

December 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 Earl Stafford, Brandon Newsom, Phillip Music and Commissioner Jeff Good, 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 Good 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 B) Tax Deeds - deleted
- Agenda Item F) Busy Bee Post - added

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

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, read a statement advising the public that each individual shall have three minutes to speak on their proposition before the Board.

Steve Connell, EMS Director, stated that Fire Departments filing insurance claims to seek reimbursement for responding to auto accidents is prohibited by Florida Statutes and he requested that the Board rescind the motion to impose the billing rates approved in the November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Stafford rescinded his motion approving the billing rates and Commissioner Newsom withdrew his second.

Cyril Gazagnaire, John Marsh Road resident, discussed the recent complaints made to the Board about the trailer park set up on his property. He has set up approximately 15 trailers on 160 acres and has made efforts to secure all the required permits. Mr. Gazagnaire stated that, while he may have missed obtaining some of the permits, he has done everything in good faith and vets all his tenants.

Daniel Bryant, a private citizen, notified the Board of his intentions to develop a private grass airstrip in Ponce de Leon. John Feeney, Contracted Planner, advised that a pre-application meeting has been held on this project and private airstrips are not currently allowed in the Land Development Code or Comp Plan, but a conditional release may be possible.

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, presented the bid tabulation sheet for the Bonifay/Chipley Road paving project. He advised that all the bids exceeded the grant amount and that the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) is currently reviewing the issue. The Board tabled this matter until DOT issues

a decision on the matter. Mr. Sims presented the Board with the prehistoric spear found during the archeological survey of the roadway.

(Bid Sheet)

Lee Duke, Arthropod Director, presented the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Financial Assistance Recipient Agreement for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. He stated that the terms have not changed from the previous year except for a \$1,000 reduction in the amount of assistance. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the agreement with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

Jeffrey Moses, Reynolds Hill resident, advised that his neighbor, Ralph Thompson, has a farm housing approximately 50 dogs which is creating a noise nuisance for Mr. Hill and the other neighbors. Mr. Moses has contacted the Animal Control Officer without remedy and is requesting that the Board enforce the public nuisance portion of Animal Control Ordinance 10-02. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, requested time to review the ordinance and discuss the enforcement issue with Sheriff John Tate. The Board tabled this matter until the next meeting.

(Ordinance 10-02)

The Board discussed the 2023-2024 Commissioner Assignments. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to keep the assignments the same as the previous year with the exception that Chairman Good will now serve on the Tourist Development Board. Chairman Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Commissioner Assignments)

Joe Rone, Development Commission, discussed the Development Commission's history and efforts to assist in the development of Holmes County. Discussion of this matter included the following:

- Companies that the commission has brought to Holmes County with tax revenue estimates
- Companies the commission is currently working to bring to Holmes County with projected tax revenue
- Property taxes paid by the Development Commission
- Economic growth grants awarded to the Development Commission
- Progress of Project Gateway and Busy Bee
- Money the commission received from the County in comparison to commissions in surrounding counties
- Confidential information released to the public
- Development Commission meetings are open to the public
- Joint Venture Committee meeting

- Development Commission's offer to make three Project Gateway loan interest payments in exchange for the Deacon Road property
- Development Commission's offer to take over the Project Gateway loan in exchange for receiving 100% of the tax revenue from the project
- Charter and Development Commission board members

The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Doyle Majors, Development Commission Chairman

The Board agreed by consensus to pay the loan payments as previously approved.

(PowerPoint Presentation)

David Corbin, Project Director, recommended giving County employees administrative leave for December 26<sup>th</sup> in lieu of throwing a Christmas party. Discussion included the cost of having a Christmas party and the cost to the EMS department because first responders are not able to observe the administrative leave. Steve Connell, EMS Director, advised that he would absorb the cost of paying for EMS' administrative leave into his budget, but asked if he could offer the alternative of adding 10 hours of PTO to the leave balance for the employees scheduled to work on December 26<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to give County employees administrative leave for Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> with EMS scheduled to work to be paid for 10 hours of administrative leave or receive 10 hours of additional PTO added to their balance contingent on Mr. Connell finding out the option desired by the EMS employees. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

David Corbin, Project Director, stated that the SCRAP/SCOP applications are due by March 2024 and the Board needs to determine which projects they wanted the engineers to submit. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to submit CR 179 phase 2 and CR 177A for SCOP funding with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously. Discussion included submitting Highway 10A for DOT funding next year and possible SCRAP projects for the March application. The Board agreed by consensus to have engineers view Highway 10A and Dykes Street as possible submissions.

(2023 SCRAP/SCOP Applications)

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, presented an excerpt from Bay County's Development Department application showing conditional use language that the Board could adopt to change the land use for a particular parcel when the use is not addressed in the code. The conditional use application would be approved by the Planning Commission. Mr. Feeney stated that the conditional use language would have to be imposed by an ordinance and he requested permission to advertise the public hearings. Discussion also included the need to set a fee schedule for the conditional use permit and advertising. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion for Mr. Feeney to advertise the public hearings needed for imposing an ordinance. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Excerpt)

John Feeney, Alday-Howell Engineering, presented the Department of Environmental Protection Grant Agreement for the Holmes County Vulnerability Assessment in the amount of \$366,425. He stated that his firm will provide the consultant services for the resiliency grant. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the grant agreement with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

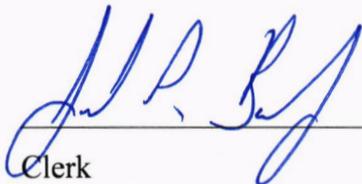
(Agreement)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that he has not received the official opinion from the Ethics Commission on requiring the Planning Commission and the Tourist Development Commission (TDC) to file Form 1. The Board agreed by consensus to table this matter until the next meeting.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, stated that the Mims Road agenda item has been resolved with no discussion by the Board needed.

Commission Newsom discussed giving Project Director David Corbin a raise using Building Department funds. Discussion included Mr. Corbin's supervisory duties over the Building Department and the restricted use of Building Department funds. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that Mr. Corbin could be paid with a portion of Building Department funds if it could be justified by doing a time audit. No action was taken by the Board on this matter.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

  
Clerk

  
Chairman