

September 3, 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 6:04 p.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:

- Agenda Item B) Joint Venture Agreement

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 August 22, 2024 Regular Session. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, requested that the Board impose a purchase order cut-off date of September 16th as the Finance Office starts the process of closing out the fiscal year. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to set a purchase order cut-off date of September 16th, unless it is an emergency expenditure. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Good discussed the revenue sharing term of the Project Gateway Joint Venture Agreement between the County and the Development Commission. Ben Armstrong, Development Commission Attorney, discussed the proposed revenue-sharing terms which would take effect the fiscal year following the one-year anniversary of the business opening to customers. Discussion of the terms of agreement included the following:

- County giving the Development Commission an annual appropriation of \$100,000 in lieu of tax revenue
- Reimbursement of the County's expenditures for Project Gateway
- Projected tax revenue from Project Gateway

Commissioner Stafford offered a motion approving the proposed terms of the Joint Venture Agreement but later rescinded his motion. The Board agreed by consensus to table this matter for Attorney Armstrong

to draft a new agreement to include terms of reimbursement to the County before any payment begins to the Development Commission.

David Corbin, Project Director, presented Resolution 24-20 for the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) to temporarily close State Road 79 from Highway 90 to County Road 173 for a railroad crossing replacement. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, read the resolution onto the record. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to adopt the resolution with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution 24-20)

Jennifer Greene, Liberty Partners, requested direction about seeking additional funding for a new building at the Government Efficiency Center site to house the offices of the Property Appraiser, Tax Collector and Supervisor of Elections. Harry Bell, Holmes County Tax Collector, expressed his appreciation of the Board's consideration of this proposal. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for Liberty Partners to work with the Property Appraiser, Tax Collector and Supervisor of Elections to seek funding options for the proposed building. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

David Corbin, Project Director, discussed the Board's previous actions to institute a cut-off for any additions to a meeting agenda. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that an agenda should be posted 72 hours before a meeting, that an agenda is only advisory until adopted by the Board and that the Board can still vote on non-agenda items. Richard Willsey, a private citizen, suggested only allowing agenda additions for items with no budgetary impact. The Board directed Mr. Corbin to enforce the cut-off time previously imposed by the Board.

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, presented an application for a lot split from Curtis Johnson for parcel number 0434.00-000-000-010.000. He stated that the proposed split will divide an 80-acre parcel into a 1-acre tract and a 79-acre tract. Mr. Feeney recommended approval of the application as it meets all the requirements. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion approving the lot split with Commissioner Newsom offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Application)

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, presented the following updates:

- The Dogwood Lakes dam #2 siphon design was made a part of the DEP grant application submitted for the dam repairs
- The Government Efficiency Center (GEC) groundbreaking for the new Ag Center has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 2nd at 3:30 p.m.
- The GEC EMS building is in the engineering design process
- The remaining ARPA funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024

- Commissioner Newsom requested Liberty Partners meet with Representative Shane Abbott about funding a blinking light on CR 185 and CR 181 due to the number of auto accidents

Jennifer Green, Liberty Partners, presented a proposed memo approving the use of \$300,000 in ARPA funds to offset 2023-2024 EMS personnel expenses. This use of funds will increase the roll forward and help balance the 2024-25 budget. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the use of ARPA funds stated in the memo. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Memo)

Jake Mathis, Melvin Engineering, presented a task order for the Bonifay Chipley Road inspection services in the amount of \$226,050. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the task order with Commissioner Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Task Order)

The Board requested that Melvin Engineering check on the status of the grant application for construction funding needed based on the North 79 Corridor Drainage Study.

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, advised that the permitting for the Bonifay Gritney Road paving project is still waiting for the Army Corp of Engineers approval. The Board directed Project Director David Corbin and Mr. Sims to take action to expedite the permitting.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented a draft of the Outdoor Special Event Ordinance stating that the appeals process has not yet been added to the document. He advised that the required Business Impact Estimate will be posted on the County's website upon completion. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to move forward with the public hearings to adopt the ordinance contingent on adding the language that appeals will be heard by the Special Event Committee. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Ordinance Draft)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, discussed the continued efforts to find the correct parties to serve in the County's lawsuit against the *Sol Fest Music Festival* event holders.

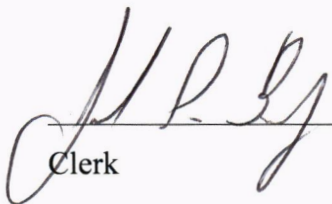
Nate Nolin, County Attorney, stated that an Invitation to Bid can be advertised for the sale of the Deacon Road property. Discussion included obtaining an appraisal of the property and getting the services of a broker. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to advertise the Invitation to Bid for two weeks stating that sealed bids will be accepted for 60 days with the bids to be opened during a Board meeting. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Erickson discussed setting a policy for clearing limbs hanging over County roads. Discussion included the State standard and reaching out to other counties concerning their policy on this issue. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to place a 16-foot vertical clearance requirement on all County's roads in the Board's policy. Commissioner Erickson rescinded the motion, and the matter was tabled until the next meeting.

Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to change the 2024-2025 Final Budget hearing to Monday, September 23rd at 5:01 p.m. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that the Dogwood Lakes boat ramp appraisal should be completed by the end of October.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.


Clerk


Chairman