

May 7, 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 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 A) SHIP Satisfaction of Mortgage – deleted
- County Coordinator Item B) Ammons Road Culvert project – added
- County Coordinator Item C) Sheriff's Budget – added
- Commissioner Item A) Joint Venture Agreement - deleted

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

Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the April 16, 2024 Regular Session. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that all comments related to special event issues should be delayed until the Board schedules a Special Session on the matter. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to schedule the Special Session for Thursday, May 16 at 5:00 pm to be held at the Bonifay K8 School. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Cliff Kimble, Esto Fire Department, presented a quote in the amount of \$6,513.59 to repair the department's primary fire truck and requested the Board's assistance with the cost. Josh Davenport, Esto Town Manager, discussed Esto's inability to pay the full amount of the repairs. Steve Connell, EMS Director, recommended granting the request. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to pay the town of Esto \$5,513.59 towards the truck repairs from Board Contingencies. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Quote)

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

Jim King, a private citizen, stated that Ecofina Creek Water Management has donated two pavilions for the Pittman Creek boat ramp which will be delivered within the next couple of days.

David Corbin, Project Director, advised that he was unable to sell the County's backhoes for enough to cover the lease amount of five new backhoes for two years as directed at the March 19<sup>th</sup> Regular Session. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to sell the County's backhoes and lease five new backhoes with extended arms for five years using FEMA validated funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year expense and then placing the lease expense on the annual budget for the remaining years of the leases. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, presented a Task Order in the amount of \$11,750 for the design of the Roping Road Bridge over East Pittman Creek B-SCOP project. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to approve the Chairman signing the task order with Commissioner Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Task Order)

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, advised that a pre-construction conference was held for the FEMA #4564 Ammons Road culvert project and that a May 20<sup>th</sup> start date is anticipated. He stated that the project should be completed within 150 days.

John Tate, Holmes County Sheriff, discussed the extra expenses incurred by his department for law enforcement activities at the *Sol Fest Music Festival*. He stated that the event promoters paid \$64,000 of the \$81,000 promised and the balance remains unpaid. Sheriff Tate advised that the Sheriff's department had a total of \$133,905 in event expenses due to salaries, inmate housing, fuel, and medical expenses. He requested reimbursement from the Board in the amount of \$69,905 for the unanticipated expenses. Discussion included that EMS and local fire departments also incurred extra expenses due to the music festival and that the Special Event Zone statute will allow the Board to recoup the expenses through litigation. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to reimburse the Sheriff's office \$69,905 for event expenses from the Board Contingencies account. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to have County Attorney Nate Nolin move forward with litigation to recoup the total amount of County expenses associated with the *Sol Fest Music Festival*. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Keith Bennett, Holmes County Building Official, presented a proposed International Code Council (ICC) proclamation declaring May 2024 as the County's Building Safety Month. He stated that there is no expense associated with the proclamation, it simply brings awareness to the issue. County Attorney Nate Nolin read the proclamation onto the record. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to adopt the proclamation with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Proclamation)

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, stated that a technical assistance grant is available to convert the County's Comp Plan into a GIS mapping format. He advised that no grant match is required, and the application deadline is May 10<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the County applying for the grant using an updated resolution from last year's application. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, presented a lot split application for a proposed subdivision on Franklin Road and JW Stephens Road for parcel number 0130.00-000-000-006.000. He stated that the subdivision will create an 11.41-acre parcel and leave an approximately 43.09-acre parcel. Mr. Feeney recommended approval of the application as it meets all the requirements and was unanimously approved by the Planning Commission. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the subdivision application with Commissioner Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Application)

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, presented a subdivision application for a proposed subdivision on Bonifay Gritney Road and Jim Bush Road for parcel number 0928.00-000-000-016.100. He stated that the subdivision will create seven new tracts totaling 11.49 acres and leave a remaining parcel of approximately 19.13 acres. Mr. Feeney and the Planning Commission recommend approval of the application with the condition that Tract 7 has access from Jim Bush Road. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion approving the subdivision application with the stated condition. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Application)

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, presented a lot split application from Four Hills Woodlands for parcel number 1125.00-000-000-005.000. He stated that the lot split for the Love Road and Beall Road parcel falls under the road split exemption approved by the Board. 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 Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Application)

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, advised that the groundbreaking for the Government Efficiency Center (GEC) Ag Center site is delayed until former Senator George Gainer is available. Discussion included that the GEC project has been awarded an extension until June 30, 2025 and that the design for the Ag Center sign is still in progress.

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, stated that the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) has approved shortening the limits of the Bonifay Chipley Road paving project to go from Nebraska Avenue to Parker Grant Road. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the shortening of the project and Commissioner Stafford offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Rod Adams, Melvin Engineering, advised that DOT had concerns about an existing sidewalk on the County Road 181 Phase 1 project. Mr. Adams re-designed the plans to reduce the shoulder to allow for the sidewalk. The SCOP program cannot fund sidewalk improvements consequently the County will have to fund the approximate \$2,200 needed to correct the sidewalk. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to pay up to \$2,500 for the sidewalk improvements using LOGT funds. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Rod Adams, Melvin Engineering, stated that DOT has moved up construction funding for the County Road 181 Phase 2 project to the State's 2025 fiscal year which begins July 1, 2024. He advised that DOT has approved advanced funding for the project but will first require an executed construction agreement before the funds are released. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to advertise for bids on both the County Road 181 Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Cliff Knauer, Dewberry Engineers, presented the proposed layout for the Government Efficiency Center EMS building. Discussion included that the existing building will be used as ambulance bays, building drainage concerns have been addressed, and the new building cost estimate is \$1,250,000. Mr. Knauer advised that the County can reduce costs by handling the demolition and some of the new construction.

(Layout Available Upon Request)

John Feeney, Alday Howell Engineering, advised that the Dogwood Lakes Dam #2 has been deemed in emergency failure and that the Water Management District is requesting the County's plan of action. He presented repair options and the approximate cost of each option. Alday Howell will complete the design and the construction work will be bid out. Discussion included optional methods of drawing down the lake, the impact on the ecosystem and funding sources for the over \$300,000 repair. The Board agreed by consensus to table this matter until the May 16th Special Session to try and find funding for the project.

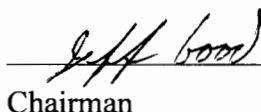
(Cost Estimate)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, stated that the Special Event Committee has been working on the stipulations for the Special Event Ordinance and a draft will be presented at the May 16<sup>th</sup> Special Session.

Commissioner Stafford offered a motion for Larry Moore to fill the vacant seat on the Planning Commission. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

  
Clerk

  
Chairman