

January 29, 2019
Regular Session
Bonifay, Florida

The Holmes County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on the above date with the following members present: Commissioner Phillip Music, Commissioner Earl Stafford, Commissioner Bobby Sasnett, Commissioner Brandon Newsom and Commissioner Clint Erickson, Chairman of the Board.

Brandon Young, County Attorney, was present.

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

Chairman Erickson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. David Corbin, Project Director, led the prayer and pledge.

The first agenda item was Agenda Additions or Deletions. The following changes were made to the agenda:

- 10-E) Pay Rate for Hannah Benton, FEMA Project Monitor
- County Engineer Items moved before Agenda Items
- 10-F) Public Park Signs at Lake Cassidy
- 5-G) Deleted – County Attorney Item
- 9-E) Replaced with RFP 19-03
- 5-M) Deleted
- 10-D) Deleted

Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to approve the amended agenda with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to adopt the January 7, 2019 Special Session, the January 8, 2019 Regular Session, the January 14, 2019 Special Sessions and the January 18, 2019 Special Session minutes with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Lloyd Davis, a private citizen, discussed the use of his tax dollars for roads and schools, the poor condition of CR 181 and that the secondary roads are not built to handle big trucks. The Board advised him CR 181 was submitted for a DOT grant project and that Mr. Davis would have to discuss the school tax with the School Board.

Ewan Moore, a private citizen, expressed his appreciation for the County's efforts to clean up the Cobb property and requested that the County continue the work once it is dry enough for the equipment to reach the back section of the property. He also discussed the Health Department fines and County lien to be levied against the property owner.

Crystal Miles, a private citizen, discussed the road maintenance needed on Walker Road in Caryville and that the entire district was shut down during the month of December due to employees using leave time that they would otherwise lose. The Board advised Ms. Miles that the Road Foreman for her district would look into the road maintenance needed on Walker Road and the spacing of leave time would be reviewed.

Cliff Knauer, Dewberry Engineering, Inc., advised that the application for legislative appropriations to repair the Holmes County Jail facility and to construct an additional inmate housing pod are being submitted tomorrow.

Cliff Knauer, Dewberry Engineering, Inc., advised that the progress of the Bonifay-Gritney and Bonifay-Chipley Road projects were already discussed at the earlier Special Session.

Cliff Knauer, Dewberry Engineering, Inc., presented a \$2300 quote from Magnum Engineering to do the drilling and sampling work on the Dogwood Lakes dam to ensure the materials are suitable before the repair work begins. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to hire Magnum Engineering to complete the work with their fee to be paid from LOGT funds. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Quote)

Brandon Young, County Attorney, presented the one response to RFP 19-02 for lobbyist consultant services to assist with the County's legislative appropriations applications. Jennifer Green, President of Liberty Partners, discussed her company's lobbyist experience and proposal. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to enter into a preliminary agreement with Liberty Partners with the County Attorney to negotiate the parameters of the final agreement. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Proposal)

Steve Connell, EMS Director, requested an additional \$18,000 to fund an ambulance crew at the New Hope station ten hours a day, seven days a week for the remainder of this fiscal year. His discussion of the plan included the following items:

- Proposal to hire one full time EMT employee for 50 hours per week
- On-call EMTs will work at the station on Saturday and Sunday
- Non-E position will remain vacant
- Need for an additional \$55,000 in the next budget year to continue the service
- Money budgeted for vacant District 2 RMT position may fund position
- Use of revenue generated by the new ambulance crew

Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to create the New Hope station full-time EMT position paying the current EMT rate using money from the vacant District 2 RMT position. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Steve Connell, EMS Director, presented a request from the \$12.50 Surcharge Committee for radios, installation and radio repair work for EMS, the Bonifay Police Department and the Holmes County Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Music offered a motion to approve the purchase from Mobile Communications in the amount of \$10,175.88 from the \$12.50 Traffic Surcharge account. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Quotes)

Steve Connell, EMS Director, recommended getting more information on the 2019 Safer Grant before applying for the grant which funds extra positions and gear for the local fire departments program. He stated that he was not able to get a definite answer about the County's responsibility to fund the extra positions at the end of the grant term. The Board tabled this matter.

