

Board of County Commissioners

Minutes of
October 20, 2005

The Board of County Commissioners met in a **Regular Meeting** at the School Board Administration Office at 7:00 p.m. Sheriff Bill Gootee opened with prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America followed.

In Attendance:

Commissioners: Dewey Weaver, Ronald Williams, George Skinner and Elizabeth Porter. (Commissioner Flinn was attending an event with her daughter and was not in attendance.)

Others: Attorney Mark Feagle, Asst. County Manager Dale Williams, BCC Secretary Penny Stanley, and Deputy Clerk Sandy A. Markham.

- I. **A Lease Agreement for Guardian Ad Litem** was approved at the last meeting subject to Attorney Feagle's review. The building, according to the Lake City/Columbia County Fire Department meets fire codes, but it still has not been determined whether the building is ADA compliant. Attorney Feagle has recommended the "Potential Liability" provision be removed and language indicating the Leasor is responsible is for ensuring the subject building meets codes. The Leasor has agreed to provide a larger number of square feet than was provided for in the original lease without a rent increase MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to approve proposed lease with suggested changes. Second by Commissioner Porter. The motion carried unanimously.

- II. Greater Lake City Community Development Corporation requested the Board consider **financial assistance** from their discretionary funds and other available funding in order to advance their program to the next level. They explained the program fills a gap in the American workforce by providing training and providing skills. **The Greater Lake City Community Development Corporation's** program runs parallel to the Florida Crown Workforce Program in many ways. However, Florida Crown no longer offers educational assistance as The Greater Lake City Development Corporation does, nor does Florida Crown offer programs such as HIV training. To date the not for profit organization has operated strictly from donations and has received no public monetary funding assistance. They asked that the commissioners review the materials previously outlining the program and proposal, and consider a partnership to assist with employment in Columbia County.

- III. The Board heard a brief presentation by **Eutaw Utilities, Inc.** for a proposed **wastewater treatment plant** at the I-75 **Ellisville area** on Hwy. 441. The proposed plant will provide for:

Collection System (\$4.567M)

Treatment and Disposal (\$4.772M)

Finance and Contingency Cost (\$2.451M).

The total project cost is \$11.790 million dollars.

Possible Funding Sources:

FDEP, Community Development Block Grant

Legislative Appropriations

Utility Rates and Fees

After hearing the presentation, the Commission stressed that they do not want a system that will jeopardize the **Ichetucknee Basin** in any way. The request was acknowledged. Eutaw Utilities, Inc. believes the proposed project promotes a safe environment by eliminating approximately 400 septic tanks in the area and an old existing **waste water treatment plant**. The proposed system would include water reuse in addition to traditional affluent disposal methods.

The feasibility of the project will have to be evaluated by the Board. The next step will be to consider ordinances, policies and guidelines for operation and to address various utility fees and rates.

- IV. Richard "Dick" Powell, CPA presented the County's **annual audit for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004**. The original audit is on file at the Board of County Commissioner's office. He concluded his report by stating that the county is financially sound and ended its year stronger than it began. When ask how the county ranks for overall financial soundness Mr. Powell replied, "On a scale of one to ten, with ten being the highest, Columbia County is about a 9.15." MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to accept audit as presented. Second by Commissioner Skinner. The motion carried unanimously.

- V. At a public hearing consideration was given to a **resolution closing** a portion of **Natalie Terrace**, a road located in **Bellaire Subdivision**. In particular, the request was to close the North 114.42 feet of that portion of Natalie Terrace (formerly Natalie Avenue) situated and lying between Lot 13, Block A, and a portion of Lot 9, Block E, and the North 56 feet of Block E, Bellaire Subdivision, according to a plat thereof recorded in Plat book 3, Page 66, public records of Columbia County, Florida.

The public hearing opened and closed without opposition.

MOTION by Commissioner Skinner to approve. Second by Commissioner Porter. The motion carried 3-0.

(Commissioner Weaver was away from the meeting and did not cast a vote.)

