

April 18, 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 changes were made to the agenda:

- Commissioner Item A) Ponce de Leon Pee Wee Football – added
- County Attorney B) Coursey Road Speed Bumps – added
- Agenda Item A-1) Resolution 23-11 - 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 April 4, 2023 Regular Session. Commissioner Newsom offered the second and the motion passed unanimously.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, read Resolution 23-11 naming April 17, 2023 as a day dedicated to Edward Walter Wilton, III to honor him for making the ultimate sacrifice while volunteering in Ukraine. The Board presented a framed resolution to Mr. Wilton's mother. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to adopt Resolution 23-11 with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution 23-11)

Robin Phillips, Jones-Phillips and Associates, introduced herself as the administrator of the CDBG grant awarded to the Council on Aging. She stated that the approximately \$1 million grant is for the installation of a commercial kitchen and a building expansion. The Board discussed requesting the use of inmate labor for the demolition portion of the work.

Benjamin Finch, a private citizen, advised that he is moving his elderly parents onto his property by attaching a handicap-accessible mobile home to his site built home. He was advised by John Feeney, the County's Contracted Planner, that the code will not allow an accessory apartment to be more than 25% of the existing structure or change the appearance of the structure. Mr. Finch requested that the Board either raise the percentage or grant him a hardship waiver. Mr. Feeney advised that the change must be

done by ordinance, but he will review the code and comp plan to find the best course of action. The Board directed Mr. Feeney to return with his findings at the next meeting.

Kevin Guthrie, Florida Division of Emergency Management, discussed the Florida Recovery Obligation Calculation (FROC) program. He advised that the program would shorten the County's timeframe on receiving disaster recovery funds by completing documentation in advance. The documentation, along with staff training, will be used to create a score for the County that will determine the rate of immediate reimbursement following an event. Discussion also included how contractors must be competitively procured according to federal guidelines before an event. The following citizens discussed the program:

- Wayne Marsh, Local Contractor
- John Feeney, Alday-Howell Engineers

The Board advised that Emergency Management Director Adrienne Owen and Project Director David Corbin will attend the next available training.

Steve Connell, EMS Director, requested approval to swap an ambulance the Board declared surplus with a 2011 Chevrolet Suburban. He explained that the owner has agreed to leave the emergency lights on the Suburban, the Shop Foreman has inspected the vehicle and that it is an even exchange monetarily. County Attorney Nate Nolin advised that the exchange has been properly documented and is legal. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion approving the request with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Request)

David Corbin, Project Director, presented a request from the Public Defender's Office for the Board to declare two pieces of retired equipment as surplus. Commissioner Music offered a motion to grant the request with Commissioner Good offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Request)

Mike Alvis, Performance Realty, requested that the Board revisit the suggestion to make 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 public waterways or public roadways. Discussion of this matter included the following:

- Five examples of how the new language could affect existing parcels
- No current method exists to track the one-split option for a new property owner
- Smaller tracts sell for bigger amounts per acre which means more ad valorem taxes
- New splits must still meet current code according to land use designation
- Clerk's office does not determine the legality of a deed presented for recording
- Florida is a "Buyer Beware" state and purchasers should research property

County Attorney Nate Nolin advised Commissioner Newsom that he should not have to abstain from voting on this issue because he may profit from the approval of the revised ordinance. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to have Contracted Planner John Feeney work with County Attorney Nate Nolin to start the process of adding to the language of the existing ordinance regarding properties divided by public waterways or roadways. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Examples)

David Corbin, Project Director, presented a \$4,800 quote to place a water filter system on the Road Department District 2 well. Discussion included that a new well will cost \$10,000 minimum and Mr. Corbin was assured the filter will fix the problem. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to approve installing the filter system contingent on the vendor agreeing to place the cost of the filter system towards the cost a new well if the problem is not fixed. The funds to pay for the system will come from Road Department Contingencies with up to \$15,000 approved if a new well is needed. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Quote)

David Corbin, Project Director, and Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, advised that Congressman Neal Dunn's office has notified the County that the \$3.5 million in special appropriations for Rec Center improvements must remain in the City of Bonifay's name. Partnerships to complete the project can be formed but the money must filter through the City of Bonifay.

