

December 19, 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, 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 9:02 a.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 Engineer) Hanson Professional Services/Turbeville Road Bridge – deleted
- County Coordinator Item B) Tax Deed – deleted
- County Coordinator Item C) Peanut Festival Letter of Support – added
- County Coordinator Item D) Introduction of New Employee – moved to Item A
- County Engineer) Melvin Engineering – moved to Agenda Item A

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

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

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the December 5, 2023 Regular Session. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Jeffrey Moses, Reynolds Hill resident, requested an update of the nuisance complaint he presented at the previous Board meeting regarding his neighbor's possession of approximately 50 dogs. Discussion included enforcement of the nuisance portion of Ordinance 10-02. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, requested more time to discuss the enforcement issue with Holmes County Sheriff John Tate.

David Melvin, Melvin Engineering, presented the Participating Party Agreement for the Busy Bee project which is required by the \$3.3 million CDBG road improvement grant. He stated that the Busy Bee owners have already signed the agreement committing to the investment and job creation required by the grant. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that he reviewed the agreement. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the agreement with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

David Melvin, Melvin Engineering, stated the Governor awarded Holmes County over \$4 million in a rural infrastructure grant, however, the timber project listed on the grant application fell through. The County may be allowed to keep the funding for another local economic development project. Discussion included Project Gateway, the requirement for the County's name to be on the property subject to the grant and Representative Shane Abbott's assistance in sponsoring the legislative bill that allows grant money to be advanced to fiscally constrained counties. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to send a proposal to the State requesting to use the grant funding for Project Gateway and for the County's name to be placed on the Project Gateway property as needed. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Good discussed the practice of adding items to the agenda at the beginning of a meeting. Discussion included need to be transparent to the public and not holding a vote on any added agenda items involving money. The Board agreed by consensus for the Chairman to determine if an item can be added the day of the meeting.

Jennifer Green, Liberty Partners, presented the results from the bid opening for the new Ag Center metal building. Discussion of the bids included the following:

- Advertisement of RFP and handling of the responses
- Three bids submitted were all compliant with the requirements
- Project deadline may be extended to June 2025
- Cone of silence is in effect
- Breakdown in pricing of materials versus labor would be beneficial
- Suggested questions the Board should ask the bid respondents
- Quality of materials listed in the bid specs

The Board scheduled a Workshop for January 2, 2024 at 5:00 pm to further discuss this matter.

(Summary of RFP Response)

Rusty Williams, Supervisor of Elections, requested appointments of a Canvassing Board member and an alternate for the upcoming elections. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to appoint Commissioner Newsom to the Canvassing Board with Commissioner Music to be appointed as an alternate. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Williams advised that financial Form 1 and Form C will now be filed online.

David Corbin, Project Director, introduced new Board Secretary Kaylena Manning.

David Corbin, Project Director, stated that the SCRAP/SCOP applications are due by March 2024 and the Board needs to determine two SCRAP projects to submit. Discussion included that property owners on Bowers Road will not sign releases to pave the road, submitting a portion of Highway 10A and that submitting Main Street in Noma may not be permissible if town limits are included in the project.

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to submit Highway 10A from the Walton County line past the bridge for approximately 2.5 miles and Main Street in Noma as the two SCRAP projects. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

David Corbin, Project Director, requested the Board issue a letter of support for Holmes County's participation in the National Peanut Festival pageant. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion for the Chairman to sign a letter of support with Commissioner Erickson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Letter)

Bob Stinebaugh, Integrity Group, stated that FEMA has not funded the #4564 Ammons Road culvert project, but the money should be available after the holidays. Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineering, stated that all the permits for the project have been received.

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, presented a proposed minor development application for an 8.2-acre RV park to be located at the intersection of Howard Sconiers Lane and Highway 179. He advised that the Planning Commission approved the application conditional on the owner installing a gravel entrance and allowing an inspection of the grass drive in one year. Mr. Feeney stated that all the requirements have been met and recommended approval with the stated conditions. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion approving the minor development application for parcels 1210.000-000-000-019.100 and 1210.00-000-000-19.000. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Summary & Application)

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, stated that the Planning Commission is concerned about being solely responsible for approving all conditional use applications which would allow a land use change for a particular parcel when the use is not addressed in the code. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion requiring all conditional use applications be approved by both the Planning Commission and the Board. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Feeney advised that the first public hearing for the conditional use ordinance is scheduled for the January 2nd Board meeting. The Board agreed by consensus to schedule the second public hearing at the January 2nd meeting.

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, advised that the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) is still reviewing the issue of the Bonifay/ChIPLEY Road paving project bids coming in much higher than the grant amount awarded. The Board tabled this matter until the next meeting.

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, stated that the only property release needed for the Bonifay/Gritney Road paving project is from the timber company. Discussion included that the timber company has verbally committed to signing the release and the possibility of moving any excess funds to the Bonifay/ChIPLEY Road project. The Board tabled this matter until the next meeting.

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, presented Resolution 23-23 approving the DOT SCOP agreement for road improvements to Old Mill Road. Discussion included that DOT required the project to be changed from a SCRAP project to a SCOP project due to the Ponce de Leon town limits being included in the project. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to adopt Resolution 23-23 with Commissioner Newsom offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution & Agreement)

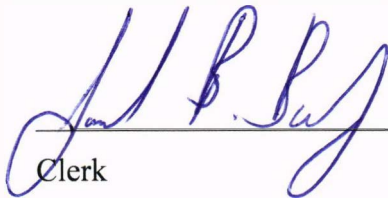
Commissioner Erickson advised that County parcel number 1305.00-000-000-006.000, which was received from FEMA, has landlocked a neighboring property owner and the owner is requesting an easement across the property. Discussion included that any easement would be subject to the property's deed restrictions. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for County Attorney Nate Nolin to prepare the easement to allow the property owner access across the County-owned property. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

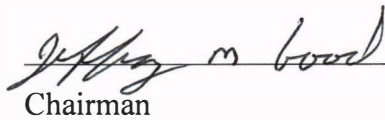
(Parcel Map)

Chairman Good and the Commissioners offered season greetings to all.

Commissioner Newsom advised that an official complaint has been filed with the State Attorney's office pertaining to the deletion of some requested public records.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.


Clerk


Chairman