

September 3, 2024
Tentative Budget Hearing
Bonifay, Florida

The Holmes County Board of Commissioners met for a Tentative Budget Hearing on the above date with the following members present: Commissioner Clint Erickson, Commissioner Earl Stafford, Commissioner Phillip Music (late), Commissioner Brandon Newsom and Commissioner Jeff Good, Chairman of the Board.

David Corbin, Project Director, was present. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, arrived late.

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

Chairman Good called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m. David Corbin, Project Director, led the prayer and pledge.

The first agenda item was Agenda Additions and Deletions. No changes were made to the posted agenda. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to accept the agenda with Commissioner Newsom offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Pursuant to Public Notice, the Board held a public hearing to establish the tentative millage and budget. Chairman Good advised that the proposed millage was set at 9.4916 which is 7.67% greater than the rolled-back rate of 8.8155. The millage rate of 9.4916 is the current millage. By adopting the same rate for 2024-25 this generates a small increase in revenue which was needed to balance the General and Transportation Trust Funds. David Corbin, Project Director, read Resolution 24-21 which adopts the proposed millage of 9.4916. The public was given an opportunity to ask questions regarding the millage rate and the effect on their taxes with no one responding. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to adopt the resolution with Commissioner Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution #24-21)

Chairman Good gave the public an opportunity to discuss changes to the Tentative Budget.

David Corbin, Project Director, discussed the need for an additional \$10,000 on the 2024-25 budget for a Lake Cassidy gate and survey markers. Discussion included that the money allocated for the Lake Cassidy lawsuit settlement includes an additional \$25,000 for any mediation or closing costs. The Board agreed by consensus to see if the additional funds will also cover the costs of the requested items.

Commissioner Stafford advised that Holmes County Sheriff John Tate is willing to create an inmate work crew to perform road maintenance in District 4 for an amount of \$54,263. Commissioner Stafford requested zeroing out the 2024-25 budget for one District 4 Road Maintenance Tech position leaving \$47,375 available to fund the Sheriff's inmate crew with the remainder to come from the 2024-2025 District 4 Road Materials budget. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion for the budget change request with Commissioner Newsom offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

John Tate, Holmes County Sheriff, advised that the Sheriff's office has joined a new program which insures inmates for medical expenses. He discussed the savings this program offers the County.


Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to give the County employees a 2% percent pay increase using \$50,000 of ARPA funds and \$100,000 of FEMA validated funds with Commissioner Newsom offering a second. Discussion included the allowed uses of ARPA funds and funding recurring expenditures with non-recurring funds. Commissioner Erickson rescinded the motion. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to pay a \$1,000 stipend to the County employees using \$76,000 of ARPA funds and \$100,000 of FEMA validated funds. The Board agreed by consensus to table this matter until the final budget hearing.

With no further discussion from the public, Attorney Nolin read Resolution #24-22 adopting a Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25 in the amount of \$31,444,625. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to adopt the resolution with Commissioner Newsom offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution #24-22)
(Tentative Budget)

Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to schedule the Final Budget hearing for Monday, September 16, 2024, at 5:01 p.m. Commissioner Erickson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business at this time the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.



Clerk



Chairman