

July 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 item was added to the agenda:

- County Coordinator Item A) Appointment to Tri-County Airport Authority Board

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

Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the July 2, 2024 Workshop. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Samantha Perry, a Happy Hollow Road resident, stated that the digital sign reading speed limits on Highway 177a was not working properly. David Corbin, Project Director, will contact the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) about the sign. Ms. Perry expressed her appreciation for the road maintenance performed on Happy Hollow Road.

Allara Mills Gutchler, The Planning Collaborative, requested approval to submit the amended comprehensive plan to the State for review. She advised that the first public hearing for Ordinance 24-02 amending the Holmes County Comprehensive Plan by striking the 2010 Comprehensive Plan Volume II Policy Document and adopting the Vision 2045: Comprehensive Plan was advertised for today. County Attorney Nate Nolin read Ordinance 24-02 onto the record. Chairman Good opened the public hearing. The public hearing was closed with no comments from the public. Commissioner Music offered a motion to accept the first hearing of the ordinance and move forward with the second public hearing needed to adopt the ordinance. Commissioner Erickson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Music offered a motion to transmit the amended comp plan to the State for review. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Transmittal to State)

Allara Mills Gutchler, The Planning Collaborative, presented a \$140,000 proposal to update the County's Land Development Regulations (LDR). Discussion included budgeting the expenditure and that the LDR update is required after amending the Comp Plan. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion accepting the proposal with the stipulation that the cost will be divided between the 2024-2025 and the 2025-2026 fiscal years. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Proposal)

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, requested that the Board set the proposed millage rate for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Discussion included the current millage amount and that the Board cannot increase the proposed millage rate without notifying all County citizens. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to set the 2024-25 proposed millage rate to the current millage rate of 9.4916. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, requested the Board schedule a Tentative Budget Hearing between September 3, 2024 and September 18, 2024. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to schedule the Tentative Budget Hearing for Tuesday, September 3rd at 5:01 p.m. Commissioner Erickson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously. The Board agreed by consensus to schedule a budget workshop for Monday, August 12th at 4:00 p.m.

David Corbin, Project Director, presented a request from the Tri-County Airport Authority to reappoint Jack Locke to the Authority Board for a three-year term effective October 1, 2024. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to grant the reappointment request with Commissioner Newsom offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Request)

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, presented a memo detailing the challenges associated with the Department of Commerce's advance payment process for the Government Efficiency Center (GEC) and offering possible solutions. Discussion included the delay in payment to the contractors caused by the advance payment process and the County's lack of cash flow to pay the GEC contractors with no immediate reimbursement. The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Sam Bailey, Holmes County Clerk
- Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers
- John Feeney, Alday Howell Engineering

The Board agreed by consensus for Mr. Parson, Clerk Bailey, Project Director David Corbin and Chairman Good to meet with the Department of Commerce to discuss a solution.

(Memo)

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, gave the following project updates:

- The advertisement for the Bonifay Chipley Road paving project will run tomorrow with the bid opening scheduled for August 14th

- The Ammons Road culvert project is progressing after a fiber was cut
- The Bonifay Gritney Road paving project is still delayed due to waiting on the Army Corps of Engineers permits. A meeting with State Representative Shane Abbott will be scheduled to discuss the matter.

John Feeney, Alday Howell Engineering, presented a revised task order in the amount of \$25,575 for the design to repair the Dogwood Lakes dam #2. He stated that Director Lyle Seigler of the Northwest Florida Water Management suggested a less-expensive, temporary repair by installing a low-level control that will siphon the water in case of a catastrophic failure. Mr. Feeney stated that this option will satisfy the Emergency Action Plan requirements and reduces the design fee. Discussion included that this expense could be used as matching funds for a grant to construct the structure, using in-kind labor to install the structure and funding sources for the design fee. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion approving the revised task order using Board Contingencies with Commissioner Stafford offering a second. The motion passed with Commissioner Erickson abstaining from the vote.

(Task Order)

(Affidavit on Abstention from Voting)

The Board recessed.