Steve Connell, EMS Director, presented the signed agreements from the following fire departments to provide fire and rescue services for Holmes County:

- Bonifay Fire Department
- Esto Fire Department
- Pittman Fire Department
- Gritney Fire Department
- Pine Log Fire Department
- Ponce de Leon Fire Department
- Westville Fire Department

He advised that Noma Fire Department and New Hope Fire Department have not yet signed the agreement. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to accept the agreements with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Agreements)

Rebecca Prince, Chamber of Commerce and Tourist Development Council, presented a letter requesting the appointment of an elected official to Seat #1 of the Tourist Development Council and approval of the recommendations for Seats #5 and #8. Commissioner Music offered a motion to approve the recommendation of Susan Marie Pearl Anderson to Seat #5 and Fred Provost to Seat #8. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to appoint Commissioner Stafford to Seat #1 of the council with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Letter)

Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to approve the Miscellaneous Appropriations Agreement with Tri County Community Council outlining the terms and conditions for the County funds received and stating the intended use of the money. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to approve the Miscellaneous Appropriations Agreement with Holmes Council on Aging outlining the terms and conditions for the County funds received and stating the intended use of the money. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

Brandon Young, County Attorney, presented a letter from the Clerk of Court's office advising that the homestead property of Luther Forehand at 2856 R M Ward Road, Ponce de Leon, did not sell at the January 8th tax deed sale. Mr. Young advised that if the Board wishes to waive their right to purchase the land, it will be entered onto the List of Land Available for Taxes. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to waive the right to purchase the property with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Letter)

Rose Adams, Career Source Chipola, presented an agreement for the County to join the National Dislocated Worker grant program that employs people displaced due to Hurricane Michael to assist the County with recovery and restoration work. She advised that the County would only be responsible for being the work site, supervising the work and signing the time sheets. Discussion also included the number of laborers needed, the number of hours laborers can work and the length of employment. Commissioner Music offered a motion to adopt the agreement and join the program with Commissioner Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

Hope French, Board Secretary, stated that free ethics training is available through the Northwest Florida League of Cities on May 2nd in DeFuniak Springs. The Board agreed by consensus to sign up all commissioners and Ms. French for the training.

Ronnie Braxton, a private citizen, discussed his services as a beaver trapper after completing a survey of each district and finding a total of 40 active beaver sites. He stated that he believes there will be between 135 to

170 beavers that need trapping at a rate of \$75 per animal. Discussion included of this matter included the following:

- Taking bids for the service
- Finding money for the service
- Setting a cap on the total amount for the service
- Appointing Animal Control officer to monitor work
- Districts to begin the trapping
- Updating the Board periodically

Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to hire Mr. Braxton and setting a \$5,000 cap for the services contingent on finding available funds. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Christopher Scott Birge, incoming Emergency Management Director, presented his proposal for an increase of the salary offered for the position to \$45,000. Discussion included the high cost of health insurance and that his education and training exceeded that of the previous Director. Attorney Brandon Young cautioned the Board about offering a higher salary than the previous director earned due to the pending lawsuit filed by that employee. The Board advised Mr. Birge that the salary has been budgeted for this year and asked if he would accept the job and readdress this issue in the next budget year. The matter was tabled until later in the meeting to give Mr. Birge time to consider.

(Letter)

Brandon Young, County Attorney, stated that a formal protest has been filed on RFP19-01 for disaster recovery services that was awarded to The Integrity Group. He advised that the protest cites that some companies are in conflict for contacting County staff during the bid process. Mr. Young recommended that the Board disqualify all bidders of RFP 19-01 and advertise again. Commissioner Music offered a motion to disqualify all the bidders and re-bid the service with Commissioner Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Young advised that disqualifying the bids for RFP 19-01 means that all the bid packages should be destroyed and cannot be subjected to a public records request. The re-bid will be advertised on February 6th with a March 11th closing date. The Board agreed by consensus to open and score the bids at a Special Session on March 12th at 8:00 a.m.

Brandon Young, County Attorney, presented Resolution 19-02 in support of Teen Challenge's application for legislative appropriations to fund a water system from Esto to the school. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to adopt the resolution with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution 19-02)

Brandon Young, County Attorney, presented Resolution 19-03 in support of the application for legislative appropriations to fund repairs to the current Holmes County Jail structure as well as for the construction of an additional inmate housing area. Commissioner Music offered a motion to adopt the resolution with Commissioner Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously. Ethan Merchant and Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, discussed the jail's need for these funds and their optimism on helping to secure the funds.

