

April 2, 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, 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:

- Agenda Item C) Code Enforcement Officer – deleted
- County Coordinator Item A) Dogwood Lakes Dam – added
- County Coordinator Item B) Emergency Pipe on Corinth Road – added
- County Coordinator Item C) Email on Westville Driveway – added

Commissioner Music offered a 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 March 19, 2024 Regular Session. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Steve Connell, EMS Director, presented an email from Pine Log Fire Chief Chance Pitts requesting financial assistance with the cost to repair a pumper truck. Discussion included that the \$6,595 repair has been completed and the financial hardships experienced by the department. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to declare the \$6,595 repair an emergency which the Board will pay using Board contingencies. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Email and Invoice)

Steve Connell, EMS Director, stated that Pine Log Fire Department also included a request for assistance with the estimated \$2,000 needed to repair electrical issues with Engine 7. The Board agreed by consensus that Pine Log will have to use their own funds for those repairs.

David Corbin, Project Director, advised that Dam #2 at Dogwood Lakes experienced a failure that caused the water level to drop overnight. He presented a letter from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) stating that the County will need to assess and address the damage to the pipe. Discussion included options to view the damaged pipe, assigning an engineering firm to the project,

the failed appropriations request and the lower lake level resulting from the Dam #1 repair. The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers
- Anne Rodgers, Dogwood Lakes resident

Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to hire Alday Howell Engineering, Inc. to access the needed repairs to Dogwood Lakes Dam #2 contingent on the firm having the means to complete the project. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Letter)

Scottie Prescott, City of Westville, requested a letter of support for the city to apply for a grant to move and restore Westville's old post office. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to have County Attorney Nate Nolin prepare a letter of support for the Chairman to sign. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Letter)

Melanie Rowand-Mills, Emerald Coast Regional Council, requested a home replacement exemption for a residence at 1615 Holmes Road in Westville. She explained that the homeowner has resided in the home for 15 years but has only held the deed for two years. Ms. Rowand-Mills presented photographs and was accompanied by contractors Rick Kneller and Jason Holley to verify that no rehabilitation bids were received due to the disrepair of the house requiring replacement. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to adopt Resolution 24-12 granting the special exemption to the ownership rule. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Request)

(Resolution 24-12)

Steve Connell, EMS Director, discussed the proposal from Leasing 2 to finance ambulances advising that he cannot seek funding for the ambulances before the grants are awarded. He requested that the Board allow him to delay negotiating loan terms with Leasing 2 until June to avoid a supplanting disqualification of grant funding. The Board agreed by consensus to the request verifying that the loan is in a holding pattern until the grants are awarded.

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, advised that two construction bids were received in response to the Ammons Road FEMA #4546 Drainage Improvement advertisement. Gulf Coast Utility Contractors responded with a base bid of \$990,359.50 and Extreme Land Restoration entered a base bid of \$547,333. Discussion included that both bids exceeded the amount awarded by FEMA, re-bidding the project and recouping the overage through FEMA's Small Project Netting program. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to award the project to Extreme Land Restoration with the overage to be covered by LOGT funds. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.



(Bid Tabulation Sheet)

David Corbin, Project Director, advised that a pipe collapse on Corinth Road in District 2 has made an emergency repair mandatory. He stated that the cost of the pipe is \$2,650 and that District 2 does not currently have the Road Materials budget to fund the repair. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to move \$2,650 from District 5 Road Materials to District 2 Road Materials to cover the cost of the pipe. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

David Corbin, Project Director, presented a request from an elderly Westville resident for one load of dirt and assistance with spreading the dirt. The Board agreed by consensus for Mr. Corbin to help the Westville resident contingent on receiving a signed Right of Entry form.

(Request)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that the Request for Proposals for FEMA administrative services will be advertised on April 10<sup>th</sup> and will run for 30 days.

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, stated that biweekly meetings are being held with the contractor and the engineer for the new Ag Center. The contractor has started with surveying stormwater drainage for the site and groundbreaking could be held within a couple of months.

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, discussed the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) beautification grants for Highway 81 and 79 advising that a one-year grant extension has been requested.

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, advised that shortening the paving length of the Bonifay Chipley Road project may be needed due to the bids exceeding the grant amount. Discussion included the extra costs associated with paving an existing dirt road and submitting Phase 2 of the paving project as a SCRAP/SCOP grant project. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to reject the bids submitted on the project, shorten the limits of the project, obtain a supplemental agreement from DOT, and re-bid the project. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Newsom advised that DOT has approved moving the construction funding for the CR 181 Phase 2 SCOP project to fiscal year 2025. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion for County Attorney Nate Nolin to draft and submit a letter to Representative Shane Abbott requesting advance funding for the CR 181 project. Commissioner Erickson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that the Development Commissioner agrees with disbanding the Joint Venture Agreement with the County once the revenue sharing provision of the agreement has been secured. Discussion of this matter included the following:

- Legality of revenue sharing provision

- Manually calculating sales tax revenue
- Granting the Development Commission an annual appropriation based on number of businesses on the Project Gateway property
- County recouping the loan interest payments
- Development Commission delaying the loan payoff to use as leverage in revenue sharing issue

The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Richard Willsey, private citizen
- Samantha Perry, private citizen
- Sam Bailey, Holmes County Clerk

The Board agreed by consensus to allow Attorney Nolin time to resolve the matter and quantify the revenue number for Board approval.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented the Sovereignty Submerged Lands Easement allowing land access for the John Clark Road over Ten Mile Creek improvement project. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the easement with Commissioner Newsom offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Easement)

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

  
Clerk

  
Chairman