

March 15, 2022
Regular Session
Bonifay, Florida

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

David Corbin, Project Director, and Nathan Nolan, County Attorney, were also present. Leigh Ann Ennis, Deputy Clerk, was present and kept the minutes.

Chairman Stafford called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. David Corbin, Project Director, led the prayer and pledge.

The first agenda item was Agenda Additions and Deletions. The following item was added:

- Commissioner's Item Florida Power and Light (FPL)

The following item was deleted:

- Commissioner's Item Plaque for Library

Commissioner Music offered the motion to accept the amended agenda. Commissioner Newsom offered the second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Music offered the motion to adopt the minutes from the March 1, 2022 Regular Session. Commissioner Erickson offered the second and the motion passed unanimously.

Leslie Hatfield, President of the Holmes County Chamber of Commerce discussed the Chamber's "Event Season". Ms. Hatfield explained that the Down Home Street Festival series of events takes place in March and includes:

- The Miss Trailblazer Pageant, March 5, 2022
- The Trailblazer Trot, March 12, 2022
- A golf tournament is scheduled for March 18, 2022, weather permitting
- The Down Home Street Festival will be March 19, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park

Ms. Hatfield introduced Ms. Donna Meldon as the new Chamber Coordinator and explained that Ms. Melton will be in the Chamber office weekdays from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Nathan Nolan, County Attorney, presented Resolution #22-10 recognizing the achievements of the 2021-2022 Ponce De Leon Lady Pirates Basketball Team and further declaring March 15, 2022 as Ponce De Leon Lady Pirates Day. The names were read and each honored individual came forward to accept a framed original resolution bearing each commissioner's signature as a token of appreciation as well as have their picture taken with the Board.

(Resolution #22-10)

John Tate, County Sheriff, presented the following E911 Rural County Grant Program applications:

- 2C – E911 Map Maintenance
- 3A – Next-Gen Firewall Appliance Maintenance
- 2A – System Maintenance
- 5B – GIS Data Support

Commissioner Erickson offered the motion to approve the grant applications with the Chairman's signature. Commissioner Music offered the second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Grant Applications)

David Corbin, Project Director, recognized Kayla Welch, Extension Secretary, as the March Employee of the Month. Kalyn Waters, Extension Director, praised Ms. Welch for her hard work and dedication.

Bob Stinebaugh, Integrity Group, reported that he had no FEMA update, however the Board had several questions for Mr. Stinebaugh.

- Commissioner Erickson inquired about Hurricane Michael mitigation, however there was no mitigation as it was Category A and B only
- Commissioner Newsom inquired about the status of a permanent structure for Tanner Bridge, and Mr. Stinebaugh indicated an appeal has been filed under FEMA Project #4564, Hurricane Sally

Jennifer Green, Liberty Partners, discussed the approximately \$5 million the County was awarded in State Appropriations to be used to build a new Government Efficiency Center, which includes a Public Safety Center and Ag Center. Ms. Green explained that exploring other funding sources such as this has allowed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to go further as these projects can now be removed from the ARPA list to free up funds for other projects. Ms. Green suggested that local Agriculture related businesses sending letters in support of the project to the Governor would be helpful as the budget is still pending the Governor's approval. Ms. Green also stated that funding for Doctors Memorial Hospital and the City of Bonifay were awarded.

Tim Parsons, Liberty Partners, read the one bid received for the Multi-Purpose Agricultural and Public Facility from Contracting Unlimited Inc for \$669,119.00. Jennifer Green, Liberty Partners, explained that the bid was obtained with an RFP written under ARPA specific guidelines and therefore recommended that the bid be used as a guide but not be accepted. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to not accept the bid. Commissioner Music offered the second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Bid)

Tim Parsons, Liberty Partners, read the one bid received for medical equipment for Doctors Memorial Hospital (DMH). The bid was from Omni Cell Inc for \$503,406.10. Jennifer Green, Liberty Partners advised the Board to hold off on awarding the bid as DMH will receive State Appropriations. Further discussion included that the second round of ARPA funding being paid to the County approximately 12 months after the first money was received. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to accept the bid and move forward with the project. Commissioner Music offered the second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Bid)

Ms. Green reported that there were no bids received for renovations to the Ag Center.

Travis Howell, Alday-Howell Engineering, discussed the CR 179, Phase 1, project. Discussion included:

- A grant extension deadline was approved for June 30, 2022
- Thermo-striping is complete
- The contractor is waiting for the new concrete at the bridge to cure and they will return to work Friday
- The project should be completed in a few weeks

Nathan Nolan, County Attorney, stated that he had not received any official notification of the City's abandonment of the Rec Center. Discussion included current operating expenses for the Rec Center have been provided by the City of Bonifay. Commissioner Erickson offered the motion to use \$30,000.00 from Board Contingencies for a line-item Rec Center budget through October 1, 2022 when the new fiscal budget begins. Commissioner Newsom offered the second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Expense List)

David Corbin, Project Director, discussed meeting with the County Attorney to draft rules and policies for the Rec center. Mr. Corbin also discussed the following:

- Assess needed repairs to the restrooms and install steel doors with locks
- A mold test for the Rec Building
- Change the locks
- Notification to cease all leases
- Remove city signs and post County signs
- A name for the facility
- Inquire about garbage services
- Decide who should be the point of contact for the Rec Center

- Assemble a proposed budget for a position at the Rec center
- Assess light usage and plausibility of a timer on the lighting system
- Research camera installation

Cliff Knauer, Dewberry Engineering, reported that no prospective bidders attended the pre-bid meeting for the CR 181C project, and another meeting has been advertised.

Cliff Knauer, Dewberry Engineering, stated that the legal and sketch to correct the Deacon Road property encroachment issue is complete.

Cliff Knauer, Dewberry Engineering, reported that an archeological study is the next step for the park wells project associated with FEMA Project # 4564, Hurricane Sally.

Cliff Knauer, Dewberry Engineering, discussed the Bonifay Gritney Road, Phase 2, project and his meetings with land owners. Mr. Knauer explained meetings have been positive, no land owner has refused to sign, but some land owners have wanted to discuss issues on their private property that do not relate to the project.


Cliff Knauer, Dewberry Engineering, recommended that the Board write a letter to DEP requesting the permit for the Bonifay Chipley Road be issued. Mr. Knauer reminded the Board that DEP completed their site inspection in November 2021 and has had ample time to issue a permit.


Cliff Knauer, Dewberry Engineering, requested that the Board approve a Hydraulic Study for the Ammons Road project. Angie Purvee, Finance Director, clarified for the record that the Hydraulic Study was approved in November 2021.

Commissioner Erickson discussed the canal system at Dogwood Lakes. The Board agreed by consensus that the County Attorney would examine the deed for Dogwood Lakes to determine if the County has access to the canals via easement.

Commissioner Newsom discussed that since Florida Power and Light (FPL) acquired Gulf Power many citizens have experienced a significant increase to their electric bills. Commissioner Newsom offered the motion to send a letter requesting FPL to “take it easy” on the citizens of Holmes County. Commissioner Music offered the second and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.


Clerk


Chairman