

August 12, 2024
Special Session
Bonifay, Florida

The Holmes County Board of Commissioners met for a Special 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, was present. David Corbin, Project Director, was present via telephone.

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, was present and kept the minutes.

Chairman Good called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, led the prayer and pledge.

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

- Agenda Item B) Hospital Indigent Care Surtax – move to last
- Agenda Item A-1) Dogwood Lakes Boat Ramp - added

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

Kayla Platt Rady, Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell P.A., introduced herself as the attorney representing the County in the Fountain of Youth Ranch lawsuit over ownership of Lake Cassidy Lane. She stated that a settlement has been reached and recommended that the Board approve the settlement to avoid paying Plaintiff's legal fees, costs, and damages. Ms. Rady stated that the settlement amount is \$300,000 with all other conditions to be negotiated through the closing process. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to accept the settlement agreement with Commissioner Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Newsom discussed purchasing the Dogwood Lake boat ramp this fiscal year to qualify for grants by the September 1st deadline. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to purchase the Dogwood Lakes boat ramp from Don Smith for \$50,000 plus appraisal and closing costs up to \$5,000 using FEMA validated funds. Commissioner Stafford offered a second. The motion passed with Commissioner Erickson abstained from voting.

(Abstain from Voting Form)

Chairman Good opened the second public hearing for proposed Ordinance 24-03 continuing the Indigent Care Surtax collected to service the indebtedness of Doctors Memorial Hospital. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, read the proposed ordinance onto the record. Rohan Anderson, Doctors Memorial Hospital, expressed his appreciation for the Board's support in getting the issue on the November ballot.

Chairman Good closed the public hearing. Commissioner Music offered a motion to adopt Ordinance 24-03 with Commissioner Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Ordinance 24-03)

Sam Bailey, Holmes County Clerk, presented the 2024-2025 budget changes recommended by the Budget Committee and agreed to by the constitutional officers. The discussion of budget changes included the following:

- Selling the Deacon Road property
- Using ARPA funds to offset Sheriff or EMS expenditures to help balance the budget
- Eliminating or reducing the 79 Corridor revenue sharing payment
- Filing a protest of the Property Appraiser's budget with the Department of Revenue
- Reducing the amount of employee insurance benefit paid to Tax Collector
- Eliminating or reducing the miscellaneous appropriations requested
- Modifying each district's Road Materials budget
- Using validated FEMA funds to give County employees raises

The Board made the following changes to the 2024-2025 budget:

- Reduced the 79 Corridor revenue sharing payment to \$30,000
- Reduced the Property Appraiser's budget by \$15,000
- Reduced the Tax Collector's budget by \$19,800
- Modified the Transportation Trust Road Materials budget as follows:
 - District 1 - \$30,000
 - District 2 - \$40,000
 - District 3 - \$20,000
 - District 4 - \$40,000
 - District 5 - \$20,000
- Reduced the Council on Aging grant match by \$18,000
- Reduced the Tri-County Airport appropriations by \$10,604
- Eliminated the Early Learning Coalition appropriations request of \$11,705
- Eliminated the Code Enforcement department
- Reduced Transportation Trust's Repair and Maintenance budget by \$17,808
- Sell the Deacon Road property with proceeds projected at \$400,000
- Use \$300,000 of ARPA funds to offset 23-24 Sheriff or EMS expenditures for an increase in the roll forward
- Transfer \$400,000 of LOGT funds to the Transportation Trust fund

The Board directed that the figures for a 2 % raise versus a stipend be presented for further consideration at a future meeting.

(Budget Changes by Budget Committee & Constitutional Officers)

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

