

February 21, 2023
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.

Nate 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 first agenda item was Agenda Additions and Deletions. The following items were added to the agenda:

- Commissioner Item A) Annual Fireworks Display
- Commissioner Item B) Release of SHIP Lien

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

Commissioner Music offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the February 7, 2023 Regular Session. Commissioner Newsom offered the second and the motion passed unanimously.

Adrienne Owen, Emergency Management Director, requested approval to apply for a Local Government Cyber Security Grant funded by the State. She stated that the grant will not require a match and that it is her intention to request a penetration test to assess the strength of Emergency Management's system. Discussion included that the grant does not supply recurring funds, but the State is looking for ways to continue the funding. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the request to apply for the grant. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Stafford opened the final public hearing to adopt the current Florida Building Codes. Keith Bennett, Holmes County Building Official, was present to answer any questions. The public hearing was closed with no comments. The ordinance adopting the current Florida Building Codes will be presented for Board approval during the County Attorney's portion of the meeting.

Steve Connell, EMS Director, discussed the opportunities available to the County through the HOPE Program. He advised that the program awards EMS departments \$50,000 to assist rural areas identify and develop a strategy to reduce the calls for assistance that do not generate revenue. The program will reimburse the salaries of the EMS employees collecting data for the program and the data collection will not interfere with EMS' day-to-day response. Michael Lefler, Department of Health, discussed the program and advised that there is no guarantee for a continuation of the funds but that the County may find the plan developed through the data collection beneficial in the future. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for Mr. Connell to develop a plan to utilize the program. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Steve Connell, EMS Director, presented a request from Esto Fire Department for the County to contribute funds towards a \$284,523.81 grant to purchase a new brush truck. Discussion of this matter included the following:

- Mechanical issues with the current truck
- Grant writing fee of \$13,548.76 is due within 30 days of grant approval
- Matching amount of \$14,226.19 is required by the grant
- Esto will donate the current brush truck to the County
- Procurement procedure used to secure grant writers
- Department has applied two times for the grant without success
- Esto will hold fund raisers to reduce the amount needed from the County
- Application has already been submitted with approval possibly taking up to eight months
- Requested funds may not be needed until next fiscal year
- Board's request to know about grant applications before submissions

The following citizen discussed this matter:

- Tom Murphy, Chief of the Esto Fire Department

The Board agreed by consensus to table this matter until a grant approval has been received and directed that the Budget Committee consider placing the requested funds on the 2023-2024 budget if the approval is not received this fiscal year.

(Request)

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, presented Budget Amendment #1 for the 2022-23 fiscal year. She advised that the amendment brought on grant revenue accrued during the fiscal year, transferred money approved by the Board and moved money within departments for overspent line items. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to approve Budget Amendment #1 with Commissioner Good offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Budget Amendment #1)

David Corbin, Project Director, presented a proposal from a real estate broker giving the County the right of first refusal on three parcels of land near the County's dirt pit on McCarnley Road. Discussion included that the dirt pits in the other districts are near depletion and having the County's engineers view the parcels. The Board agreed by consensus to have County Attorney Nate Nolin contact the broker to advise him that the County is looking at the property before making a decision.

(Proposal)

David Corbin, Project Director, advised that the owner of Parcel ID 1327.04-001-002-210.000, a .22-acre parcel near Raccoon Run, wanted to sell the property to the County for \$1.00. Discussion included that the County owns the adjacent parcel through the FEMA buyout program and that the parcel is wetlands. The Board agreed by consensus that the County has no interest in purchasing the property.

The Board recognized Nina Nallick, Building Department Secretary, as the February Employee of the Month.

David Corbin, Project Director, presented a quote from Smarsh for cell phone archiving services should the County revert to County-owned cell phones in lieu of a cell phone stipend. Discussion included that a twelve-month contract would be required, an initial cost of \$5,442 would be charged with an annual recurring cost of approximately \$150 per device. Commissioner Good offered a motion to not accept the quote and keep the cell phone stipend in place. Commissioner Music offered a second. Commissioners Erickson, Good, Music and Stafford voted yes, and Commissioner Newsom voted no. The motion passed.

