

April 4, 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 6:00 p.m. David Corbin, Project Director, led the prayer and pledge.

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

- Commissioner Item A) DOT Support Letter – added
- Agenda Item F) Building Department Office Space – deleted
- Agenda Item A1) Rec Center Vandalism - added
- Commissioner Item B) CR 177A and North Rangeline Road Work Needed – added
- Commissioner Item C) Curry Ferry Boat Ramp – added
- County Coordinator A) JW Miller Road Timber Company – added
- Commissioner Item D) Budget Adjustment - added

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 March 21, 2023 Regular Session. Commissioner Newsom offered the second and the motion passed unanimously.

Sandy Spear, Kiwanis Club, discussed the need for a full-time Rec Director as the donation of the Rec Center to the County was with the intentions that the facility be used for the youth. Discussion of this matter included the following:

- Available grants and donations to offset expenditures for the Rec Center
- Benefits of having a fully functioning Rec Center
- Safety and liability issues with current state of Rec Center building
- Repairs the County has made to the Rec Center since the transfer from the City
- Liberty Partners' efforts to transfer the grant awarded to the City of Bonifay
- Grant awarded to City will not pay for Director position, only repairs and improvements
- Recreating the grant conceptual design for the Rec Center with input from Kiwanis and Dixie Youth

The following citizens also discussed this matter:

- Garrett Curry, Dixie Youth Association
- Kim Dixon, private citizen

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for Project Director David Corbin to work with the Kiwanis Club and the Dixie Youth Association to create a proposal for creating a Rec Center Director position to include a job description, salary, and the available donations to help offset the expense. The motion included that the proposal and recommendation be presented to the Board at the first Regular Session in May. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

David Corbin, Project Director, discussed the recent vandalism of the Rec Center which demolished the inside of the building. Discussion included that a police report was filed and offering a reward to anyone who comes forward with information that leads to the arrest of the perpetrators. Discussion also included filing a claim with the County's insurance and requesting the Court to assess restitution should the defendants plea to the charges. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to accept the \$500 offered by Garrett Curry and Bob Davis as a reward to be used in conjunction with the Crime Stoppers reward. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Melanie Rowand-Mills, Emerald Coast Regional Council, presented a Satisfaction of Mortgage for John H. Simmons and Emily L. Simmons. She advised that the 2005 SHIP lien expired in 2020 and all conditions have been satisfied. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the satisfaction with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Satisfaction of Mortgage)

Melanie Rowand-Mills, Emerald Coast Regional Council, presented the 2019-2020 SHIP Annual Report for approval. She reviewed how SHIP funds have been used to help low-income citizens and advised that the program will be focusing on rehab projects going forward. Commissioner Music offered a motion approving the Chairman to sign the Certification approving the report with Commissioner Newsom offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Annual Report)

Dennis Barnes, Barnes Insurance, advised that the County has received approximately \$58,524 in a 2022 ProShare settlement for plan year 2021. He discussed how the County's insurance premiums have remained unchanged for the past three years, however, the projection is for next year's premiums to increase due to a rise in large claims this year. Mr. Barnes stated that the unanimous recommendation of the Insurance Committee was to retain the money to offset the increase in next year's insurance premiums. He believed this would be the best use of the funds as the money is a return on both the County's and the employees' premiums. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to accept the Insurance Committee's recommendation. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Joe Rone and Lesley Hatfield, Development Commission, advised that construction on the future Busy Bee should begin in approximately five months. Ms. Hatfield stated that, due to the immense interest in the remaining available Project Gateway property, the Development Commission has engaged the

services of Steadfast City to determine the best division and optimum site layout of the property. Upon completion of Steadfast City's work, the Development Commission will know the best way to market the available sites and the property should sell quickly. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to have the County assist the Development Commission by having a County employee work 4-5 hours on a weekend to underbrush the property. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Steadfast City Scope of Work)

David Corbin, Project Director, advised that Joe Rone has submitted his resignation as a member of the Planning Council due to a conflict while also serving on the Development Commission. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to accept Mr. Rone's resignation with Commissioner Newsom offering a second. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to appoint Sandy Spear as the District 5 representative on the Planning Council. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Letter of Resignation)

Andy Tharp, Shop Foreman, presented quotes for the County to purchase or lease two tractors. He reviewed the quotes from DLL Financial Solutions, Beard and John Deere Financial. He did not present the quote for a front-end loader. The Chairman directed County Attorney Nate Nolin to read an email from Clerk Sam Bailey regarding the troubling state of the County's budget and what it could mean for next budget year. Mr. Tharp discussed the need to repair or replace the District 5 tractor. Further discussion involved the cost to repair or swapping equipment between districts. The Board agreed by consensus to table this matter until the next meeting.

(Quotes)

(Email from Clerk Sam Bailey)

David Corbin, Project Director, advised that the well supplying water to the District 2 yard has failed. The water contains iron, a filtration system has been unsuccessful in alleviating the problem and there is mud in the lines. He is currently obtaining quotes on either getting a new pump or a having a new well installed.

