

November 18, 2008
Special Session
Bonifay, Florida

The Holmes County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on the above date with the following members present: Commissioner Kenneth Williams, Commissioner Monty Merchant, Commissioner Jim King, Commissioner Phillip Music, Commissioner Ron Monk.

Mr. Greg Wood, County Administrator, was present.

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

Commissioner Merchant led the prayer and pledge.

Vice Chairman Music opened the meeting.

Pursuant to public notice, the Board held a Special Session to swear in elected Commissioners Jim King, Phillip Music and Ron Monk. Judge Owen Powell conducted the ceremony.

Vice Chairman Music asked for a nomination for the Chairman of the Board. Commissioner King made a motion to nominate Commissioner Monty Merchant as the Chairman of the Board. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner King made a motion for Phillip Music to continue as the Vice Chairman of the Board. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the invoice in the amount of \$40,332.40 from C.W. Roberts for the M.C. Carnley Road paving project. Chairman Merchant stated that this invoice had been amended to exclude work that had been done on private driveways. Commissioner Williams asked whether funds were available in the Stream Crossing Grant to cover this expense. Commissioner Music and Chairman Merchant confirmed that funds were available. Commissioner King made a motion to pay the invoice. Commissioner Music seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Wood asked whether the Board would be discussing the Commission Assignments portion of the re-organization item. Chairman Merchant stated that this would be discussed at a later time.

The Board discussed the County contribution to the Library Budget. Administrator Wood explained that in order to keep the Library at the fifty percent aid level from the State, the County would need to contribute another \$73,029.00, in addition to the \$31,679.00 which had already been budgeted. He stated that there is currently \$194,079.00 available in General Fund contingency. He also stated that

he had received a memo, which advised that the State is anticipating a ten percent “across the board” cut and suggested that in anticipation of the State aid cut, the County could contribute at least the ten percent or \$11,768.00 to contingency in order to “keep the Library going”. He also referenced an article that cited that the State is also anticipating a one billion dollar shortfall in revenues as well. Mrs. Susan Harris, Library Director, explained that State contributions in grant match programs are in twenty five and fifty percent increments and confirmed that the \$73,029.00 is at the fifty percent match level. She stated that the Panhandle Public Library Cooperative System (PPLCS) contribution does not count toward the County matching funds. She also stated that the Library was requesting a larger budget this year in anticipation of better services being provided to the public and that the County’s contribution this year would affect grant funding in the next two years. Commissioner Williams stated that should the State make more cuts next year, he would like the Library to operate at the funding level that the County has already contributed. He also stated that with the current situation, he does not anticipate any raises beyond those that are given annually to all employees. Mrs. Harris stated that minimum wage will be increasing in January and that some Library employees will be getting a raise as they currently earn minimum wage. Mrs. Betty Treadwell, Library employee, stated that the Library is an essential part of the community and asked the Board to continue to support the Library. Commissioner King stated that he could not support contributing the \$73,029.00 because of the unknown effect of the billion dollar state revenue losses on the County’s budget. Commissioner King made a motion to contribute \$11,768.00 to the Library budget. The motion died for lack of a second. Commissioner Music made a motion to contribute \$73,029.00 to the Library budget. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioner King and Chairman Merchant voting no, and all others voting yes.

The Board discussed the meeting schedule for December. Commissioner King made a motion to set a meeting for December 15, 2008 beginning at 9:00 a.m. and to cancel the December 9 and December 30, 2008 meetings. Commissioner Music seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Wood stated that there is a vacancy in District one due to the departure of Mr. David Cullifer. He asked if it would be allowable to hire Mr. Wesley DuBoise as a heavy equipment operator, since he has worked in this capacity previously. Commissioner Williams made a motion to hire Mr. Wesley DuBoise. Commissioner Music seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Young offered his congratulations to the current Board.

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

Clerk

Chairman