

April 16, 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. The following changes were made to the agenda:

- Commissioner Item A) Hoffman Road – added
- Commissioner Item B) Quote for Asphalt Repairs – added
- Agenda Item D) EMS Director – added
- County Coordinator Item A) District 4 Timber Bids – added
- Agenda Item A-1) Dogwood Lakes Dam #2 – added
- County Attorney Item A) White Cane Day Proclamation – added

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

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the March 26, 2024 Special Session. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the April 2, 2024 Regular Session. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Jesse Swindle, a private citizen, requested an update on the Bonifay Chipley Road paving project. Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, advised that he is currently working with the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) to shorten the length of the project since all the construction bids exceeded the grant amount. He stated that the scope change will require a supplemental agreement and the project must be re-bid.

Charles Carr, Sol Fest Attorney, discussed the history of the *Sol Fest Music and Art Festival*. He also outlined the security provisions and safety precautions taken for the May 2<sup>nd</sup> through May 5<sup>th</sup> event. The following citizens discussed the event:

- Ron Neubauer, a Holmes County resident
- Stacie Parsons, Sol Fest
- Chloe Bailey, Sol Fest

- Erin Begley, Sol Fest
- Paul Parsons, Sol Fest
- Jim King, a Holmes County resident
- Alexis Williams, Sol Fest Organizer
- Justin Kulkusky, Sol Fest Organizer
- Samantha Perry, a Holmes County resident

John Feeney, Alday Howell Engineering, advised that the repair needed to the Dogwood Lakes Dam #2 will require the water to be drawn down from around the structure. Discussion included optional methods of removing the water, potential costs and seeking grant funding for the repair. Mr. Feeney stated that he will have more information for the Board at the next meeting as he continues to work with the Water Management District on a solution.

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, presented Budget Amendment #1 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year for approval. She advised that the amendment brought on grant revenue, transferred money for items approved by the Board and moved money within departments for overspent line items. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the budget amendment. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Budget Amendment #1)

Brent Melvin, Melvin Engineering, presented the Holmes Distribution Park Site Prospectus and the Preliminary Engineering Report for the Raper Dairy/Thomas Drive industrial park resulting from the Rural Infrastructure Grant #D0187 design work. Discussion included that the industrial park will be within the city limits and the impact to the County. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to approve transmitting the preliminary engineering report and plans to the Florida Department of Commerce. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Executive Summary)  
Site Plans and Report Available Upon Request

Medea Callahan, Holmes County School Board, requested a letter of support for a grant application to the USDA Rural Development Rural Utilities Service to implement a distance learning program in Holmes County. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion for the Chairman to sign a letter of support for the USDA grant with Commissioner Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Letter)

Steve Connell, EMS Director, advised that the *Sol Fest Music and Art Festival* organizers will have medical staff available at the event to mitigate the need for County medical services and the State EMS Director has stated that the County is under no obligation to provide medical services at a private

property event. Mr. Connell recommended that the County not place an ambulance at the venue and send a letter to the event organizers stating that the County's liability will start when a 911 call is placed.

Discussion of this matter included the following:

- Fire services for the event
- Ordinance to be adopted before the next event
- An emergency action plan and site layout have been requested from the Sol Fest organizers
- A signed agreement between the event organizers and the Sheriff's office to secure payment for law enforcement services is needed
- Issues at previous Sol Fest events
- Lack of communication and transparency of the event organizers
- New *Special Event Zone* law passed by Governor DeSantis
- Public safety concerns
- Safety precautions the event organizers have planned

The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Barry Lee, Emergency Management Director
- John Tate, Holmes County Sheriff
- Charles Carr, Sol Fest Attorney
- Alexis Williams, Sol Fest Organizer
- Justin Kulkusky, Sol Fest Organizer

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the recommendation to not place a Holmes County ambulance at the Sol Fest event and to send a letter to the event organizers stating that the County will activate EMS and unincorporated fire department services only when a 911 call is received. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

David Corbin, Project Director, stated that two bids were received to harvest the timber from the new portion of the District 4 pit. Doyle Majors discussed the amount the County may receive for the timber. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to accept the bid received from J and J Russell Enterprises, Inc. with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Bids)

Bob Stinebaugh, Integrity Group, advised that the FEMA #4399 Category Z funds were available to pay the \$16,118.75 invoice for the Integrity Group's work on the project. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to pay the invoice using FEMA Validated Funds until the reimbursement is received. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Invoice)

Barry Lee, Emergency Management Director, requested that the FEMA administrative services contract be awarded as quickly as possible. The Board advised that the proposals are due May 15<sup>th</sup> and scheduled a Special Session for 4:00 pm that day to award the services.

Chairman Good called a five-minute recess.

Upon re-convening following the recess, Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, discussed the Government Efficiency Center (GEC) Ag Center site visit with the engineer and the contractor. He presented a memo from Liberty Partners recommending the following actions from the Board:

- Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to schedule the Ag Center groundbreaking ceremony for May 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Erickson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to secure a sign design for the GEC to include the words “Senator George Gainer Governmental Complex”. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the use of County labor for GEC site work as needed with Project Director David Corbin to negotiate the rates for the County’s resources. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Memo)

Brent Melvin, Melvin Engineering, gave the following updates on their projects:

- CR 181 Phase 1 – The final design plans will be submitted next week, and the project should be ready to advertise in May
- CR 181 Phase 2 – Final plans have been submitted, now waiting for the construction funding grant agreement
- Project Gateway – Traffic study finished, and 30% of the design plans are completed
- North 79 Drainage Study – working on solutions to the issues found during the study; grants are being pursued

The Board discussed approval of the advanced funding request for CR 181 Phase 1 and 2.

Brian Lemieux, Hanson Professional Services, stated that the Turbeville/Spring Valley Road bridge project was ready for the next phase. The Board agreed by consensus for Project Director David Corbin to arrange for the Bridge Crew to transport the six 10-foot bridge spans donated by Walton County. Jim King discussed the single span replacement bridge.

Brian Lemieux, Hanson Professional Services, advised that the plans have been submitted for the John Clark Road SCOP project and now are waiting for the construction funds to become available.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, read a proposed Proclamation declaring October 15, 2024 as White Cane Safety Day in the County to bring awareness to keeping the blind and visually impaired safe. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to adopt the Proclamation with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Proclamation)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, discussed the efforts made to settle the revenue sharing term of the Project Gateway Joint Venture Agreement with the Development Commission. He stated that the Development Commission has an upcoming meeting to discuss the matter. Attorney Nolin will advise the Board of the outcome at a later meeting.

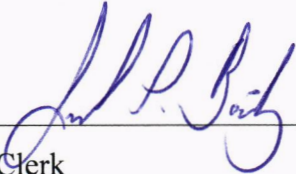
Commissioner Erickson discussed the request by a property owner to close Hoffman Road. Discussion included the previous request to close the road and the road closure process. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to move forward with the required public hearing to close Hoffman Road contingent on receiving the required fees from the requesting property owner. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

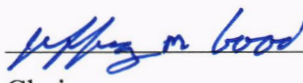
Commissioner Erickson presented a \$10,200 quote from Jerry Davis to repair damaged roads in Dogwood Lakes. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to accept the quote with the funds to come from District 5 Road Materials budget. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Quote)

Doyle Majors advised that the County should receive between \$1,500-\$2,000 per acre for the timber from the District 4 dirt pit.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

  
Clerk

  
Chairman