

September 5, 2023
Special Session
Bonifay, Florida

The Holmes County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Session on the above date with the following members present: Commissioners Clint Erickson, Jeff Good, Phillip Music, 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 4:00 p.m. Project Director David Corbin 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.

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, discussed the use of \$200,000 in ARPA funding to balance the County's 2023-2024 budget. Discussion of this matter included the following:

- The use of \$200,000 in ARPA funds to compensate the County for the Sheriff's Office expenditures is an allowable use of the funding
- The request is to de-obligate \$200,000 of the \$520,000 allocated for the Holmes County Sheriff's Office expansion
- Sheriff John Tate is agreeable with the de-obligation of the funding since the renovations of the new Sheriff's Office are being done using Government Efficiency Center appropriations
- A portion of the remaining ARPA funds is allocated to reimburse the Clerk's office for the purchase of new accounting software
- The remaining funds are allocated for new office spaces for EMS and the Extension Service
- The request to de-obligate the remaining ARPA funds for any Government Efficiency Center appropriations shortfall

The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Sam Bailey, Holmes County Clerk

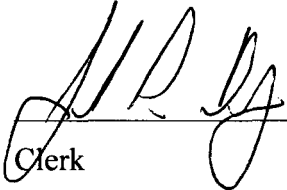
Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to move \$200,000 of the \$520,000 in ARPA funds obligated for the Sheriff's Office expansion to offset the eligible Sheriff 's Office 2023-2024 expenditures. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to use \$115,085 of ARPA funds to reimburse the Clerk's office for the purchase of the accounting software contingent on Liberty Partners confirming that this is an allowable use of the ARPA funds. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously. Discussion included that the remaining \$700,000 in ARPA funds will remain de-obligated for future use as needed.

Commissioner Good discussed defunding a portion of the County's money allocated for the Highway 79 Corridor Authority. Discussion of this matter included the following:

- The Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) stated that Washington County is liable if the grant terms are not met
- The City of Bonifay is willing to take over the Corridor, the grant and the over \$2 million of new infrastructure provided by the grant funding
- Corridor has had no recent activity and is being charged for duplicated services
- Requirements of the grant
- Funding paid by Holmes County in previous fiscal years
- Utilization of the infrastructure has not met expectations
- City's bid to act as Clerk for the Authority
- City stands to receive the revenue from the water rates as well as impact fees
- Requesting an itemized budget from the Corridor

The Board agreed by consensus for County Attorney Nate Nolin to review the Mutual Aid Agreement that Holmes County has with Washington County and the City of Bonifay before the Board takes any action towards defunding the Corridor.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.



Clerk



Chairman