

February 1, 2022
Workshop Session
Bonifay, Florida

The Holmes County Board of Commissioners met for a Workshop 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.

Nathan Nolan, County Attorney, was present and David Corbin, Project Director, appeared via telephone.

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

Chairman Stafford called the workshop to order at 5:10 p.m. Commissioner Music led the prayer and pledge.

There were no Agenda Additions or Deletions. Commissioner Music offered the motion to accept the Agenda. Commissioner Newsom offered the second and the motion passed unanimously.

Joe Rone, Holmes County Development Commission (HCDC), discussed an economic development grant offered by CDBG. Mr. Rone explained that, if awarded the grant, the HCDC would like to use the funds for infrastructure improvements that would allow the Hwy 79 and I-10 interchange area to be considered for a truck plaza. Further discussion included a brief overview of the CDBG grant submission process.

Chairman Stafford opened the public hearing for the CDBG grant. Hearing no questions or public comments Chairman Stafford closed the public hearing.

Joe Rone, HCDC, discussed the Large Restaurant Bill, more specifically an establishment's ability to sell alcohol by the drink and what that would mean in terms of jobs and tax revenue to the County. Discussion included:


- Larger, chain restaurants only build in areas where a policy such as this is in place
- The Board will decide to move forward with the policy change or not, but the voters decide the outcome
- *Liquor by the drink* voting cannot be combined with a regular election
- A special in-person election can be held, or voting may be done by mail
- Estimated cost of vote by mail would be \$35,000.00-\$50,000.00
- A Political Action Committee (PAC) could advance the cause with voter signatures if the Board does not want to vote to proceed but is a lengthy process
- The possibility of an interested restaurant helping offset the cost of the special election
- Brandon Shelby, Owner, Dogwood Lakes Golf Course, spoke in favor of this bill

The Board agreed by consensus that the HCDC should determine a cost estimate of a mail-in vote and find out if prospective restaurants are willing to help offset the cost of such an election as this

expense was not included in the 2021-22 budget. Mr. Rone will report his findings back to the Board.


(Letter)

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.



Clerk

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Chairman

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