

February 18, 2020  
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 Clint Erickson, Commissioner Phillip Music, Commissioner Bobby Sasnett, Commissioner Brandon Newsom and Commissioner Earl Stafford, Chairman of the Board.

Brandon Young, County Attorney, and David Corbin, Project Director, were present.

Barbra Bennett, Deputy Clerk, was present and kept the minutes.

Chairman Stafford called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Albert Jordan, Special Road Projects Manager, led the prayer and pledge.

David Corbin, Project Director, introduced Sierra Anderson, the North West Florida District Director from Senator Rick Scott's office.

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

- 12) Pine View Drive – Deleted
- 12) Ag Center- Added
- 4-A) HMGP Funding
- 4-B) Litter Control
- 4-C) Grader Lease

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

Commissioner Music offered a motion to approve the minutes from the February 4, 2020 Regular Session with Commissioner Sasnett offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Donna Williams, Road Department Secretary, presented the Satisfaction of Mortgage for the SHIP lien against Arthur and Michelle Gatlin. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for the chairman to execute the satisfaction with Commissioner Newsom offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Satisfaction of Mortgage)

Jason Powell, Powell Heavy Equipment, discussed the Dogwood Lakes dam repair project and the cost for patching the road in the subdivision. Discussion included replacement options for the base materials and the needed prep work for the road repairs. The Board agreed by consensus to accept bids on this project.

Velma Sasnett, House of Hope, discussed her program to assist women coping with addiction. Discussion included her future plans of opening a thrift store to aide her program and a possible shelter for battered women. She requested the Board's support for the program.

Chuck Aronhalt, Eastern Diesel, discussed having an exclusive franchise agreement with the county for towing services. Sheriff John Tate discussed his policy in regards to the service rotation. County Attorney Brandon Young advised that such an exclusive agreement would have to be bid. No action was taken.

Landis Messer, Bonifay Fire Department, presented a quote for an emergency generator for the tower in District 5. Discussion included the agencies that rely on the tower for their communications, the recent power outages and the unreliability of the current generator. Discussion also included The City of Bonifay's offer to reimburse the County for half of the generator cost up to \$6,000, the balance of the \$12.50 Surcharge funds, and loaning funds from the General Fund to pay the invoice until the funds become available in the \$12.50 Surcharge account. The following individuals discussed the money available to purchase the generator as well as the cost of maintenance and propane;

- Alice Vickers, Clerk of Court
- Steve Connell, EMS Director

Commissioner Erickson offered the following motion:

- To purchase the lowest priced generator after gathering three quotes
- To pay for the generator from the \$12.50 Surcharge funds with the City of Bonifay to pay half of the cost
- To loan funds from the General Fund since the \$12.50 Surcharge account balance is depleted

Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Quote)

David Spears, a private citizen, requested permission to clear cut his property after Hurricane Michael and beetles destroyed his pine trees. He was advised by the Florida Forest Service that approval was needed because of his participation in the Conservation Reserve Program. Kalyn Waters, Extension Service Director, offered her assistance to Mr. Spears to obtain the needed approval from the USDA Board.

David Corbin, Project Director, and Holmes County Sheriff John Tate discussed implementing a new litter control program using jail inmates and correction officers. Discussion included costs, materials needed and current litter control efforts. The Board directed Mr. Corbin, Sheriff Tate and Clerk Alice Vickers to discuss the feasibility of implementing the proposed program.

Wanda Stafford, Emergency Management Director, advised that the Florida Division of Emergency Management has made available a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) due to Hurricane Michael. Discussion included the following;

- Application deadline is March 10th
- Projects on the LMS list to submit for grant funding
- Grant requirement of 25% matching funds
- Need for Grant writer and Administrator
- Approval of appropriations for Ag center uncertain
- Using grant funds for partial funding for new EMS building
- Possible sources of matching funds

The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Alice Vickers, Clerk of Court
- Steve Connell, EMS Director

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to have Project Director David Corbin, Ms. Stafford, Bob Stinebaugh with The Integrity Group and the county engineers work together to submit the following three projects for HMGP funds;

- Ag Center
- Courthouse generator
- 50% funding of the proposed EMS building.

Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Program information & LMS list)

Wanda Stafford, Emergency Management Director, advised that an event to aide Hurricane Michael victims with their long term recovery efforts will be held at the Methodist Church on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

David Corbin, Project Director, advised that the lease on FEMA Grader #13-1 will expire on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. He stated that the Board must decide if they wish to purchase, extend the lease or return the grader. Discussion included the need for the grader, the purchase price of the grader and the cost to continue to lease. The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Alice Vickers, Clerk of Court
- Tommy Walker, Thompson CAT

Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to continue leasing the grader at a monthly cost of \$2,367.70 thru December using FEMA validated funds. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Lease/Purchase information)

Bob Stinebaugh, The Integrity Group, discussed the final list of roads and equipment for Round #2 of the FEMA alternative procedures program. Discussion included the following;

- Morrow Road removed from list
- Valee Road mileage reduced
- Old Mill Road added to list
- Width of Coates Road reduced to increase mileage
- Replacing culverts on the project roads
- Timeline for FEMA approval and RFPs
- Applying for project extension
- Purchasing leased grader with FEMA funds

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for Shop Foreman Andy Tharp to work with Mr. Stinebaugh to prepare the specs for the bids on the finalized equipment list. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Road and Equipment list)

Andy Tharp, Shop Foreman, discussed the cost to repair grader #13 and the impact on his repair and maintenance budget. The Board directed Mr. Tharp to obtain quotes for selling grader #13 and the John Deere grader in District 1 and bring back to the next session.

