

November 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.

Nathan Nolin, County Attorney, and David Corbin, Project Director, were present.

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, 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 Board expressed their appreciation to Community South Bank for providing breakfast.

The first order of business was the swearing in of elected commissioners. County Judge Luke Taylor swore in re-elected Commissioners Earl Stafford and Brandon Newsom.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presided over the election of the Chairman of the Board. Commissioner Music offered a motion for Earl Stafford to remain the Chairman of the Board. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Nolin turned the meeting over to Chairman Stafford. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to allow Commissioner Newsom to remain as Vice-Chairman. Chairman Stafford relinquished the chair to second the motion. Commissioners Erickson and Stafford voted yes with Commissioners Music and Good voting no. Commissioner Music advised that he wanted to nominate Commissioner Good as Vice-Chairman. Due to the split vote, Commissioner Good stated he would not accept the nomination. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to elect Commissioner Newsom as Vice-Chairman with Commissioner Good offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- Commissioner Item B) Prior Meeting Vote

Commissioner Music offered the motion to accept the amended agenda with Commissioner Good offering the second. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Music offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the November 1, 2022 Regular Session. Commissioner Newsom offered the second and the motion passed unanimously.

Cody Land, a private citizen, discussed Ordinance 97-01 and Commissioner Newsom's failure to pay the garbage franchise fee for his U-Load Dumpsters LLC business. Commissioner Newsom advised that his business offers construction site dumpster rentals. Coy Mixon, Northwest Sanitation, stated that his company does not handle construction site waste or dumpster rentals. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that the intentions of the ordinance was to regulate the solid waste garbage services within the County and not construction site waste.

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, presented Budget Amendment #3 for the 2021-22 fiscal year. She advised that the amendment brought on grant revenue accrued during the year and moved money within departments for overspent line items. Commissioner Music offered a motion to approve Budget Amendment #3 with Commissioner Good offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Budget Amendment #3)

Steve Connell, EMS Director, presented a pay increase request for the County's EMTs and Paramedics along with options for increasing his department's revenue to help offset the expense. Discussion of this matter included the following:

- Cost of requested pay increase will be approximately \$235,000
- Training requirements for an EMT and Paramedic
- Base rate increase is required to continue billing Medicaid
- Pay rates for surrounding counties
- Generating more revenue by increasing billing rates, charging mileage and Medicaid billing
- Proposed billing rate increase
- Losing employees to surrounding counties if pay rate is not increased
- ARPA funds earmarked for EMS employee stipend
- Concerns on placing recurring costs on the budget

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to approve the proposed pay increase request to include the following items:

- Increase full time EMT base pay to \$15.00/hour
- Increase full time Paramedic base pay to \$16.65/hour
- Increase Shift Supervisor base pay to \$18.05/hour
- Increase on-call EMT base pay to \$15.00/hour
- Increase on-call Paramedic base pay to \$17.50/hour
- Longevity and certificate pay to remain the same
- Use \$150,000 of ARPA funds to offset the expense for 2022-23
- Approved the proposed billing rate increase effective immediately
- Director Connell to return with full plan to generate more revenue
- Pay increase will be effective November 24, 2022

Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Proposed Billing Rates Increase)

Dave Razey, Blue Pond Lane resident, explained that Blue Pond Lane runs from Walton County into Holmes County and Walton County has approved plans to resurface Blue Pond Lane and Blue Pond Circle. Mr. Razey lives on the portion of the road in Holmes County and requested that the Board enter into an agreement with Walton County to resurface the entire road. The Board directed Project Director David Corbin to make contact with Walton County to discuss the cost for such an agreement.

Melanie Rowand-Mills, Emerald Coast Regional Council, presented a renewal of the agreement allowing Emerald Coast Regional Council to manage the SHIP program for the County. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the agreement with Commissioner Newsom offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

Chairman Stafford announced that the re-organization of the Board will be discussed at the next meeting.

David Corbin, Project Director, presented a letter from the Tri-County Community Council requesting a representative from the Board serve on the TCCC Board of Directors. The Board agreed by consensus to discuss the request with the re-organization of the Board at the next meeting.

(Letter)

Tim Parsons, Liberty Partners, advised that the agreement from the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) for the \$4 million in appropriations for the Government Efficiency Center has not been finalized. DEO has confirmed that the County can proceed with the purchase of the old Ag Center property before the agreement is received. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the funds to purchase the old Ag Center in the amount of \$133,000 plus closing costs using ARPA funds which will be reimbursed when the appropriations are received. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Tim Parsons, Liberty Partners, announced that Congressman Dunn's office is still working to transfer the approved appropriations for the Rec Center from the City to the County. The Board agreed by consensus to list Project Director David Corbin as the point-of-contact for the project.

John Sims, Dewberry Engineering, offered updates on the following projects:

- Bonifay/ChIPLEY Road - the project bids are being advertised
- Bonifay/Gritney Road – meeting with the landowners who have not yet signed the property releases to discuss the proposed road boundaries

Elissa Pettis, Tri-State Companies LLC, advised that she wrote the original grant application for the Rec Center appropriations and that an agreement will be needed naming the City of Bonifay as the recipient and the County as the subrecipient. Ms. Pettis stated that she will donate the environmental review that is required before the funds can be released. Ricky Callahan, City of Bonifay, advised that the City would act as the pass-thru entity for the project. Discussion included the procurement requirements for the funds. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to have the County Attorney work with the City Attorney to prepare a bid for the engineering services and work out a MOU with the City on working together on the project. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

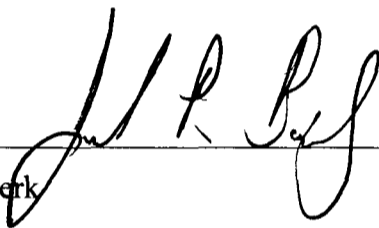
Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that an annual review of the Project Director's contract was performed. He advised that the job description listed as "Exhibit A" in the contract is not actually attached which

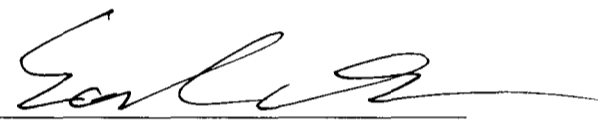
will need to be rectified or the Board can eliminate the contract and make the Project Director position an “at will” employee. Mr. Nolin stated that the job description can mirror the Florida Statutes description for a County Coordinator. Commissioner Music offered a motion to update the current contract with the exhibit outlining the Project Director’s job duties and responsibilities. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Stafford recommended scheduling a Special Session next week to discuss the Project Gateway. The Board agreed by consensus to tentatively schedule the meeting for Tuesday, November 22nd at 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner Newsom advised that he wanted to rescind his second to the motion at the November 1, 2022 Regular Session approving the lot split application from Dockery Land Holdings LLC for parcel I.D. #1834.02-000-000-005.000. He stated that the Ponce de Leon Town Council was meeting to discuss the application. John Feeney, Contracted Planner, clarified that the application will be brought back to the Board upon approval by Ponce de Leon.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.


Clerk


Chairman