VI. Building & Zoning

Subdivision - Preliminary Plat

- a. SD 0180 – **Windswept Industrial Subdivision**, Unit 2 (District III)
MOTION by Commissioner Skinner to approve. Second by Commissioner Weaver. The motion carried 3-0.
(Commissioner Porter was away from the meeting and did not cast a vote.)
- b. SD 0184 – **Blaine Estates**, Phase 3 (District III)
MOTION by Commissioner Skinner to approve. Second by Commissioner Weaver. The motion carried 3-0.
(Commissioner Porter was away from the meeting and did not cast a vote.)
- c. SD 0189 – **Sunset Meadows** (District III)
MOTION by Commissioner Skinner to approve. Second by Commissioner Weaver. The motion carried 3-0.
(Commissioner Porter was away from the meeting and did not cast a vote.)
- d. SD0190 – **Cannon Creek Place**, Phase II (District III)
MOTION by Commissioner Skinner to approve. Second by Commissioner Weaver. The motion carried unanimously.
- e. SD0193 - **Paradise Estates** (District I)
MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to approve. Second by Commissioner Skinner. The motion carried unanimously.

Final Plat - Minor Subdivision

- a. SD 0188 – **Gerald Riggle Development** (District III)
MOTION by Commissioner Skinner to approve. Second by Commissioner Porter. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. **Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Williams advised he would abstain from voting on items #5,#6, #7, #8, and #9. See form 8-B.

County Manager Williams asked that item #26 be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to approve the Consent Agenda except for items #5,#6, #7, #8, #9 and #26. Second by Commissioner Porter. The motion carried

MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to pull item #26 from the Consent Agenda. Second by Commissioner Skinner. The motion carried unanimously.

There was a call after-the-fact for clarification on items #19, #21, #26, #28 and #38. County Manager Williams assisted with clarification.

MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to approve items #5, #6, #7, #8, #9. Second by Commissioner Porter. The motion carried 3-0 with Commissioner Williams abstaining from the vote.

- (1) Invoice – Darabi and Associates, Inc. –Closed Landfill Inspection – \$1,473.97
- (2) Invoice – Darabi and Associates, Inc. – Closed Landfill Monitoring – \$1,795.91
- (3) Invoice – Darabi and Associates, Inc. – Engineering Services – \$283.83
- (4) Invoice – Hall’s Pump & Well Services, Inc. – Harris Lake Well – \$6,173.45
- (5) Invoice – Anderson Columbia Company, Inc. – Pay Request No.1 – Rolling Oaks Subdivision - \$140,486.26
- (6) Invoice (Final) – Anderson Columbia Company, Inc. – Tyre Grade and Myrtis Dortch Roads - \$31,504.20
- (7) Invoice – Anderson Columbia Company, Inc. – Pay Request No. 3 – Tyre Grade & Myrtis Dortch Roads - \$24,337.80
- (8) Invoice (Final) – Anderson Columbia Company, Inc. – CR 240 – \$84,569.42
- (9) Invoice – Anderson Columbia Company, Inc. – Pay Request No. 3 – Phase 1 - CR 240 - \$37,509.37
- (10) Invoice – Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. – Pettigrew Glen - \$564.75
- (11) Invoice – Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. – Brown Road Drainage – \$140.00
- (12) Invoice – Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. – Hunter Paneling - \$660.25
- (13) Invoice – Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. – Hope Henry Road – \$307.75
- (14) Invoice – Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. – Boundary Survey – Ft. White Property - \$1,325.25
- (15) Invoice – Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. – Bascom Norris Drive – \$1,925.00
- (16) Invoice – Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. – Engineering Services – \$5,760.00
- (17) Invoice – Donald F. Lee & Associates, Inc. – Bascom Norris Drive – \$165.00
- (18) Columbia County Emergency Medical Services – Refund Request – Blue Cross & Blue Shield - \$162.10
- (19) Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson P.A. – Proposal for Legal Services – Fire Protection and Solid Waste Assessment Programs FY 2006-2007
- (20) Indigent Burial – ICS Cremation, Inc. – Mac Jay Johnson, Deceased – \$500.00
- (21) Approval of Special Projects Request - \$24,540.00
- (22) Suwannee River Economic Council – (S.H.I.P.) – Release of Lien – Brent & Amanda Handy - \$3,000.00
- (23) Public Works – Surplus Equipment to be sold at Auction – (see attached list)
- (24) Utility Permit – Alltel Florida, Inc. – Wilson Springs Road at Nice Court
- (25) Host Agency Agreement between Columbia County and Experience Works