(Quote)

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, stated that the County has been awarded a \$366,425 Resilient Florida Grant which it to be used to prepare a vulnerability assessment to help mitigate floods and other natural disasters. Discussion included that the grant program works with the County's Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) list and that there will be some advertisement requirements for the grant. Mr. Feeney will return to the Board with a grant agreement when available.

David Corbin, Project Director, stated that he will be returning to the Board with a recommendation to hire or contract administrative assistance with the County's grants.

Bob Stinebaugh, The Integrity Group, advised that the FEMA DR #4564 appeal is still pending, and that Senator Rick Scott's aide has a scheduled visit to discuss the County's FEMA appeal.

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, presented the Minor Development Order for Family Dollar/Dollar Tree in Ponce de Leon (PDL). Discussion of this matter included the following:

- Application meets all requirements under the County's Comp Plan and Development Regulations
- Two conditions of approval are review of the drainage easement and geotechnical report
- PDL Town Council denied the development order, but town falls under the County's Comp Plan
- PDL has the capacity to provide water and sewer to the development, but Town Council must approve
- PDL denial of water and sewer to the development will require an amended layout of the building to allow for a well and septic
- Process for PDL to have own Comp Plan

The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Jessica Harris, PDL Town Clerk
- Ron Farrington, Ex-Mayor of PDL
- George Robertson, PDL Town Council and Development Commission member
- Zack Williams, PDL Town Council
- Jimmie Wardwell, PDL resident
- Michael Valcq, PDL resident

- Mike Benton, PDL resident

Mr. Feeney recommended approval of the development order based on all the requirements being met and approval by the Planning Commission. Commissioner Good offered a motion approving the development order contingent on the following three items:

- Developer submits a copy of the drainage easement for review
- Developer submits a copy of the Geotechnical Report for review
- Town of Ponce de Leon approves request to provide water and sewer to the development

Chairman Stafford relinquished the chair to Vice-Chairman Newsom and offered a second to the motion. Commissioners Good, Stafford and Erickson voted yes, and Commissioner Music and Newsom voted no. The motion passed.

(Development Order)

Vice-Chairman Newsom called for a five-minute recess.

Chairman Stafford re-convened the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineering, advised that the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) has ruled that the scope of work on the Bonifay Gritney Road Phase 2 paving project can only be reduced by ending the pavement at a reasonable point on the road. Discussion included stopping the pavement at Coy Hinson Road and dressing the intersection where the pavement ends. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for Project Director David Corbin to send an email to DOT stating that the County requests to end the pavement on Bonifay Gritney Road at the intersection with Coy Hinson Road. Commissioner Newsom offered a second. Commissioner Erickson, Good, Music and Newsom voted yes, and Chairman Stafford voted no. The motion passed.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented a proposed Public Records Policy for approval advising that the policy would give more direction when wading through public records request. Commission Erickson offered a motion to adopt the policy with Commissioner Good offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Policy)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that Felicia Mathis, a Mathis Lane resident, has contacted the County about an agreement approved in the past for the County to use sand from her property. She is now requesting that the County bring clay to the property because the pit left by the County will not hold water. Mr. Nolin stated that no agreement between the County and Ms. Mathis has been located. The Board directed Project Director David Corbin to take an engineer to the Mathis property to investigate the request.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented Ordinance 23-01 to adopt the current Florida Building Code. Commissioner Music offered a motion to adopt Ordinance 23-01 with Commissioner Newsom offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

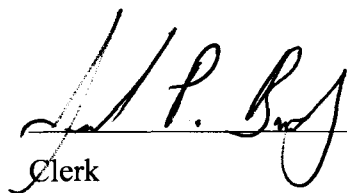
(Ordinance 23-01)

Chairman Stafford advised that the Tourist Development Council (TDC) has agreed to pay for the 4th of July fireworks display since the Holmes County Ministerial Association could no longer fund the event. The TDC has requested the use of the Rec Center to hold the event. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to grant the request with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Stafford presented a release of a SHIP lien agreement with Tami and James Kirkland advising that the County has received the \$25,000 payout amount. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the Release of Lien with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Release of Lien)

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.


Clerk


Chairman