) ACM Kirby, Enter Private Property due to Wildfire (East Road State Road 47, Azalea Park area)

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to repair the damaged roads. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

David Kraus, County Manager

- 4) Emergency Housing Repair Program Bid 202-H – Group 6,7 and 8

The County's consultant for the housing program, Guardian CRM, Inc. provided a detailed Bid Tabulation for each of the twelve (12) projects in Groups 6, 7, & 8.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to award projects to Patriot Response Group (7) and A2B Development, LLC (3). SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

- 5) CDBG Home Rehabilitation Program

Guardian CRM, grant administrator for the CDBG Housing Program, requests approval of the attached Ranking sheet dated March 6, 2023 be approved by the Board for purposes of bidding the housing projects approved under this program.

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve CDBG ranking from Guardian CRM. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

- 6) Residential Development Incentive Program

On April 2, 2020 the Board of Commissioners approved an economic development tax rebate incentive program for residential development. The program is scheduled to be re-evaluated for effectiveness after three years to determine feasibility of continuance.

MOTION by Commissioner Murphy to approve extension. SECOND by Commissioner Williams. During discussion, Board Members and Attorney Foreman identified issues to be revised in the future. The motion carried unanimously.

7) Resolution 2023R-17 2023 Price Index

Each year the County sets a Price Index for private investor owned utilities following the Public Service Commission's example This item sets the 2023 Price Index to the CPI

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve Resolution 2023R setting 2023 Price Index at 7.07%. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously. See attached Resolution.

8) Request for 2023 Price Index Adjustment – College Manor Utilities

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve Price Index Adjustment for College Manor Utilities. SECOND by Commissioner Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

9) 2023 Price Index Adjustment – Lance Water

MOTION by Commissioner Williams to approve 2023 Price Index Adjustment – Lance Water. SECOND by Commissioner Hollingsworth. The motion carried unanimously.

10) Resolution 2023R-09 – Water Rate Adjustments and Proposed Policies

The Fort White - Columbia County Utility Committee recommended having standardized rates for all the County operated utilities. To begin this process, the Committee recommended setting the Ellisville Residential water rates equal to the Fort White Residential Water Rates. The rates will gradually increase the Ellisville Commercial Water Rates until they reach the Fort White commercial rates. In addition, staff is recommending policy adjustments and a single set of fees so the Utility has one set of policies for all customers. In February, the Commissioners approved to move forward and notice was sent to all utility customers. Staff has fielded customer concerns. This item seeks to adopt the new rates.

MOTION by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve Resolution 2023R-09. SECOND by Commissioner Murphy. The motion carried unanimously. See attached Resolution.

Open Public Comments and/or Questions:

Members of the public offering comment were:

- Nancy Turner
- Terry Rasmussen
- Sylvester Warren

Staff Comments:

None.

Commissioner Comments:

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

ATTEST:

Rocky Ford, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

James M. Swisher, Jr.
Clerk of Circuit Court