

May 21, 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, 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 9:03 a.m. David Corbin, Project Director, led the prayer and pledge.

The first agenda item was Agenda Additions and Deletions. The following addition was made to the agenda:

- County Coordinator Item A) *Friends of the Library* Fundraiser

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 May 7, 2024 Regular Session. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Samantha Perry, a private citizen, expressed her appreciation that the community was allowed to publicly express their concerns about the *Sol Fest Music Festival*.

Robin Phillips, CDBG Administrator, presented an update on the CDBG grant for the Council on Aging renovations. She stated that the architect has completed the plans. Upon approval from the Council on Aging and the Department of Commerce the project can go out for bid.

Robin Phillips, CDBG Administrator, stated that a strategy for the CDBG housing rehabilitation grant has been submitted to the Department of Commerce with approval pending. She discussed the plan to use CDBG funds in conjunction with SHIP funding to help more homeowners. Approval of specific rehabilitation projects and updating the housing assistance plan will be presented to the Board in the future.

Chairman Good discussed awarding the Disaster Recovery Administrative Services contract. The three proposals received were from The Integrity Group, Wheeler Emergency Management Consulting, LLC and Solix, Inc. Discussion included the possibility of fiscally constrained counties being appointed an administrator through FEMA. Barry Lee, Emergency Management Director, discussed the time that the County has been without the services and the immediate need for the service. The Board agreed by consensus to table awarding the services contract until the June 4th Regular Session.

Chairman Good advised that the Development Commission has a pending contract for Busy Bee to purchase the Project Gateway property. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented a draft of a settlement agreement for ending the Project Gateway joint venture. Discussion of this matter included the following:

- Loan interest payment is due June 1<sup>st</sup> with a 15-day grace period
- Settlement agreement includes a \$100,000 annual appropriation to the Development Commission once all the County's costs of the venture have been reimbursed
- County's costs include the loan interest payments and land clearing expenses
- Impact of ending the joint venture on the Project Gateway grants

The following citizen discussed this matter:

- Wesley Whitaker, First Federal Bank

Commissioner Stafford offered a motion approving the drafted agreement contingent on getting the final number of the land clearing costs as well as the County Attorney reviewing the contract and ensuring the grants remain intact. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously. Attorney Nolin will report to the Board when the sale is final, and the agreement is accepted.

(Draft of Agreement)

David Corbin, Project Director, advised that interviews will be conducted tomorrow for the Board Secretary position.

David Corbin, Project Director, discussed the rain event over the weekend and that the Road Department is working to repair roads and remove debris as quickly as possible. Discussion included compensating Mr. Corbin for the extra hours he works handling the County's business.

David Corbin, Project Director, presented a request from the *Friends of the Library* to hold a fundraiser on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> celebrating the County's history and heritage. He advised that the Library has received permission to use the field owned by the First Baptist Church and confirmation from the City that no permits are required for the event. The Board agreed by consensus to grant the request for the event.

Board recessed for 10 minutes.

Upon reconvening, John Feeney, Contracted Planner, presented a lot split application from Mike Howell for parcel number 0423.00-000-000-005.000. He stated that the parcel located on Highway 160 will divide a 209.59-acre tract into a 189.59-acre parcel and a 20-acre parcel. Mr. Feeney recommended approval of the application as it meets all the requirements. Commissioner Music offered a motion approving the lot split application with Commissioner Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Application)

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, advised that the Government Efficiency Center (GEC) Ag Center metal building is expected to be ready in July and that the groundbreaking ceremony has not yet been scheduled. He also stated that a meeting is scheduled to discuss the EMS building which is Phase 4 of the GEC project. Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, stated that the District 5 pit has been tested and the dirt is not sufficient for use on the GEC project and that the other pits will be tested.

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, reminded the Board that the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024.

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, stated that the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) has requested that the County advertise the Bonifay Chipley Road paving project with the shortened limits. Once the bid amounts are received and reviewed, DOT will provide the supplemental agreement. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to advertise the project and Commissioner Stafford offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, advised that the work to obtain the permits for the Bonifay Gritney Road paving project is still in progress with an uncertain completion date. Discussion included requesting that DOT apply any unused Bonifay Chipley Road funds to the Bonifay Gritney Road paving project.

John Feeney, Alday Howell, presented an update on the are Dogwood Lakes Dam #2 repair stating that the Water Management District wants the water level drawn down below the leak in the pipe to prevent a total dam failure. Discussion of this matter included the following:

- Alday Howell has a task order to complete the design work for the repair
- Design work will provide plans to bid out the repair project
- Using a pump to draw down the lake will require man-hours to ensure the level stays below the leak
- County must notify State of the plan of action
- Funding the repairs
- County's action plan for Dogwood Lakes included both the large and small lake
- Pump rental costs approximately \$2,000 monthly plus fuel
- Pipe failure will cause flooding to downstream houses
- County owns property allowing access to the small lake
- Liberty Partners to search for grants to fund the repair
- Emergency Management may have access to borrowing a pump

The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Jennifer Green, Liberty Partners
- Barry Lee, Emergency Management Director

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that Commissioner Erickson should abstain from any vote on the repairs to the dam as he lives in Dogwood Lakes and the repair could impact home values in the area. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to give Project Director David Corbin the authority to rent a

pump if needed using Board Contingencies not to exceed \$10,000. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, stated that the Special Event Committee is meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup> to finalize the Special Event Ordinance draft. He advised that items to be considered in the ordinance are as follows:

- Definition of a festival
- Permit requirements and fees
- EMS, Fire, and security services
- Disclosure of the financial backing of the event
- Insurance and bond requirements
- Enforcement of ordinance
- Waiting period to enforce ordinance
- Emergency action plans


The following citizens discussed this matter:

- John Tate, Holmes County Sheriff
- John Feeney, Contracted Planner
- Keith Bennett, Holmes County Building Official
- Barry Lee, Emergency Management Director

Barry Lee, Emergency Management Director, advised that he can submit a request to the State for a pump to draw down the level at the Dogwood Lake Dam #2 site. Discussion included requesting the biggest pump available with 100 feet of intake pipe and 100 feet of outtake pipe.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

  
Clerk

  
Chairman