Upon reconvening, Commissioner Stafford advised that Hanson engineers are 90% complete with the design and permits for the Spring Valley Road/Turbeville Road bridge.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented a \$5,500 quote from Pippin to replace the air conditioning unit in the Health Department Clinic. Traci Corbin, Health Department Administrator, discussed the history of repairs to the unit and the need for the new unit. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to have Pippin replace the Health Department air conditioner unit using Board Contingencies. Commissioner Erickson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Quote)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that the business impact statement for the Special Event Ordinance will need to be published on the County's website before Board approval of the ordinance. He stated that the Special Event Committee has increased the outdoor event attendance number to 500 and has struck the religious exemption. Discussion of this matter included the following:

- Removing the religious and non-profit exemptions
- Charging an admission versus requesting a donation
- Entering into a code enforcement mutual aid agreement with surrounding counties for special events versus establishing Holmes County Code Enforcement
- Sheriff's authority to enforce an ordinance

- Application deadline reduced from 120 days before an event to a 90-day cut-off
- An event can not be advertised until the special event permits have been issued
- The continued search for the liable party in County's pending lawsuit against the Sol Fest Music Festival
- Changing the application process as needed in the future

The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Larry Sweat, Special Event Committee member
- John Tate, Holmes County Sheriff
- Keith Bennett, Holmes County Building Official
- John Feeney, Contracted Planner

The Board agreed by consensus to move forward with the Special Event Ordinance after the requirement to publish the business impact statement has been satisfied.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that Ordinance 24-03 continuing the Indigent Care Surtax collected to service the indebtedness of Doctors Memorial Hospital is scheduled for an August 6th public hearing. He stated that the ordinance is identical to the ordinance implementing the surtax due to time constraints and that Holmes County Supervisor of Election Rusty Williams has what is needed to place the issue on the November ballot. Rohan Anderson, Doctors Memorial Hospital, expressed his appreciation for the Board's action on this matter.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that three proposals were received in response to the Disaster Recovery Administration Services RFP. Attorney Nolin and Project Director David Corbin reviewed the proposals, found all submissions complied with stated requirements and that an error in the RFP was a non-issue since all bidders met the deadline. 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. Mr. Lee stated that FEMA will monitor contracted project managers to protect the County's interest. Bob Stinebaugh, The Integrity Group, discussed the FEMA reimbursement process and the administrative funds available. Discussion included that the current FEMA #4564 projects being completed may not be properly documented and could impede the County's reimbursement. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to readvertise the Disaster Recovery Administration Services RFP to include assuming responsibility for project management of the FEMA #4564 projects. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Barry Lee, Emergency Management Director, stated that the County had opted into the Florida Recovery Obligation Calculation (F-ROC) Program which will entitle the County to a 60% early reimbursement funding following a disaster.

Barry Lee, Emergency Management Director, advised that the County could file an injunction to stop any special event that does not comply with the ordinance. The injunction would place the decision of allowing the special event with the circuit judge.

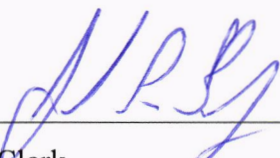
Nate Nolin, County Attorney, recommended having an appraisal of the Dogwood Lakes boat ramp completed before the County purchases the property. Discussion included that a lease will not qualify the County for a grant to improve the lake and the source of funds to purchase the property. The Board tabled this matter until the proposed 2024-2025 budget could be reviewed.

Commissioner Erickson discussed complaints he received about the offset of the four-way stop at the intersection of Boswell Road and Bonifay Gritney Road. The Board directed John Feeney, Alday Howell Engineers, to view the intersection and offer solutions.

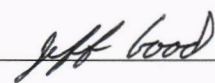
Commissioner Erickson discussed removing a tree in a curve on Hathaway Mill Road which is obstructing the sight distance. Discussion included that the tree is not within the County's right-of-way, reaching out to the property owner and installing a stop sign at the site. The Board directed John Feeney, Alday Howell Engineers, to view the tree and offer solutions.

Commissioner Erickson discussed installing a concrete pad on the property of a school bus driver to park the school bus. Discussion included that no culvert was needed, just the materials and labor to install the pad. David Corbin, Project Director, will have the District 1 Foreman view the property for possible installation of a concrete pad.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.



Clerk



Chairman