

September 5, 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:

- County Attorney Item B) Bear Hewett Property - added

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

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the August 15, 2023 Regular Session. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

A juvenile involved in vandalizing the Rec Center offered an apology to the Board for her actions.

George Warthen, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, discussed the presence of Chronic Wasting Disease in a deer located in Holmes County. He stated that FWC has currently set up a mobile testing site at the County's Recycling Center, however, with hunting season approaching, FWC is requesting a larger, more secure site. Discussion included that the County would incur no costs for the testing site and that space for mobile labs and portable incinerators will be necessary. The Board agreed by consensus that the old landfill property may meet FWC's requirements for a testing site. Mr. Warthen will view the property to see if it is suitable and County Attorney Nate Nolin will work on a possible long-term lease for the property. Mr. Warthen also advised that FWC is scheduling two more public hearings concerning Chronic Wasting Disease.

Ben Tew, Esto resident, stated that Esto is restarting the Two Toe Tom Festival on September 14, 2024. He discussed the history of the festival, the legend of Two Toe Tom and the planned activities for the festival. Mr. Tew requested Board support for the festival.

Becky Marsh, Holmes County Library Director, discussed the *Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program*. She advised that when a parent signs their child up for the program, the child receives a book and earns a new book upon completion of each book. Ms. Marsh advised that the books cost \$2.50 each

and the program requires staff to track the progress of each child. She stated that the Holmes County Library has not implemented the program due financial and staffing limitations.

Melanie Rowand-Mills, Emerald Coast Regional Council, presented a Satisfaction of Mortgage for the SHIP lien against Rosalie McClain. She advised that the 2008 SHIP lien has since expired. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the Satisfaction and for the Clerk's office to record the satisfaction. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Satisfaction)

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, requested that the Board impose a purchase order cut-off date of September 15<sup>th</sup> as the Finance Office starts the process of closing out the fiscal year. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to set a purchase order cut-off date of September 15<sup>th</sup>, unless it is an emergency expenditure. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Joe Rone, Development Commission, advised that three seats on the Holmes County Development Commission Board of Directors will expire on September 30, 2023. He requested that the Board reappoint the following three members to the Development Commission Board:

- Rhonda Sapp (District 4)
- Brian Schultz (District 2)
- Rickey Callahan (District 3)

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to reappoint the three members to a new term of service which will expire on September 30, 2027. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously. The Board discussed that the level one background check will not be needed on reappointments.

(Memo from the Development Commission)

David Corbin, Project Director, advised that the City of Bonifay is requesting a letter of support to the USDA for the City's Tractor Loader Backhoe Equipment Purchase Project. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to provide a letter of support for the grant request with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Letter)

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, requested scheduling a Workshop to discuss the Comp Plan update. The Board agreed by consensus to schedule the Workshop for Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, stated that the Holmes County Legislative Delegation meeting is scheduled for October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. He also advised that any legislative appropriations requests will need to be submitted by November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, stated that a task order to complete the design work for Peak Road Bridge will be presented at the next Board meeting. He also discussed the need for more signed releases from property owners on the Bonifay/Gritney Road and Bonifay/Chibley Road paving projects. Mr. Sims updated the Board on his attempts to obtain the signed releases and stated that the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) has requested an update on the projects in two weeks.

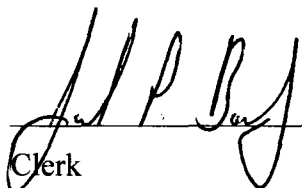
Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented Resolution 23-17 approving the grant agreement for the DOT SCOP project to widen and resurface CR 181. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to adopt Resolution 23-17 with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution 23-17)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised the Joseph Gause, who purchased property on Bear Hewett Road from the County back in 2020, has requested reimbursement for the purchase price and the recording fees. Mr. Nolin stated that the Board has already agreed to reimburse Mr. Gause based on a legal description discrepancy on the deed and Mr. Gause has agreed to execute a deed returning the property to the County. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to reimburse Mr. Gause the \$18,656 purchase price plus the recording costs using Board Contingency funds. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Newsom presented a 2023-2023 budget request for the Ponce de Leon Recreational Park in the amount of \$15,000. He advised that this would be a recurring annual request. The Board agreed by consensus to table this matter until a later date.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

  
Clerk

  
Chairman