

October 3, 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 Coordinator Item C) Tri-County Airport Authority Board Appointment – added
- County Coordinator Item D) County Employee PTO for Rodeo – added
- County Attorney Item D) Dogwood Lake Boat Ramp Easement – added
- County Attorney Item E) Development Commission Recommendation – added
- Adopt Previous Minutes) Minutes from September 19th Regular Session - added

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

Commissioner Music offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the September 19, 2023 Regular Session and the September 25, 2023 Final Budget Hearing. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

David Corbin, Project Director, presented the Amended Interlocal Agreement for Medical Examiner Services for the 2023-2024 fiscal year stating that the annual cost listed for Holmes County was included in the final budget. Commissioner Good offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the agreement with Commissioner Newsom offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

David Corbin, Project Director, discussed the work handled by the Board's office staff on behalf of the Development Commission grants. Discussion included the heavy workload of the Board's Executive Assistant and cross training the Development Commission's secretary to assist with the grant work. Stephanie Cloud, Development Commission Board, suggested that the Board submit a letter requesting the cross training that she could present to the Development Commission Board. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion for a letter to be prepared to request the cross training. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Stephanie Cloud, Development Commission, advised of a Busy Bee reception being hosted by the Development Commission on Saturday, October 7th.

David Corbin, Project Director, presented a letter from the Tri-County Airport Authority requesting re-appointment of Roy Brooks to Seat #3 on the Airport Board for a three-year term from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2026. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that a precedence has been set to not require background checks for re-appointments. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion granting the re-appointment request with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Letter)

David Corbin, Project Director, requested that the Board close the County offices Friday, October 6th at noon for the County employees to attend the Rodeo parade. Commissioner Music offered a motion to close the County offices at noon on Friday with County employees to use PTO if they take advantage of the time off. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, presented the proposed Development Order for Dollar General #25766 which will be located at the corner of State Road 79 and Highway 160. Mr. Feeney stated that the Planning Commission approved the development since all the requirements have been met and he recommended approval of the order. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the development order with Commissioner Newsom offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Development Order)

Chairman Stafford announced that only one executed property release was needed for the Bonifay/Chipleay Road paving project and that the construction bid will be advertised next week.

Jeannie Williams, Northdale Subdivision resident, requested an update on the North 79 Drainage Study. Melvin Engineering was not present to give an update. Discussion included that funding for the Phase 2 construction of the project should be available soon. The Board tasked Project Director David Corbin with getting an update from Melvin Engineering and sharing the information with Ms. Williams.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that the County's longevity pay is tied to the union contract and the County's auditor has requested a formal opinion that the longevity pay was adopted into the Board's policy since the union is being dissolved. Attorney Nolin stated that he plans to issue a formal opinion that the action by the Board in 2016 giving the longevity pay to non-union employees is sufficient to adopt as Board policy. Attorney Nolin stated that the County is the union decertification process. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to adopt the longevity pay into the Board's payroll policy. Commissioner Good offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Longevity Pay Increments)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented Resolution 23-20 allowing the Chairman to execute SCOP Agreement FPN 453261-1-54-01 for improvements to Roping Road Bridge #524166 in the amount of \$119,483. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to adopt Resolution 23-20 with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution 23-20 and Agreement)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented a proposed Permanent Right-of-Way & Perpetual Easement for the Dogwood Lake Boat Ramp. Owner Don Smith is willing to sign the permanent easement to the County with a reverter clause should the lake not be raised to an acceptable level. Discussion included the acceptable level that should be listed in the easement and the grants available for the Dogwood Lakes project once the County has access to the boat ramp. The following citizens discussed this matter:

- John Feeney, Alday-Howell Engineers
- Tim Parson, Liberty Partners

Commissioner Newsom offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the easement once Don Smith has executed the document with Commissioner Music offering a second. Commissioners Good, Music, Newsom and Stafford voted yes with Commissioner Erickson abstaining from the vote. The motion passed.

(Proposed Easement)
(Abstain from Voting Form)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented a proposed letter addressed to the Development Commission recommending that no changes be made to the Commission's current leadership and board. Discussion included that the Board has no authority to enforce the request. The action died for the lack of a motion.

(Letter)

Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to pass the 2.5% pay increase given to County employees for the 2023-2024 fiscal year on to new hires which will increase the base rates for the County's positions. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.


Clerk


Chairman