

October 4, 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 Nolin, County Attorney, were also present.

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, was present and kept the minutes.

Chairman Stafford called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. David Corbin, Project Director, led the prayer and pledge.

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

- Commissioner Item B: MSBU for Fire Departments – added
- County Coordinator Item A: Airport Board Appointment – added
- County Attorney Item D: Library Cleaning Services Quote – added
- County Attorney Item C: Rec Center Policy – deleted

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 September 20, 2022 Regular Session, the September 23, 2022 Special Session and the September 26, 2022 Special Session. Commissioner Newsom offered the second and the motion passed unanimously.

The following members of the Kiwanis Club expressed their appreciation of the County's early response in preparing for this year's Northwest Florida Championship Rodeo:

- Shirley Owens
- Sandy Spear
- Harry Bell

Eddie Dixon, Culpepper Construction Company, discussed the construction costs that will be involved in building the new Ag Center and the governmental complex. The discussion included the probable cost per square foot for the buildings, the costs of site prep work and the difficulty in completing all projects for the \$4 million in appropriations available. Mr. Dixon recommended the County submit the project as a design-build item.

Jennifer Green, Liberty Partners, presented an update on the appropriations for the new Ag Center and governmental complex. Her update included the following items from the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting held by the Holmes County Government Complex Work Group:

- The Florida Department of Economic Development (DEO) has approved the use of the appropriations for site work and the renovation of the old Ag Center
- The scope of work should be completed in three phases: purchase of land, pre-construction phase for design and permits and the construction phase
- Sheriff can begin renovations to the old Ag Center as soon as the land is purchased

- Site prep and drainage will account for approximately 30-40% of the total project cost
- Engineering and design will account for approximately 5% of the total cost
- Recommendation to compose an RFP as one project
- Waiting for approval of the June 2024 deadline
- Request for 30-day reimbursements rather than quarterly reimbursements
- Work Group request for the Board to re-affirm the \$945,000 of ARPA funds for this project

The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Cliff Knauer, Dewberry Engineering
- Eddie Dixon, Culpepper Construction

Ms. Green advised that there will be opportunities to amend the project as it proceeds and additional funding for the site work is still a possibility.

(Memo from Work Group Meeting)

Adrienne Owen, Emergency Management Director, advised that the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) has reviewed the County's current Debris Removal and Monitoring Policies and advised that, if a County employee is not available to monitor the debris removal process, contracting the service will be necessary. The contracted debris monitoring service cannot be affiliated with the debris removal contractor. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to advertise an RFP for a debris monitoring service contract with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Adrienne Owen, Emergency Management Director, stated that, due to the removal of the EMPG grant funds from July to September, the Emergency Management department has suffered a shortfall in the Local Match account for the 2021-22 fiscal year. She advised that Sheriff John Tate is willing to use the Sheriff's Department's 2021-22 excess funds to cover the deficit. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to use up to \$1,500 of the Sheriff's excess 2021-22 funds to cover the shortfall in Emergency Management's Local Match Account. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

David Corbin, Project Director, presented a letter from the Tri-County Airport Authority stating that Board Member Fred Provost has resigned his seat and requesting the Holmes County Board of County Commissioners nominate a replacement. Commissioner Newsom nominated Joe Rone to fill the vacant seat with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Letter)

Jennifer Green, Liberty Partners, discussed the \$3 million in federal appropriations approved for use on the Rec Center. She advised that the funds were granted to the City of Bonifay and that Congressman Neal Dunn's office is working to see what can be done to secure the money now that the City reverted ownership of the Rec Center to the County.

Cliff Knauer, Dewberry Engineering, gave the following update on their current projects:

- New Ag Center – Geotech report due next week

- Turbeville Road/Spring Valley Lane Bridge – Geotech report revealed that the soil is of poor quality and that the timber pylons would have to be at least 45 feet in the ground below the mud line. The report has been turned over to The Integrity Group to help with the FEMA #4564 appeal
- Bonifay-Chipley Road – the archaeological determination from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHIPO) is still under review but should be completed soon
- Bonifay-Gritney Road – the reverter clause requested by two property owners has been placed in the easement and will be presented to them soon
- CR 181C – the request for additional funding has been submitted and waiting for DOT approval
- Ammons Road – FEMA is currently reviewing the report from the hydraulic study

Jennifer Green, Liberty Partners, advised that Congressman Neal Dunn's office will be submitting a letter to FEMA requesting another review of Holmes County's DR #4564 appeal.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented Ordinance 2022-05 regulating the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages within Holmes County. Discussion included that the ordinance was amended to include the wording previously approved by the Board. Commissioner Music offered a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-05 with Commissioner Newsom offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Ordinance 2022-05)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that the weight limit on the newly paved roads is still being determined and that a letter to the logging company on Flowing Well Road will be sent allowing the company to complete the timber removal. Commissioner Music offered a motion approving the Chairman to sign the letter. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Letter)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, stated that the Rec Center Rental Policy will be discussed at a later meeting so that Clerk Sam Bailey can be present to discuss the flow of rental and deposit funds.


Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented a quote from Interstate Commercial Services to clean the Library buildings two times weekly for \$508 per month. The Board discussed their understanding that the Library could revert back to being open to the public 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 8:00 a.m. through 12:00 p.m. on Saturday with the cleaning services provided. Becky Marsh, Library Director, advised that the Library could revert to their regular hours with the cleaning services, but that other programs would have to be cut due to her staff's inability to complete all their job duties. Discussion included which programs would have to be cut, the loss of the Library's grant employees and the Library's denied budget request for additional funding for another position. Kalyn Waters, Extension Service Director, proposed that the County's 4-H program could absorb the Library's homeschooling program and could possibly help with recruiting volunteers for other programs. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to table this discussion until Project Director David Corbin could review the Library's operations and come back to the Board with a recommendation. Until that time, the

Library will remain open to the public at the reduced hours previously approved. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Erickson discussed the 5% increase that every position was given in the 2022-23 budget and offered a motion to set the increased rate as the new base rate. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Newsom submitted a request that the minutes from the early 1990s regarding the MSBU for the fire department be researched. He has been advised that the voters approved the MSBU but it was never implemented. Discussion also included the statute of limitations on a referendum approved by the voters.

Having no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.



Clerk



Chairman