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, presented an update on the legislative session stating that presently the terms limits are only affecting School Board members. The Board requested that Mr. Parson monitor any FRS retirement rates discussion.

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, presented updates on the following projects:

- Government Efficiency Center survey will be completed within two days and a preliminary site plan should be ready for the Board's next meeting
- Bonifay Chipley Road paving project has been given the green light by DOT with just one more property release needing a signature

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, advised that Felecia Mathis reported years ago the County agreed to use dirt from the Mathis' property. Ms. Mathis stated that she intended to turn the pit into a pond, however, the bottom is sandy and will not hold water. Mr. Sims said that the pit could be lined with clay which may help it to hold water. Discussion included that no record of the agreement between the Mathis' and the County has been located. The Board directed Mr. Sims to meet with Project Director David Corbin to view the pit and discuss options.

Rod Adams, Melvin Engineering, presented updates on the following projects:

- CR 181C SCOP project – construction is 50% complete
- Busy Bee – site plans have been submitted with feedback from the owners pending and the CDBG grant agreement has not been received for Board approval
- Northdale Drainage Study – study is 15% complete and currently collecting data to build a drainage model

John Feeney, Alday-Howell Engineering, presented a task order in the amount of \$182,980 to complete the design work on the CR 185 SCRAP project. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the task order with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion pass unanimously.

(Task Order)

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, advised that a property owner in north Holmes County is installing multiple mobile homes on his property without permits or approved subdivision plans. He stated that a Code Enforcement Officer is needed to enforce the Comp Plan. The Board discussed the cost of funding a Code Enforcement Officer position and the legality of using Building Department funds for code enforcement. No action taken by the Board.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that Kevin Shull's complaint that Prosperity Park encroached on his private property was proven false by the survey completed by Dewberry Engineers. Mr. Shull has now voiced a complaint that the rocks and ditches placed to help with the park's water drainage is causing problems on his property and he has requested an easement on the northern part of the park property to CR 181. Attorney Nolin recommended that, if an easement is granted, the County not provide a means of access. He advised that an encroachment issue on the southern portion of Prosperity Park onto property owned by Jerry Eldridge was revealed by the survey. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to have the County Attorney, Project Director David Corbin and Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, work together to resolve Shull's drainage issue, the easement request and to give a quick claim deed to Mr. Eldridge. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, stated that the County removed the speed bumps on Coursey Road due to cars going around the speed bumps breaking off the edges and affecting the integrity of the road. He advised that the placement of the speed bumps had not been ideal and that a property owner put up a fence to discourage drivers from coming on his property to avoid the speed bumps. The County has received requests from property owners on Coursey Road to re-install the speed bumps using new placements. Discussion of this matter included the following:

- Effectiveness of speed bumps
- Attempting placements so drivers can not go around speed bumps
- Methods that could be used to keep drivers from avoiding speed bumps
- Using less aggressive speed bumps

The following citizens discussed this matter:

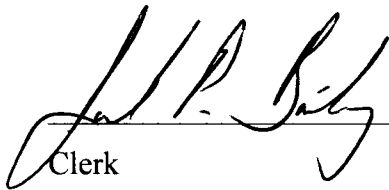
- Chance Pitts
- Loretta Spears
- Rob Stammler
- Jaden Broadway
- Michelle Baker


The Board requested that Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, look at the road to determine the best placement of the speed bumps and return with a recommendation at the next meeting.

Commissioner Newsom advised that he received a request from the Ponce de Leon Pee Wee Football Association for a donation to go towards the purchase of 100 helmets. Discussion included that this a new league requesting startup help, it would not be a recurring expense and the legality of purchasing equipment for the league. No action taken by the Board.

(Quote)

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.


Clerk


Chairman