

July 10, 2007
Regular Session
Bonifay, Florida

The Holmes County Board of Commissioner met in Regular Session on the above date with the following members present: Commissioner Kenneth Williams, Commissioner Monty Merchant, Commissioner Jim King, Commissioner Phillip Music, Commissioner Raymon Thomas, Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Greg Wood, County Administrator, was present.

Angie Jonas, Deputy Clerk, was present and kept the minutes.

Chairman Thomas opened the meeting with Mr. Dinkins leading the prayer and pledge.

The Public Hearing item initially listed on the agenda was removed as it was not advertised correctly. Commissioner Thomas made note that the Hearing would be rescheduled for a later date.

Commissioner Music offered a motion to approve the following consent items:

June 21, 2007 Special Session Minutes

June 26, 2007 Regular Session Minutes

June 27, 2007 Special Session Minutes

Ship Satisfaction of Mortgage for Charlie R. Corbitt

Commissioner Merchant offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed hiring William Collins as a District 4 full time Road Maintenance Technician. Mr. Collins is currently a temporary FEMA employee and would be moved to a full time position. County Administrator Wood interjected that Mr. Collins did pass his physical evaluation. Commissioner King made a motion to hire Mr. Collins as a full time Road Maintenance Technician. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the grant agreement for the new NOAA weather transmitter. Under the grant, certain repairs that are currently paid for by Holmes County Emergency Management funds may be covered. Commissioner Music offered a motion to authorize Chairman Thomas to sign the agreement. Commissioner Williams offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(NOAA Weather Transmitter Grant Agreement)

Ms. Sharon Burnett of the West Florida Regional Planning council spoke about the five year Department of Transportation work plan. She advised that she is the Rural Work Program liaison between the Department of Transportation and Holmes County regarding a five year plan for

improvements in Holmes County. She asked the Board to review the projects for Holmes County and offer suggestions regarding them. Ms. Burnett reminded the Board of the August 17, 2007 deadline, and asked that all correspondence be directed to her before the deadline.

(Five Year Transportation Plan)

Greg Wood, County Administrator, advised the Board that all garbage service franchises are to expire July 31, 2007. He asked the Board to consider whether to renew the franchises at the same fees or to raise the fees. Commissioner King agreed that the fee was indeed in need of reevaluation; however he also thought that the franchises would pass the burden of higher fees to the residents, which was not the intended purpose of the increase in franchise fees. Commissioner King stated that he has received complaints from residents regarding previous increases for monthly service charges. Mr. Wood advised that most counties provide the garbage pickup service themselves. The Board discussed pursuing this idea for the future. Mr. Charles Smith discussed the trash pickup issue and offered comments regarding possible solutions. Commissioner King offered a motion to keep the current franchise fee at \$500.00 for a period of one year and to remind the haulers of their obligation to cover their trucks. Commissioner Music seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Wood reported that the Building Department was in need of a budget amendment. He reported an increase in revenue which must be used for this department. He also advised that the office hours were in need of revision to provide better customer service. He asked the Board to abolish the part time position and to create a full time office position as increased staffing will be needed to accommodate the extended hours of operation. He suggested opening the office at 7 a.m. and closing at 5 p.m. Chairman Thomas noted that monies raised by the Building Department must be budgeted in to the department itself and is not available for use in any other area. Commissioner Williams offered a motion to approve the budget amendment with Commissioner King offering second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Budget Amendment #2)

Mr. Wood advised that the Building Inspector was using his personal vehicle for travel and was receiving 44.5 cents per mile which was not the most cost effective method for the County. He requested to purchase a Ford Ranger 4 x 4 from State Bid. Commissioner King offered a motion to authorize the purchase with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Merchant asked if the duties of this department would be less when the Planner was hired and if so, why another position was needed. Mr. Wood, Administrator, advised that the Planner would be offering guidance at the Planning Meetings, but that he did not know how much of the

actual planning work would be taken from the Building Department. Commissioner Williams made a motion to eliminate the part-time position and to establish a full time position. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner King offered a motion to allow Administrator Wood to modify the office hours for the Building Department. Commissioner Music seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the Interlocal Agreement which governs the distribution of the Local Option Gas Tax to the municipalities within the county. Mr. Wood advised that according to the statutory formula, the County would be entitled to a larger distribution with some municipalities getting less. He stated that the City of Bonifay is currently receiving 10% but should only be getting 5.6% according to the statutory formula. He also discussed that some municipalities were not reporting that their distribution was being spent for transportation expenses and asked if the Board wanted him to further investigate this issue. Commissioner Williams offered a motion to leave the formula the same. Commissioner Music seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(Interlocal Agreement)

Mr. Wood asked the Board for permission to allow Sherry Fitzpatrick to become a notary. He advised that the fee was less than \$100.00 to become a notary. Commissioner King made a motion to allow her to become a notary and Commissioner Music seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Wood stated that there are several vacancies on the SHIP Board. He advised that the USDA representative would be Perry Jackson since Sonja Prescott had been transferred. Mr. Wood stated that he would be removing Wanda Stafford, Emergency Management Director, from the SHIP Board due to her work load and would bring back a recommendation for the other vacancies.

Mr. Wood reported that Hubert Hendrix, Shop Foreman, had given him an equipment repair priority list which is as follows:

- #1 Road Graders
- #2 Loaders and Backhoes
- #3 Dump Trucks
- #4 Chippers, Bush Hogs, etc.

He advised that he would discuss this priority list with the Road Foremen at their meeting to see if this was acceptable. He also informed the Board that he felt the Shop should be repairing and maintaining the ambulances since there is a qualified diesel mechanic at the Shop. He stated that if this happens,

ambulances would have to be first priority. The Board agreed that this was a good idea which would save money.

Mr. Wood reported about the land issue for the new Emergency Operations Center (EOC). He stated that he is negotiating with American Forest Management. The County has offered \$7,500.00 per acre and has received a counter offer of \$8,500.00 per acre for 6 acres near Bonifay. He asked the Board for permission to move forward with the land deal. Commissioner King made a motion to proceed with negotiations for the property. Commissioner Music seconded the motion. Commissioner Williams voted no. All others voted yes. The motion passed.

Commissioner Merchant asked about Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the auditor. Administrator Wood stated that he has not advertised yet. Commissioner Merchant stated that the County had entered a three year contract with the present auditor which was not yet expired. Mr. Wood advised that the present agreement did not have a specific audit deadline and that there were some other problems that needed addressing. He also advised that the present auditor could submit a RFQ for consideration.

Commissioner Music made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Merchant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Clerk

Chairman