

July 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, Earl Stafford, Brandon Newsom (via telephone), 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:

- County Coordinator Item A) Boat Ramps – deleted
- County Coordinator Item E) FEMA Coordinator – added

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 June 18, 2024 Regular Session. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Terry Mears, Holmes County Republican Executive Committee Chairman, spoke against continuing the indigent care surtax collected for Doctors Memorial Hospital.

David Clark, Sharpe Road resident, discussed his failed attempt to close Sharpe Road and the current hazardous conditions of the road due to poor road maintenance.

Melanie Rowand-Mills, Emerald Coast Regional Council, presented the 2021-2022 SHIP Annual Report for approval. She reviewed the use of the 2021-2022 SHIP funds to assist nine families within the County and discussed current home replacement efforts. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the 2021-2022 SHIP Annual Report Certification. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Annual Report and Certification)

Melanie Rowand-Mills, Emerald Coast Regional Council, presented a Satisfaction of Mortgage for each of the following SHIP fund recipients due to lien expiration or receiving the payoff:

- Herman Berry
- Lillian Brannon
- Jacqueline Brown

- Wendy Herberth
- Kayla Ratcliff
- Robert and Opal Whitehead

Commissioner Stafford offered a motion approving the Chairman to sign the six Satisfaction of Mortgages and the Holmes County Clerk to record the documents. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Satisfaction of Mortgages x 6)

Steve Connell, EMS Director, advised that the County has received a grant to remount an ambulance. He presented his plan to use the grant funds as well as financing from Leasing 2 to get a total of two remounted ambulances and one new ambulance. Mr. Connell requested that the Board continue to budget \$70,000 annually for EMS capital outlay to be used in conjunction with the Opioid Settlement funds to make the loan payments for the next four years. Discussion included the mileage on the current ambulances and that Frazer is a sole source vendor for the remount. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the Leasing 2 proposal to pay \$96,401.05 annually for four years. Commissioner Stafford offered a second the motion passed unanimously.

(Proposal)

David Corbin, Project Director, presented proposed Resolution 24-16 approving the Chairman to sign the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) agreement for improvements to John Clark Road. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to adopt Resolution 24-16 with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution 24-16)

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, advised that a lease to purchase the Dogwood Lake boat ramp will qualify the County for a grant to improve the lake. He stated that the DEP Resilient Florida grant deadline is September 1st. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion for Liberty Partners to start the grant application with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed with Commissioner Erickson abstaining from the vote.

(Affidavit on Abstention from Voting)

David Corbin, Project Director, advised that a retainer agreement was received from Attorney Martha S. Eskuchen to represent the County on the Value Adjustment Board (VAB). Commissioner Stafford offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the agreement to retain Ms. Eskuchen as the VAB attorney. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

David Corbin, Project Director, requested direction from the Board about placing a hiring freeze within the County until the end of the fiscal year to save money. Discussion included that all positions are currently filled, and the freeze will go into effect if an employee quits. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to place a hiring freeze within the County until the end of the fiscal year with the stipulation that Mr. Corbin can fill a vacant position at his discretion. Commissioner Music offered a second. Commissioners Stafford, Music and Good voted yes with Commissioners Erickson and Newsom voting no. The motion passed.

Barry Lee, Emergency Management Director, advised that a project manager assigned by FEMA would be appointed only for a specific disaster and the services would terminate upon completion of the project work for that disaster. He stated that a contracted project manager will be available to help the County with multiple disasters and will be more familiar with the needs of the County. Discussion included losing FEMA reimbursement on the current FEMA #4564 projects being completed. The Board agreed by consensus for Mr. Lee, County Attorney Nate Nolin, and Project Director David Corbin to rank the responses received to the Disaster Recovery Administration Services RFP and present a recommendation to the Board at the next meeting.

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, presented a proposal in the amount of \$147,000 for the inspection services on the John Clark SCOP project. He stated that construction funding will be available is fiscal year 2025. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion accepting the proposal with Commissioner Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Proposal)

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, requested permission to advertise the Bonifay Chipley Road paving project from Nebraska Avenue to Parker Grant Road. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion granting the request with Commissioner Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, advised that the Bonifay Gritney Road paving project may be delayed for more than a year waiting on permits from the Army Corp of Engineers. The Board agreed by consensus for Mr. Sims, County Attorney Nate Nolin, and Project Director David Corbin to discuss the matter with a State Representative.

Rod Adams, Melvin Engineering, presented Addendum No. 1 modifying the bid documents for both phases of the CR 181 widening and resurfacing SCOP project. He stated that the addendum moved the bid opening date to July 18th and shows responses to questions asked by contractors.

(Addendum No. 1)

John Feeney, Alday-Howell Engineering, presented a proposal in the amount of \$294,340 for inspection services on Phase 1 of the CR 181 widening and resurfacing SCOP project. CR 181 Phase 1 is from CR 179A to Minger Road. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion accepting the proposal with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Proposal)

John Feeney, Alday-Howell Engineering, presented a proposal in the amount of \$396,980 for inspection services on Phase 2 of the CR 181 widening and resurfacing SCOP project. CR 181 Phase 2 is from Minger Road to State Road 81. Commissioner Music offered a motion accepting the proposal with Commissioner Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Proposal)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that the Special Event Committee needed to reconvene to discuss the business impact statement for the outdoor event ordinance and discuss the changes recommended by the Board. Discussion included the requirement holding the landowner liable for persons and events held on their property. The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Alonzo Hornsby
- Jackie Grant
- Richard Willsey
- Garrett Valcourt
- Jason Powell

Mr. Nolin will furnish the final ordinance for Board approval at a future meeting.

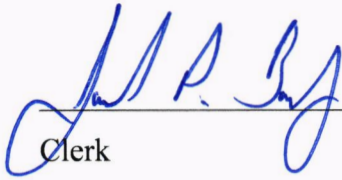
Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented a proposed ordinance continuing the Indigent Care Surtax collected to service the indebtedness of Doctors Memorial Hospital. Discussion included the need for public meetings before adopting the ordinance, the time exemption for a successive ordinance and that Doctors Memorial Hospital has agreed to pay the expenses associated with getting the issue on the November ballot. The following citizens spoke in support of the surtax:

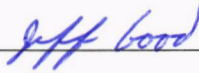
- Cynthia Brooks
- Rohan Anderson, Doctors Memorial
- Samantha Perry
- Alonzo Hornsby
- Rusty Williams, Holmes County Supervisor of Elections

Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to proceed with the process to adopt the ordinance. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Proposed Ordinance)

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.


Clerk


Chairman