- (26) (PULLED) Agreement between Wainwright Judicial Services/Columbia County – Pre-Trial Release Supervision Contract
- (27) Proclamation – Declaring the Month of November as Epilepsy Awareness Month
- (28) Residency Requirement – Request for Exception – Michelle Crummitt - Human Resource/Community Services Director
- (29) Property Appraiser – Constitutional Officer's Report – October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005
- (30) Minute Approval – Board of County Commissioners – Special Meeting – September 26, 2005
- (31) Invoice – National Association of Counties – Membership Dues January 01, 2006 – December 31, 2006 - \$911.00
- (32) Sheriff's Office – Florida Contraband Forfeiture Trust Fund Semi-Annual Report – April 1, 2005 to September 30, 2005 - \$168,843.64
- (33) Public Works – Revised Position Description – Customer Service Representative I
- (34) Public Works – Revised Position Description – Customer Service Representative II
- (35) Agreement between Columbia County and North Central Florida Regional Planning Council –Annual Monitoring of Hazardous Waste Generators – FY October 05/06 - \$9,731.00
- (36) Utility Permit – Bell South Telecommunications – County Road 252
- (37) Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. – (S.H.I.P.) – Release of Lien – Charlotte M. Barksdale - \$4,000.00
- (38) Approval of Special Projects Request #2 - \$8,800.

- VIII. The **main branch** of the Columbia County **Public Library** is in need of **renovation** to make the library more functional and updated. This may be possible through **State Equalization Funds**. Board permission was sought to advertise for a consultant to make recommendations through the RFP process. No decision would be final until the Board considers proposals in mid 2006. MOTION to advertise for consultant by Commissioner Weaver. Second by Commissioner Porter. The motion carried unanimously.
- IX. Columbia County **Flood Mitigation Strategy** – The County needs a Flood Mitigation Strategy to assist in applying for grant funds. County Manager Williams reviewed with the Board a proposed strategy. The strategy involves cooperation between the County, Water Management District, and Florida Department of Community Affairs. MOTION to adopt flood mitigation strategy as presented by Commissioner Porter. Second by Commissioner Weaver. The motion carried unanimously.
- X. **Ordinance No. 91-7**, Section 4 paragraph 4.
The City of Lake City has proposed an increase at it's waster water treatment plant for processing **sludge**. This will affect a number haulers who operate according to Columbia County Ordinance 91-7. The Board was asked to set a public hearing to consider eliminating Section 4 of the ordinance, which requires that septic waste be disposed of at the City's wastewater plant. Staff suggested the Board ask Environmental Health Director Mark Landers to provide information that would assist haulers with disposal. This problem could be handled in the future at the

WasteWater Treatment Facility at Ellisville. The County has a 6-month extension/window to work within.

MOTION to set public hearing for the first meeting in December, for the purpose of amending the ordinance by Commissioner Porter. Second by Commissioner Weaver. The motion carried unanimously.

- XI. **Court Administration** has requested permission to relocate from **the Blanche Hotel** to the **Bank of America property**. The lease would be less rent than what is currently being paid for their operations location.

MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to approve subject to County Attorney Feagle's final review and approval. Second by Commissioner Skinner. The motion carried unanimously.

- IX. The Public Safety Coordinating Council has recommended Clemons, Rutherford and Associates be allowed to do a **new jail schematic** for a different design of the proposed **detention center**. A design that the Sheriff and his staff feels will be more functional and cost efficient. Clemons, Rutherford & Associates has agreed to do this work at no cost to the County. A full evaluation of the site is also needed to determine if the Hwy. 90 site would be suitable for building.

MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to approve the new schematic at no cost to the county. Second by Commissioner Skinner. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to approve a full evaluation of possible jail site on Hwy. 90 East in order to determine if the site is an acceptable. Second by Commissioner Porter. The motion carried 3-1 with Commissioner Williams voting in opposition. He voiced that he would not support the jail being moved outside of the five points area. "Those folks out there took the jail into their neighborhood when no one else was willing to. They feel their neighborhoods are safer because of patrol car visibility in the area."

