

Date: February 19, 2009

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Columbia County Commission

Commissioner Jody DuPree: Movant

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Chairman Stephen Bailey: Next on the agenda is Mr. John Chastain, executive director of the Florida Crown Workforce. We did receive by e mail a note from Mr. Chastain's secretary that they would not be here in attendance for tonight's meeting.

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Commissioner DuPree: Mr. Chairman.

(Reaches in his pocket and pulls out a piece of paper, from which he proceeds to read)

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Chairman Bailey: Yes sir.

Commissioner DuPree: I'm going to be making a motion with a statement.

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Due to the following findings pertaining to Florida Crown Workforce Board, Inc., one, unwillingness to recognize the role of the consortium as created through law and interlocal agreement. Two, local business complaints pertaining to Florida Crown Workforce being unresponsive to needs and questions. Number three, a demonstrated lack of communication with the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners, and a questionable relationship with Lake City Community College

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I make a motion that the Florida Crown Workforce Board be notified that Columbia County wishes to sever its agreement for workforce development services effective June the thirtieth, two thousand and nine. And in addition, staff is directed to prepare a list of available options to be considered for future workforce development service continuation.

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Chairman Bailey: Do we have a motion?

Commissioner Ronald Williams: Second

Chairman Bailey: I have a motion and a second.

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Commissioner Weaver: Discussion

Chairman Bailey: OK

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Commissioner Weaver: Staff, Mr. Williams?

County Manager Dale Williams: Yes sir.

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Commissioner Weaver: You got some ideas on how to proceed – (unintelligible)?

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County Manager Dale Williams: If that motion passes obviously we would contact Tallahassee and talk to the Work Force Innovations Group, or we would solicit their input as to what the options are. I would surmise that the options could range anywhere from creating a new region, all the way to possibly joining an existing region, that maybe adjoins Columbia County, such as the one Alachua is in.

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Commissioner Weaver: As long as we have a plan.

Chairman Bailey: Commissioner Williams.

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Commissioner Ronald Williams: There has to be a work relationship between all entities within this county when it comes to one of the most important things that we are charged to do at the Board of County Commissioners and IDA in Columbia County. That means working together for all elements in order to make sure we have a good transition of employees and information when we have companies move to Lake City ask about training for their employees if they locate here. There have been a breakdown in communication between the Board of County Commissioners, which is supposed to be the most important entity of all and Florida Crown and you know I don't see any reason that they can't come and meet with this Board like everybody else does, in open meetings so we can get all the cards on the table and we discuss our concerns of that.

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I don't feel like the Board needs to meet individually with the director of Florida Crown. We have a open meeting here and we can sit down and technically have a workshop like we've done with all of the entities. If there's different concerns, we sit down across the table and work them out, so that we as a Board collectively hear the same identical thing that you tell me and I don't know what he tells another commissioner at a separate meeting. But an open meeting is where you have a dialog for the best interests of this county. For

some reason we don't seem to be able to get that kind of dialog, so I whole heartedly agree.

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Chairman Bailey: Commissioners I couldn't agree more. This has been an ongoing issue for, prior to even me becoming on the Board and have worked with and it's just been from businesses all the way down we've had nothing but, nothing but complaints and problems and we've got to do something. And the breakdown in communication is just not acceptable. And you can't communicate with folks who don't want to communicate back with you. So, I support the motion.

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Commissioner Weaver: Commissioner if I could add one thing and one of the reasons it's vitally important to this Board is by law this Board is responsible ultimately

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Commissioner Ronald Williams: Yes sir.

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Commissioner Weaver: for their actions and we're answerable for their actions. If we cannot work with them, we need to move on and find somebody we can work for if we're gonna be responsible for their actions.

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Steven Bailey: That's correct, cause in the greater scheme of things their financial stuff comes back on us the way I understand it. So, any other comment?

All those in favor signify by saying aye? All those opposed?

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(Motion carries unanimously)