

March 17, 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 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 9:15a.m.

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

- Agenda Item – Local State of Emergency – Moved to first Item
- County Coordinator Item C – PTO/Admin Leave for State of Emergency
- County Coordinator Item D – DOC Letter
- County Engineer Item C – SCRAP/SCOP Resolutions
- County Engineer Item D – GAC Invoices
- County Attorney Item G – Weapons/Firearm Policy
- Commissioner Item A – Bush Hog

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

Brandon Young, County Attorney, presented Resolution 2020-14 declaring a Local State of Emergency beginning this day due to the COVID-19 pandemic to remain in effect for a period of seven days and extended for seven day periods until threat has passed.

(Resolution)

David Corbin, Project Director, discussed closing the County parks temporarily due to COVID-19. Commissioner Erickson offered motion to close all County parks temporarily with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Darlene Moody, Bradley Road resident, discussed her previous comments regarding the FEMA paving work on the road. Commissioner Newsom advised that the work on Bradley Road will be starting back up soon.

Russ Cole, Holmes County citizen, presented a proclamation designating March 29<sup>th</sup> as “National Vietnam War Veterans Day” to honor their service and sacrifice. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for the Board to adopt the proclamation with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Proclamation)

Becky Lowry, Lucky Puppy Dog Rescue, discussed the need for Holmes County to reinstate their animal control department. She explained that their organization is being overwhelmed by dogs from Holmes County being dropped off and sent over by law enforcement. She discussed her lack of funds and volunteers to take on the extra animals and requested the Board’s help or suggestions.

Mike Gordon, Building Inspector, expressed the need for a Planner in the Building Department. He informed the Board that building permits have increased 60-70%. He discussed the option for the Board to contract planning services temporarily. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to have Mr. Corbin talk and discuss fees with a planner on a contractual basis and then bring back to the Board. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to assess fees for small scale plans in the amount \$450 and large scale plans in the amount of \$1,250. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously. David Corbin, Project Director, will discuss this matter with the prospective service contractor. Mr. Corbin is to bring the final discussions back to the Board for their approval.

Joe Rone, Development Commission, discussed new businesses and jobs coming to Holmes County. Commissioner Music offered a motion to appoint Mr. Rone to the Planning Commission. Commissioner Erickson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Christopher Lauen was present with the Students Working Against Tobacco (S.W.A.T.) group to do a presentation asking the Board to adopt tobacco retail licensing. County Attorney Brandon Young advised that an ordinance is currently in place that addresses this request.

Clint Smith, 911 Director for the Holmes County Sheriff's Department, presented the E911 Rural County Grant Program application forms for approval. He advised that the grants would pay for the purchase, maintenance and support of the equipment needed to run the 911 department. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the grant applications with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Grant Applications)

Clint Smith, 911 Director for the Holmes County Sheriff's Department, requested permission to advertise for a new washer and dryer to be paid by the Jail appropriations funds. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to grant the request with Commissioner Erickson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Steve Connell, EMS Director, presented the Holmes County Emergency Medical Service Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) for approval. Commissioner Music offered a motion to adopt the SOG with Commissioner Newsome offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(SOG)

Becky Marsh, Library Director, discussed the potential legislative cuts to the Library's State Aide and PPLCS Funding. She requested the Board's help for solutions to replace the funding.

Alice Vickers, Clerk of Court, presented an invoice from Motorola Solutions, Inc. for repair work on the County's Highway 79 tower due to Hurricane Michael damage. She advised that an insurance payment had been received for a portion of the cost. She requested direction for payment of the remaining balance. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to pay the invoice from the general contingency funds with Commissioner Newsom offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Invoice)

David Corbin, Project Director, presented the following updates:

- Idlewood Drive paving project to start March 21<sup>st</sup>
- Grant application for Courthouse generator will be submitted soon
- A plan to shut down the County offices due to COVID-19 will be presented within the next few days

Kevin Adkinson, The Integrity Group, discussed the following grants available to the County:

- HMGP grant deadline has been extended until May 1<sup>st</sup>
- CDBGR is a \$109 million grant to help with the 25% match required by the HMGP grant for Hurricane Michael impacted communities. The grant assistance could possibly mean no cost for the County
- John Clark Highway drainage and culverts project needs more information from Dewberry Engineers
- Potential improvements for multiple fire departments and town halls
- Kingsley Lane paving project is estimated at \$25,000 in cost of construction
- John Paul Road is estimated at \$20,000 in cost of construction

Andy Tharp, Shop Foreman, advised the Board that the FEMA roller lease will terminate in April. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to have Mr. Tharp to contact CAT about extending the lease until August. Commissioner Erickson offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.

County Attorney Brandon Young, presented the following resolutions for approval:

- Resolution No. 20-11 approving the application to the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) for the John Clark Road Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) project
- Resolution No. 20-12 approving the application to DOT for the Lake Victor Road bridge SCOP project
- Resolution No. 20-13 approving the application to DOT for the improvements on Robins Bridge Road bridge SCOP project
- Resolution No. 20-15 approving the application to DOT for the County Road 185 Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP)

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to adopt the four resolutions with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Resolutions No. 20-11, 20-12, 20-13, 20-15)

Cliff Knauer, Dewberry Engineers, presented a pay request from GAC, Inc in the amount of \$317,236.41 for FEMA alternative procedures lime rock work. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to pay the invoice with a second from Commissioner Music. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Knauer also presented a second pay request from White Holding Company in the amount of \$20,915 for lime rock provided for the project. Commissioner Erickson made a motion to pay the invoice with a second from Commissioner Newsom. The motion passed unanimously.

(Pay Requests)

Brandon Young, County Attorney, presented the RFQ for engineering services for County Road 179 Phase 1 resurfacing project. He advised the RFQ was necessary due to the cost of the project. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion approving the RFQ with Commissioner Erickson offering a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(RFQ)

Brandon Young, County Attorney, presented the Tower Structure Lease agreement with MT Networks, LLC of Wayne, Pennsylvania. The agreement will be effective immediately and will terminate in eight years with seven successive automatic five year options to renew. Commissioner Music offered a motion approving the lease Commissioner Erickson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Lease)

Brandon Young, County Attorney, presented the 12 month Hunting Lease opportunity for the 58 acres on Deacon Road. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to approve advertising the lease with a second from Commissioner Newsom. The motion passed unanimously.

(Lease)

Brandon Young, County Attorney, presented to the Board Tax Deed 2016-238. The certificate holder has not responded to the post-sale fee request. This property is to be entered into the List of Lands Available for Taxes. Mr. Young asked the Board to take action to either purchase the property or waive the right to purchase the property, so that the process can move forward. If choosing to waive the right to purchase, it makes the property available to the public immediately so that it has a chance to get back on the tax roll. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to decline purchasing the property with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Letter)

Brandon Young, County Attorney, discussed changing the County's policy to allow employees with a State of Florida issued license to carry concealed weapons on the work site. Commissioner Newsom made a


motion to implement a change in the policy with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.


(Policy)

Commissioner Newsom, discussed the temporary bush hog position that is seasonal to start back up soon. All Commissioners decided to table this matter until a later date.

Mr. Kent, a Holmes County citizen, requested the board to donate a few trucks of milled asphalt for the parking lot of the Holmes County Pregnancy and Family Center.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 11:22a.m.

  
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Clerk

  
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Chairman