

March 5, 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 (via telephone), 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:

- Commissioner Items A) Westville Head Start – added

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

Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the February 20, 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 22, 2024 Special Session. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Samantha Perry, a private citizen, discussed the need for transparency by requiring all special districts within the County to file financial affidavits with the State.

Larry Sweat, a Valley Road resident, expressed his concerns about the *Sol Fest* music festival to be held at Vortex Springs in May. He requested that the Board pass an ordinance to protect all the neighboring properties from the noise and profanity resulting from the event.

Richard Willsey, a Happy Hollow Road resident, reiterated his request for annual fire inspections of businesses within the County.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented the two proposals received in response to RFP 24-01 for financing ambulances. He stated that both Regions and Leasing 2 offered several financing options. The Board agreed by consensus to table this matter until EMS Director Steve Connell can attend to answer questions and state his preferences.

(Proposals)

Melanie Rowand-Mills, Emerald Coast Regional Council, presented proposed Resolution 24-08 approving an exception to the current Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP) to add manufactured homes to the SHIP replacement housing strategy. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion approving Resolution 24-08 with Commissioner Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution 24-08)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, read a letter received from Holmes County Development Commission Executive Director Joe Rone concerning the status of the County's New Market Tax Credit application for the purchase of the Project Gateway property. Discussion included the steps involved to qualify for the credit and that it is a lengthier process than originally presented to the Board.

(Letter)

Commissioner Newsom discussed the Project Gateway Joint Venture committee meeting scheduled for tomorrow and the issues with the confidentiality requirements of the Joint Venture agreement. Discussion included the Commissioners' requirement to abide by the Sunshine Law and the Development Commission's need to honor the confidentiality of their clients. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to terminate the Project Gateway Joint Venture with the Development Commission. Commissioner Music offered a second. Further discussion included the status of the Joint Venture committee upon termination of the agreement and the fact that the terms for repaying the loan for the purchase of the Project Gateway property are contained in the Joint Venture Agreement. Commissioner Newsom rescinded his motion. The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Doyle Majors, Development Commission Chairman
- Nate Nolin, County Attorney
- Sam Bailey, Holmes County Clerk of Court

Commissioner Newsom offered a motion for County Attorney Nate Nolin to amend the current Joint Venture Agreement to remove the confidentiality requirement and to disband the Joint Venture Committee. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

David Corbin, Project Director, presented a list of the Special Event Committee members with representation from all public safety organizations within the County as agreed upon by the Board. Mr. Corbin advised that, upon approval, the Committee will work to create an event ordinance. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion approving the listed members with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Committee List)

David Corbin, Project Director, advised that the FEMA #4564 Ammons Road culvert project funds have been received. He stated that the County may have to recoup a portion of the costs through the Small Project Netting Program as the project cost will likely exceed the FEMA funds awarded.

Keith Bennett, Building Official, discussed the Florida Statute requiring the County to conduct annual fire inspections on businesses. He stated that the inspection requirement is based on the type of business, that the State Fire Marshal's office currently does not have the manpower to enforce the statute and he is working on creating a business registry to schedule inspections.

James Sowinski, Liberty Partners, advised that the two Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) beautification grants awarded for Highways 79 and 81 require the services of a certified landscape architect. He proposed moving \$8,000 of ARPA funds to the Board to offset eligible Sheriff or EMS expenditures in the 2023-2024 fiscal year and then using the \$8,000 for the landscape architect services. Discussion included that the grant will not pay for the services, quote amounts for the services, maintaining the projects and the intended uses for the remaining ARPA funds. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion approving Liberty Partner's proposal with Commissioner Music offering a second. Commissioners Newsom and Music voted yes with Commissioners Stafford, Erickson, and Good voting no. The motion failed

(Liberty Partners' Memo)

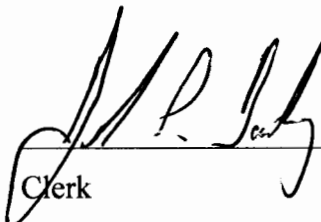
Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented a draft of the Policy and Procedures for Traffic Calming to ensure he included all the parameters and requirements the Board intended. He requested more time to work with Dewberry Engineer Jon Sims before presenting a final draft for the Board's approval.

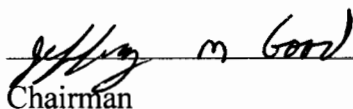
(Draft)

Chairman Good presented a request from the Westville Head Start to create a school zone in front of their building. Discussion included that the road is not a candidate for speed bumps, the Florida statute requirement to incrementally reduce road speed and the County's willingness to help with the signage. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to turn the school zone request over for the Westville Town Council to approve with the County to help with paint and signs upon approval. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Request)

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

  
Clerk

  
Chairman