

September 8, 2020
Special Session
Bonifay, Florida

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

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

Leigh Ann Ennis, Deputy Clerk, was present and kept the minutes.

Chairman Stafford called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. David Corbin, Project Director, led the prayer and pledge.

The first agenda item was Agenda Additions or Deletions. The following items were added:

- Shop Foreman
- Agenda Items
- County Attorney
- District 1 Grader Update
- Payroll Tax Deferral
- Union Negotiations

Commissioner Music offered the motion to accept the agenda and additions with Commissioner Newsom offering the second. The motion passed unanimously.

Non-Agenda Audience speakers were deferred until the budget portion of the meeting at the request of Commissioner Erickson.

Brandon Young, County Attorney, discussed Bid Proposal 20-07 for Workers' Compensation, Property and Casualty Insurance Coverages. Two bids were received, PRM (Public Risk Management) and PRIA (Public Risk Insurance Advisors). Discussion of bids included:

- PRM run off estimate of approximately \$45,375 to leave the pool
- Highlighted services provided by both companies as per company comparison sheet
- Andy Cooper spoke on behalf of PRM discussing the positive history between the County and PRM
- Matt Montgomery spoke on behalf of PRIA explaining the benefits of PRIA over PRM
- Mr. Young stated that both bids fall within the budgeted amount and added that there have been no issues with PRM to date.

Commissioner Music offered a motion to stay with PRM. Chairman Stafford relinquished the Chair to offer the second. Commissioners Music, Stafford and Sasnett voted yes while Commissioners Erickson and Newsom voted no. The motion carried. Commissioner Newsom relinquished the Chair back to Chairman Stafford.

(Proposal Binders)

Commissioner Music offered a motion to schedule the final budget hearing for Monday September 28, 2020 at 5:01 p.m. Commissioner Newsom offered the second and the motion passed unanimously.

Cathie Streckenwald, Michael Heptinstall, Anne Rodgers and Susan Curby, private citizens, discussed the lake in Dogwood Lakes subdivision not returning to the previous level after the repairs were made to the dam, as

well as the poor condition of the roads. These citizens requested that the County consider finding a way to get the water level in the lake back to the pre-repair level as well as develop a plan and timeline for road repairs. Commissioners Sasnett and Erickson discussed tax options and the County's revenue restrictions. The private citizens thanked the Board for listening to their concerns.

Steve Connell, EMS Director, discussed the New Hope position (10 hours a day, 7 days a week). Mr. Connell explained that Commissioner Newsom had inquired about EMS discontinuing the New Hope position, but feels the position is needed as it not only generates income for the County but it also decreases County expenses. The Board questioned Mr. Connell's statement and Mr. Connell explained that ambulance transports generate income while also preventing the need to spend money by using another County's ambulance services. It was the pleasure of the Board to have Mr. Connell report back to the Board with findings on transport rates and rate comparisons and to determine how to proceed.

Alice Vickers, Interim Clerk, explained the Payroll Tax Deferral where employers do not withhold an employee's FICA taxes from September 1, 2020 until December 31, 2020, then on January 1, 2021 the employee is responsible for paying the taxes. However, if the employee is no longer employed by the County, the County would be responsible for the collection and repayment of the tax debt. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to not participate in this program. Commissioner Music offered the second and the motion passed unanimously.

Andy Tharp, Shop Foreman, reported that grader 13-1 was in need of repair due to the machine showing various need for service codes. Mr. Tharp asked the Board to advise how to proceed. The Board agreed by consensus to take grader 13-1 to Thompson Cat for an estimate for repair.

Bob Stinebaugh, Integrity Group, discussed the County's plan for using CARES Act funds. Commissioner Erickson questioned Mr. Stinebaugh in regards to:

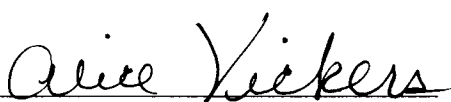
- Discussion from the previous meeting about prioritization of purchases
- The availability of the remainder of CARES Act Funds
- If the remainder of the County's allotted funds will be fronted or available by reimbursement only
- The fees charged by Integrity Group to date
- The concept of purchasing in terms of County purchasing protocol

Further discussion focused on the purchase of specifically needed and normally unaffordable items, with much emphasis on ambulances. The Commissioners discussed not spending beyond the funds currently received and spending includes all fees charged by Integrity Group. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to purchase a second ambulance with CARES Act Funds. Commissioner Sasnett offered the second and the motion passed unanimously.

Brandon Young, County Attorney, reported that the 2020/21 Budget did include a 3% raise for all employees, Union and Non-Union, plus a \$0.50 raise for Union eligible EMS employees. The Union did accept these terms and a vote is required. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to approve the 3% for all employees, plus \$0.50 per hour raise as it relates to Union EMS employees in the 2020/2021 Budget. Commissioner Newsom offered the second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Erickson discussed maintenance budgets for each district and the possibility of increasing them to avoid making budget amendments later. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to allot \$25,000 per district out of validated FEMA money to purchase milled asphalt for repairs, for a total of \$125,000. Commissioner Newsom offered the second and the motion passed unanimously

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was recessed at 8:10 p.m.



Clerk



Chairman