

February 20, 2024  
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 9:00 a.m. David Corbin, Project Director, led the prayer and pledge.

The first agenda item was Agenda Additions and Deletions. No changes were made to the posted agenda. Commissioner Stafford offered the motion to accept the agenda with Commissioner Music offering the second. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Music offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the February 6, 2024 Workshop. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the February 6, 2024 Regular Session. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the February 12, 2024 Special Session. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Charles S. Ward, a private citizen, requested access to Parcel ID #0907.00-000-000-018.000 from Bodie Lane as neighboring property owners are denying him entry into his one-acre parcel. Discussion included the portion of Bodie Lane that is County-maintained, having Mr. Ward obtain a driveway permit and whether the matter is a civil issue. The following citizens discussed this matter:

- John Feeney, Contracted Planner
- Nate Nolin, County Attorney

The Board directed Project Director David Corbin and Mr. Feeney to view Bodie Lane to determine if the road is County-maintained to Mr. Ward's access point.

(Plat Map)

Becky Marsh, Holmes County Library Director, presented a plaque dedicated to former Commissioner Bobby Sasnett and his efforts in support of the Library. She awarded the plaque to family member Scottie Prescott and expressed her appreciation of the family's continued support.

Doyle Majors, Development Commission, advised that there is no update on the County's New Market Tax Credit application filed with the State for the purchase of the Project Gateway property.

John Tate, Holmes County Sheriff, stated that the 2022-2023 audit discovered approximately \$36,000 of unspent grant money that will be returned to the Board. He requested that the Board allocate this money for Inmate Medical Contingencies due to excessive medical expenses this fiscal year. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to grant Sheriff Tate's request with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

David Corbin, Project Director, gave an update of the progress of the rented dozer on clearing the Project Gateway property.

David Corbin, Project Director, presented a request from the City of Bonifay for assistance with clearing ditches within the city limits. Discussion included the finding time, manpower and equipment to grant the request. The Board agreed by consensus to assist the City with clearing ditches once the Northdale Subdivision drainage ditch project has been completed.

(Letter)

David Corbin, Project Director, advised that the inspection services contract for the new Government Efficiency Center (GEC) Ag building needed to be awarded. Discussion of this matter included the following:

- Pre-construction conference completed
- Engineering firms with a continuing services contract with the County can be used with no bid required
- Grant does not preclude the design engineering firm from doing the inspection services
- ARPA funds may be needed to cover any GEC shortfall

The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Tim Parson, Liberty Partners
- Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, recommended using Dewberry Engineers for the sake of time and efficiency due to their previous work on the Ag Center building design. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to award the CEI contract to Dewberry Engineers. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

David Corbin, Project Director, thanked the Sheriff for the quick response and good work of the inmate work crew.

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, announced that the construction bids for the FEMA #4564 Ammons Road culvert project are being advertised.

Keith Bennett, Building Official, presented the current International Code Council (ICC) fee schedule along with proposed permit reinstatement and extension fees for approval. Discussion of this matter included the following:

- Permits require no more than 180 days between inspections
- Currently no provision for extending or reinstating permits
- One free 90-day extension is offered
- Property owner must purchase a new permit when no extension or reinstatement policy is in place
- Proposed charges for copies of plans
- Proposed fee for change of occupancy without construction
- Proposed fee for demolition
- Contingency funds in the Building Department

The following citizen discussed this matter:

- Sam Bailey, Holmes County Clerk of Court

Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to lower the demolition fee from \$20 for every 1,000 square feet above 5,000 square feet to \$5. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Proposed Fee Schedule)

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, presented a lot split application from Old Sod, LLC for parcel number 0928.00-000-000-016.200. He stated that the application is to divide a 13.44-acre tract into a 2.26-acre parcel and an 11.18-acre parcel. Mr. Feeney recommended approval of the application as it meets all the requirements. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion approving the lot split application with Commissioner Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Application)

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, presented a proposed agreement in the amount of \$57,500 for Dewberry Engineers to conduct the inspection services for the new GEC Ag building. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, stated that he had reviewed and approved the agreement. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving Project Director David Corbin to sign the agreement with Commissioner Newsom offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, advised that the two DOT beautification grants awarded for Highways 79 and 81 require the services of a certified landscape architect. Discussion included that the grant will not pay for the services, quote amounts for the services, using in-house labor once the architects are complete and maintaining the projects. The Board agreed by consensus to table this matter until Mr. Parson can get the grant stipulations in writing.

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, gave the following legislative update:

- \$200,000 for the Dogwood Lakes project has cleared the Senate

- Status of the \$4.6 million rural infrastructure grant that was awarded for the failed Ponce de Leon lumber project unknown
- Commissioner terms limits still in discussion

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, presented quotes from All Phases Archaeology and TG Earnest & Associates for the required archeological survey of the Bonifay/Gritney Road. He advised that grant funds cannot be used for the survey. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion approving the \$8,000 quote from TG Earnest & Associates using LOGT funds budgeted for fencing on the Bonifay/Gritney Road. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Quotes)

John Feeney, Alday Howell Engineering, advised that 90% of the CR 185 design project will be submitted to the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) this week. He also stated that the CR 179 new SCOP application will be submitted to DOT.

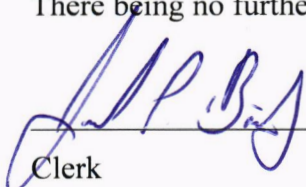
Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented the proposed agreement with Contracting Unlimited to build the new Ag Center for the amount of \$2,209,075. He stated he has reviewed the agreement and that the contractor's name in Article 23 needs to be amended to Contracting Unlimited. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion approving the Chairman to sign the agreement contingent on the correction to Article 23. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

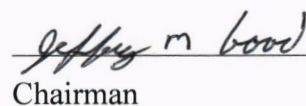
(Agreement)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, discussed the official opinion from the Ethics Commission on requiring the Planning Commission and the Tourist Development Commission (TDC) to file Form 1. He recommended that the two entities continue filing Form 1 as they are special independent districts and it required by statute. He stated that the Development Commission is exempt as a special dependent district. Rusty Williams, Holmes County Supervisor of Elections, stated that Form 1 requires minimal financial information and recommended the entities continuing filing the document. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to amend the Development Commission's exemption and require the entity to file Form 1 with Commissioner Music offering a second. Commissioners Newsom and Music voted yes with Commissioners Erickson, Good and Stafford voting no. The motion failed.

Commissioner Stafford discussed the value of the trees in the new District 4 pit. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to sell the trees if there is value in the timber and it is below the procurement threshold with Commissioner Newsom offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

  
Clerk

  
Chairman