- X. Sheriff's Office Use of Funds for 911 and CAD

In the 911 conversion a budget was submitted for various things including a new 911 system. The Sheriff has located a 911 grant. The Sheriff is requesting the budgeted money to purchase CAD software. Staff recommended approval.

MOTION to approve by Commissioner Weaver. Second by Commissioner Porter. The motion carried unanimously.

- XI. Helen Buiey Property located on Coastline Drive ballast

East of Ms. **Helen Buie**'s **property** is a large county maintained drainage ditch and inlet. The inlet has become non-functional due to CSX railroad ballast and other reasons. As a result, the water redirected itself and has washed the ground from under Ms. Buiey's house.

This has left the house unstable. The Board has considered the most cost effective means for correcting the problem. After discussions with professional house movers, it has been determined that the house cannot be jacked up and re-leveled and the house remains in a state of disrepair. The County would like to offer Ms. Buiey a used mobile home package with a value not to exceed \$40,000.

This package will include a utility pole and septic tank. In return, Ms. Buiey will give the county an easement for drainage.

Commissioner Porter asked what would be done with the house. The response was that the house would be removed.

MOTION by Commissioner Weaver to approve a mobile home package not to exceed \$40,000. Second by Commissioner Porter. The motion carried unanimously.

XII. Commissioner's Comments

By Commissioner Skinner:

(a) It has been reported to Commissioner Skinner that during the City of Lake City installation of a water main on CR 242 (Piccadilly Park Subdivision) the root system of a very large tree belonging to Mr. **Lindsey Bedingfield** was cut. The tree was damaged by the City and should be corrected by the City.

MOTION by Commissioner Skinner to have staff prepare a letter to City of Lake City informing them of the problem. Second by Commissioner Porter. The motion carried unanimously.

(b) The Commissioner read a statement criticizing the **Lake City Reporter** for a recent article where they claimed he made a statement that **Al-Qaeda** is living in Columbia County. In Commissioner Skinner's statement he claimed the Lake City Reporter took his remark out of context in order to create a sensational headline that would sell papers. He felt the reporter should make a public apology to its readers.

By Commissioner Weaver:

(a) Commissioner Weaver advised that he would be **out of town next** week and asked everyone to help out with anything that may come up in his district.

XIII. Public

Ms. Barbara McInturff reported the roads in **Spring Hollow** Subdivision are in poor condition, and the walking lane on the street behind the courthouse is in poor condition and is buckling in some places.

The County responded that concerns regarding the road buckling should be taken to the City of Lake City. Regarding Spring Hollow, there have been three projects done in last 14 months in that area; 2 drainage projects and some pothole patching. Spring hollow is not proposed for resurfacing at this time. It will be at least another year before the subdivision will be considered again. The priority list is generated from recommendations made by the county engineer.

Mr. John Pierce expressed appreciation for the financial assistance made by the commission to aid in **Alligator Fest**. He invited everyone out to enjoy the festivities. He asked how quick they would be able to obtain the check as they have performers who need to be paid on Saturday. Staff directed that he should contact Ms. Judy Lewis tomorrow.

Mr. Johnny Boone of **Leslie Glen** (off of Sister's Welcome Road) reported that with each rain, the **water rises** up to his home and abates at a very slow pace. He asked for assistance. Commissioner Porter responded that the Public Works Department recently dug out the ditch in that area. She asked that the County Engineer be sent out to consider additional assistance.

Ms. Rita Hedrick ask County Manager Williams if the one page adopted snap shot of the **Flood Mitigation Strategy** would have any impact on any projects already in the works. She learned that it would not impact those projects and that they are still moving forward.

Mr. Fred Glass invited the county commissioners to **Alligator Fest** and thanks for use of discretionary funds.

Ms. Joyce Tabor thanked County Manager Williams for his time on the telephone and his part in assisting with various **handicap areas** in Columbia County.

- XIV. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

P. DeWitt Cason
Clerk of Circuit Court

Ronald Williams, Vice-Chair
Board of County Commission