David Corbin, Project Director, advised that Terry Davis leases hunting property from Four Hills and he is in danger of losing the lease based on the damage to the road into the property caused by County equipment. Mr. Davis has requested that the County repair the road damage. Discussion included the materials needed to complete the repair, the cost of the materials and having the District 5 employees provide the labor for the repairs. County Attorney Nate Nolin advised that Mr. Davis should have the authority to sign the Right of Entry form upon producing a copy of the current hunting lease. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to have the District 5 employees complete the road repairs using County dirt. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Bob Stinebaugh, The Integrity Group, advised that no response has been received on the second set of appeals for FEMA DR #4564 (Hurricane Sally) and suggested that the Board submit letters to Congressmen and Senators to request assistance securing the funds. FEMA is still reviewing the Ammons Road culvert repair project, but any work performed by the County will be reimbursed by FEMA. The courthouse generator grant is still waiting for a response on the benefit cost analysis.

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, discussed the Comp Plan update advising that he has received input from the Development Commission, the Planning Commission, and the public. He made himself available to meet with each Commissioner individually to get input on any revisions requested. Discussion included meeting with Mr. Feeney privately and conducting workshops to get the public's input.

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, proposed making changes to the language of the existing ordinance regarding minor replats and splits to allow more than one lot split on parcels that are divided by waterways or roads. He advised that such a change will require going through the process to change the ordinance. The Board tabled this matter until it can be reviewed further.

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, requested direction from the Board should he receive a development plan request for a medical marijuana business. Mr. Feeney advised that State law requires that the businesses are to be treated as a pharmacy and the County could handle it similar to the alcohol ordinance. Mr. Feeney offered to work with County Attorney Nate Nolin to develop a County Ordinance on the issue. The Board agreed to table the matter until the medical marijuana business plan submitted to the City of Bonifay has been resolved.

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, presented updates on the following projects:

- Agreements for the two FDOT Beautification Grants awarded to the County will be available soon
- The Government Efficiency Center is progressing, and they are in constant communication with the Department of Economic Opportunity
- The three projects (Dogwood Lakes, EMS building expansion and the Tax Collector/Property Appraiser office consolidation) submitted to the Legislation for appropriations consideration have not been approved at this point in the legislative session
- Bills have been submitted in this Legislative session to place term limits on School Board members and County Commissioners

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, presented a Task Order in the amount of \$39,000 to complete the design, permitting and inspection services for the Ammons Road culvert repair. He advised that the County would receive reimbursement for this expenditure through the FEMA #4564 project. Commissioner Good offered a motion to approve the task order using FEMA validated funds to front the money for the expense. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Task Order)

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, advised that the Prosperity Park survey is in progress and the survey will be forwarded to Project Director David Corbin and County Attorney Nate Nolin upon completion.

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, stated that the culvert at the intersection of North Rangeline Road and CR 177A is failing and has undermined the road. Discussion included that the City of Bonifay is willing to purchase the materials needed and has requested the County's assistance with the labor to complete the repairs. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to approve the County assisting the City by providing the labor for the repairs. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, requested that the Tillman Road agenda item be tabled until the next meeting.

Commissioner Good requested that the County place a porta potty at the Curry Ferry Boat Landing near the oak tree on County property. Discussion included the cost of buying the porta potty and paying for monthly service versus leasing the porta potty. Commissioner Good offered a motion for Project Director David Corbin to obtain three quotes and award the least expensive quote using Board Contingencies funds. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Newsom discussed providing a letter of support to the owner of a Ponce de Leon liquor store who has requested that DOT repair the road shoulder adjacent to his business. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion for County Attorney Nate Nolin to compose the letter of support. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, advised that the budget for the County Attorney fees has been exceeded and that more money must be placed in that line item to finish the remainder of the fiscal year. Discussion included the cause of increased legal fees, the policy now in place to recoup legal fees involved in public records requests and putting a retainer agreement in place to save the County money on legal fees. Commissioner Music offered a motion to move \$20,000 from Board Contingencies to the County Attorney line item. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, advised that the Board's Repairs and Maintenance budget has been exceeded and that more money must be placed in that budget to finish the remainder of the fiscal year. Discussion included that a \$9,000 repair to the Courthouse's air conditioning unit was mainly to blame for the overage. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to move \$9,000 from Board Contingencies to the Repairs and Maintenance line item. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

David Corbin, Project Director, advised that the County's auditors, Carr, Riggs & Ingram (CRI), has submitted an extra invoice for \$7,500. New GASB reporting requirements on the County's leases

caused extra work for the auditor and CRI is asking the County to pay as much of the invoice as possible. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to pay \$4,000 of the invoice from Board Contingencies with Commissioner Erickson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Invoice)

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.


Clerk


Chairman