

July 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 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 9:09 a.m. David Corbin, Project Director, led the prayer and pledge.

The first agenda item was Agenda Additions and Deletions. No changes were made to the posted agenda. Commissioner Music offered a motion to accept the agenda with Commissioner Newsom offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Music offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the June 20, 2023 Regular Session, the June 28, 2023 Special Session and the June 30, 2023 Special Session. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Jeremy Rolling, Holmes County Development Commission, stated that the Development Commission is purchasing a truck for the Executive Director and requested adding the vehicle to the County's auto insurance policy. He advised that the Development Commission qualifies for the coverage as a special district within the County and the premium for the coverage would be reimbursed. Discussion included creating a written agreement between the County and the Development Commission outlining usage and allowed drivers for the covered vehicle. Kalyn Waters, Extension Service Director, discussed a similar agreement the County has with Holmes Creek Soil & Water. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, recommended approving the request contingent on obtaining an executed agreement. The Board agreed by consensus to table this matter until the next meeting to allow the County Attorney time to prepare the written agreement.

Donna Meldon, Chamber of Commerce, presented a letter of recommendation to renominate Debbie Kolmetz and nominate Kyle Coates to serve on the Board of Directors for CareerSource Chipola. Commissioner Music offered a motion approving the nominations with Commissioner Good offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Letter)

David Corbin, Project Director, presented the Department of Economic Opportunity CDBG Agreement #H2535 for a \$750,000 housing rehabilitation grant. Commissioner Good offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the grant agreement with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

Lexi Harris, NWF Health Network, presented the renewal of the Holmes County Behavioral Health Transportation Plan for 2023-2026. She advised that the proposed plan for transporting persons in need of public mental healthcare has not changed from previous years and discussed the possible effects of fewer available beds. Commissioner Good offered a motion approving the plan renewal with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Plan)

Commissioner Newsom discussed the proposed letter in support of Doctors Memorial Hospital's USDA grant request for the Ponce de Leon Healthcare Clinic. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion for the Chairman and Mr. Corbin to sign the letter of support. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Letter)

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, requested that the Board set the proposed millage rate for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Discussion included the current millage amount and that the Board cannot increase the proposed millage rate without notifying all County citizens. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to set the 2023-24 proposed millage rate to the current millage rate of 9.4916. Commissioner Good offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, requested the Board schedule a Tentative Budget Hearing between September 3, 2023 and September 18, 2023. Discussion included that the School Board has not scheduled their budget hearing at this time. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to schedule the Tentative Budget Hearing for 5:01 p.m. on September 5, 2023. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

David Corbin, Project Director, presented three Non-Exclusive Solid Waste Franchise Agreements from Northwest Sanitation, HDS and the Town of Caryville for August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024. Discussion included that the franchise fees have been paid and all insurance documents have been presented. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the agreements with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement x3)

David Corbin, Project Director, requested direction from the Board about reassembling the Community Traffic Safety Team to qualify for Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) grants for sidewalks and caution lights. He discussed the requirements for the team members and the previous failed attempts to form a team. The Board agreed by consensus for Mr. Corbin to attempt to assemble a new team and present the members at the next meeting.

David Corbin, Project Director, read a letter from Bonifay Fire and Rescue praising the improvements made to CR 177A by DOT and the Board. The discussed upgrades included shoulder work, striping and blind curve improvements.

(Letter)

David Corbin, Project Director, advised that Mike Gordon has been hired as the Building Official and is scheduled to start Monday, July 24th.

Jennifer Green, Liberty Partners, discussed seeking grants to raise the water level of Dogwood Lakes. She advised that the grants would require public access to the lakes and that the owner of the boat ramp, Don Smith, has offered to sell or lease the ramp to the County contingent on grants being awarded. The Board directed Ms. Green to move forward with seeking grants for Dogwood Lakes improvements.

(Parcel Maps for Lakes)

Cliff Knauer, Dewberry Engineer, presented the conceptual design for the new Ag Center. Discussion of the project included the following:

- Public access, service windows and sliding partitions
- Proposed building same size as old Ag Center
- Electrical and mechanical engineering will begin upon Board approval of the design
- Project should be ready to go out for bid at the end of August
- Estimated cost of building is \$3 million
- Potential savings with County doing some work
- Alternate bid item to reduce or eliminate pavilion to stay within budget
- Liberty Partners seeking additional appropriations for project
- ARPA funding available for project

The conceptual design was approved by Board consensus.

(Design available upon request)


Nate Nolin, County Attorney, discussed the two encroachment issues involving the Prosperity Park property. He advised that the encroachment onto the County's property by Jerry Eldridge can be settled by both parties executing a boundary line agreement. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to approve entering into a boundary line agreement with Mr. Eldridge. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously. Attorney Nolin advised that the only County encroachment onto Kevin Shull's property is through watershed and that Mr. Shull will sign a release of the encroachment if the County grants him a 15-foot easement to access his property. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion granting Mr. Shull the 15-foot easement as well as entering into a boundary line agreement. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.


Commissioner Newsom requested that Liberty Partners seek grant funding for Prosperity Park improvements. Discussion included lighting, facilities and fencing improvements needed to accommodate Little League baseball games. Liberty Partners agreed to seek the grant funding.

Commissioner Good presented a letter from the Town of Westville requesting assistance with road repairs within the city limits. The town is requesting assistance with a hole on CR 181 in front of the Head Start building. Commissioner Good advised that he has the money in his Road Materials budget to pay for the repairs but is seeking approval from the Board since it is within the city limits. The Board agreed by consensus to approve the Town of Westville's request using District 1 Road Material budget for the expense.

(Letter)

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 a.m.


Clerk


Chairman