Cliff Knauer, Dewberry Engineers, discussed the progress with the Dogwood Lakes dam. He stated sodding and paving are still pending until a decision is made about patching the subdivision road. Mr. Knauer stated the roads should open to the public sometime this week.

Cliff Knauer, Dewberry Engineers, advised that the Thomas Drive Bridge had one bid submitted in the amount of \$624,344. Discussion included sending the bid to DOT to request additional funding, sending the money back to DOT and the qualifications to bid on projects. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to reject the bid submitted with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to re-bid the Thomas Drive bridge project. Commissioner Music offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Cliff Knauer, Dewberry Engineers, presented the following bids submitted for the Bonifay Gritney Road paving project:

Company	Base Bid	Alternate Bid
C.W. Roberts	\$1,862,096.25	\$374,547.29
Roberts & Roberts	\$2,089,929.72	\$388,749.04
Gum Creek Farms	\$1,460,689.39	\$273,926.05

Discussion included that the Department of Transportation granted an additional \$200,000, using money from phase #2 to fund phase #1, approving a conditional award contingent on DOT approving bids and awarding additional money. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to award the base and alternate bid submitted by Gum Creek Farm contingent on DOT approval of additional funding. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Cliff Knauer, Dewberry Engineers, presented a \$15,000 quote to install three new driveways on Bonifay Gritney Road as well as a \$65,000 quote to pave 23 existing driveways to the right of way. Discussion included that DOT no longer funds these types of projects as part of the SCRAP grant, that property owners were told these improvements were part of the agreement when they released their property and the County's driveway policy.

Cliff Knauer, Dewberry Engineers, advised that 5,924 feet of fencing will need to be replaced on Bonifay Gritney Rd. The Board directed Mr. Knauer to advertise a bid to local businesses to replace fencing to its original type.

Cliff Knauer, Dewberry Engineers, gave an update on Pineview Drive stating the C.W. Roberts' quote to resurface the road is \$25,000. Mr. Knauer will get the bid in writing and prepare a change order.

Cliff Knauer, Dewberry Engineers, stated his plans to apply for payment of deliverables A & B on the Highway 2 boat ramp project. Mr. Knauer stated that part C was denied because it is not handicapped accessible and he will contact FWC about requirements to pass inspection.

Rob Adams, Melvin Engineering, presented the following project updates:

- CR 162- finishing with shoulder work and sodding this week
- Idlewood Drive- pre-construction conference starts on Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>
- Work on SCRAP AND SCOP submittals

Brandon Young, County Attorney, presented County Referendum No. 1 for economic development ad valorem tax exemption. Originally the new business tax exemptions was approved by voters in 2010 and must be renewed every 10 years. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to approve the referendum to be placed on the ballot. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Referendum No. 1)

Brandon Young, County Attorney, presented County Referendum No.2 for a county wide indigent care one-half cent sales surtax for payment of Doctors Memorial Hospital indebtedness. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to approve the referendum to be placed on the ballot

contingent on hospital's approval of the language. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Referendum No.2)

Brandon Young, County Attorney, spoke about the Datapath agreement for a non-exclusive lease with AT&T for space on the tower located on M.C. Carnley Road. Mr. Young will finalize the agreement and present it at a future meeting. Discussion included lease pricing for future companies and requirements that they supply their own backup power for the tower.

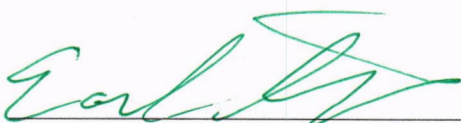
Brandon Young, County Attorney presented Resolution 20-10 to keep designation of Rural Area of Opportunity to apply for grants thru Opportunity Florida. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to adopt Resolution 20-10. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution 20-10)

Chairman Stafford discussed the closure of the Ag Center and that the Extension Office is being housed out at the 4-H barn. The Building Inspector has determined that the barn is currently not up to code for occupancy. The inspector recommended that a structural engineer evaluate the building to determine what is needed to bring it up to code. Kalyn Waters, Extension Service Director, discussed the disadvantages this has had on the Extension office and the 4-H youth and the amount of time that her department has been relocated to the barn. Discussion included the options of bringing the barn up to code, building a bathroom, or rebuilding the Ag center. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to remove a new excavator from the FEMA alternative procedures equipment list to help provide funds for the needed repairs for the barn. Cliff Knauer, Dewberry Engineers, discussed the possible structural issues with the barn and recommended the county obtain the services of a structural engineer. Commissioner Erickson withdrew his previous motion and the Board directed Project Director, David Corbin to schedule a structural engineer to inspect the barn. The Board tabled this matter until the inspection is completed. The Board also directed Ms. Waters to continue using the barn for her programs and discussed holding a Special Session next week to discuss the engineer's findings.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

  
Clerk

  
Chairman