(Resolution 19-03)

Chairman Erickson called for a 15 minute recess at 7:45 p.m. Meeting reconvened at 8:03 p.m.

Brandon Young, County Attorney, stated that the Development Commission has requested to move from the Chamber of Commerce building into the County-owned Gulf Power building. He advised that a 1957 House Bill requires the County to pay for a full-time secretary for the commission, but housing can be provided by the County or the City. Raymon Thomas, Development Commission Director, and Doyle Majors, Chairman of the Board of Directors, discussed the need for privacy when talking to industries and developers. Discussion also included moving the Building Department and Veterans Service office that currently reside in the Gulf Power building. The Board directed David Corbin, Project Director, to review the request and bring back options for the Board to consider.

Brandon Young, County Attorney, presented the one proposal submitted by Trittech Wireless, LLC, in response to RFP 19-03 to lease space on communication towers owned by the County to provide internet service. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to award a non-exclusive lease to Trittech Wireless contingent on the County Attorney negotiating an agreement with the company. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Proposal)

Brandon Young, County Attorney, presented the job description for the Project Director for approval. Discussion included that this description changes the County Coordinator job title to Project Director, grants the position the authority to hire/terminate employees and removes the position's authority over day-to-day tasks of the Road Department. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to approve the job description with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Job Description)

Brandon Young, County Attorney, presented a two year employment contract to hire David Corbin as the Project Director. Discussion included that the contract provided for a twelve week severance pay if Mr. Corbin

is terminated without cause and whether there is a need for an employment contract as the position is no longer a County Coordinator. Commissioner Music offered a motion to approve Mr. Corbin's employment contract with a January 30th start date. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Employment Contract)

Aubrey Ammons, Ponce de Leon, discussed the intersection of Ammons and Grant Roads stating that the inability to see oncoming traffic at the stop sign is dangerous. The Board directed Albert Jordan, Special Road Projects Manager, to place a three-way stop at the intersection.

Christopher Scott Birge, incoming Emergency Management Director, returned and stated that, after consideration, he was reiterating his proposal for a salary increase to \$45,000. Rhonda Birge, his wife, discussed the high cost of health insurance and how her husband's qualifications exceed those of the previous Director. The Board refused Mr. Birge's proposal and he respectfully declined the position. The Board discussed the option of offering the position to the #2 candidate, John Hagans, or re-advertising the position now that a Project Director has been hired. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to have Project Director David Corbin look at all the applications submitted for the position, conduct the interviews and return with a recommendation. Commissioner Stafford offered a second. Commissioners Stafford, Sasnett and Newsom voted yes with Commissioners Music and Erickson voting no. The motion passed.

Chairman Erickson advised that the discussion about using milled asphalt on the FEMA alternative procedures projects is tabled until the disaster recovery services contract can be awarded.

Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to advertise the vacant Road Maintenance Tech position in District 2 with Commissioner Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to accept the resignation of FEMA Heavy Equipment Operator Tyler Harrison with Commissioner Music offering a second.

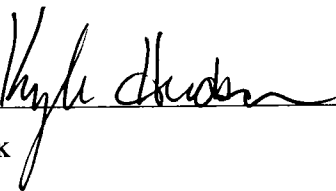
Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to hire Forrest Summerset as a FEMA Heavy Equipment Operator paying \$13.29 per hour with a February 4th start date. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Music offered a motion to pay FEMA Project Monitor Hannah Benton \$14.67 per hour with Commissioner Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Newsom discussed the need for signs at Lake Cassidy to make people aware it is a public park even though the property owner has put out 'No Trespassing' signs. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to put up the signs with Commissioner Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sasnett discussed the need for dirt on Mr. French's driveway on Highway 2 because nurses are unable to use the driveway to get to care for him. Attorney Brandon Young advised the Board not to go against their dirt or driveway policy. Discussion included implementing a 'pay to grade' program. The Board agreed by consensus to deliver two loads of dirt to the property.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.



Clerk



Chairman