

December 17, 2009
Special Session
Bonifay, Florida

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

Mr. Brandon Young, County Attorney, was present.

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

Chairman Merchant opened the meeting with the prayer and pledge.

Pursuant to Public Notice, the Board held a Special Session to discuss the Mezzaluna Springs Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application request from the representatives of the Mezzaluna Springs Development. Mr. Brandon Young advised the Board of his discussion with Mr. Bailkin, Attorney with the firm Akerman Senterfitt, and the process that should be completed if the Board decided to proceed with the application. Steps included selecting a grant writing firm of the County's choosing, asking the chosen firm if they were agreeable to working with Mezzaluna Springs' firm of Akerman Senterfitt, and drafting a resolution outlining the Board's intention regarding the project and funding. Speaking regarding this topic were the following:

Ms. Linda Christy, of the Mezzaluna Springs Development

Mr. Jim Brook , of the Development Commission

Mr. Bob Jones, CDBG Grant Administrator

Commissioner Williams made a motion for Attorney Young to draft a resolution containing essential language that will support the idea of applying for a CDBG grant, with the understanding that the language will include ways for the County to "get out of it" if at any time the project isn't thought to be viable. Commissioner Music seconded the motion. The motion passed; with Commissioner King voting no, and all others voting yes. Attorney Young agreed that he would bring the draft resolution to the next meeting for Board review. He asked the Board to bring suggestions for a grant writer.

The Board discussed the previously opened bids for the turf reinforcement mat material for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) project at the Landfill. Chairman Merchant advised that the engineer had determined that the lowest bid of Evans and Company did not meet the specifications. Commissioner Williams made a motion to disqualify the low bidder, Evans and Company because the product did not meet bid specifications. Commissioner Music seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner King made a motion to award the bid to Sunshine Supplies. Commissioner Music seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the Family Refuse garbage franchise agreement. Chairman Merchant read a citizen's letter of complaint into record regarding poor service from the franchise. Mrs. Tina Sanders, citizen, asked if it would be allowable for the franchise to be transferred to her and her husband, and change the name of the business to Sanders Refuse. She also asked if it would be allowable for the franchise fee that had been paid by Mr. Tony Dean in November 2009 to be applied to their franchise. Attorney Young advised that the terms of the agreement were such that a new fee must be collected if there was new ownership, but that the Board could grant a variance. He also suggested that a new contract be signed as well. Also speaking regarding this topic were the following:

Mr. David Sanders, citizen

Tony Dean, of Family Refuse

Mrs. Sherry Fitzpatrick, Administrative Assistant

Commissioner Williams made a motion to allow the business name change and to allow the franchise fee that was paid by Mr. Dean in November to be applied to the new franchise agreement. Commissioner Music seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(Letter, Revised Franchise Agreement)

Mrs. Lori Patterson, citizen, discussed an ongoing flooding issue on her property. She thanked the Board for their response to her issue, but also advised that the issue was not entirely resolved. Also speaking regarding this issue was the following:

Mr. Fulton Yancey, citizen

Mrs. Betty Yancey, citizen

Commissioner Monk advised that he would continue to work on this problem. No action was taken on this item.

Mr. Jim Brook updated the Board regarding area projects such as Mezzaluna Springs and the LKQ automotive disassembly plant. He also advised that the Development Commission has taken ownership of the former Holmes Manufacturing site.

The Board discussed the parking lot repair for the Courthouse. No action was taken on this item.

The Board discussed the Local State of Emergency Declaration Resolution #09-26 for the forecasted upcoming severe weather. Commissioner King made a motion to adopt Resolution #09-26. Commissioner Music seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution # 09-26)

Attorney Young updated the Board regarding the Health Department's use of the former Hospital site parking lot. He advised that he had spoken with Mr. Howell, Hospital Board Attorney, and that a contract could be drafted regarding this. The Board agreed by consensus.

Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Clerk

Chairman