

October 15, 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.

Melissa Kabaci, Deputy Clerk, 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 items were added to the agenda:

- Commissioner Item B) Project Gateway Loan Repayment
- County Coordinator Item B) Wheeler Hurricane Helene Invoice
- Commissioner Item C) District 4 Dirt Pit

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

Jim King, a private citizen, expressed his appreciation of work done by Chairman Good, Commissioner Music, and Project Director David Corbin.

Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the October 1, 2024 Regular Session. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Nina Nallick, Planning Department, presented Ordinance 24-05 for the second public hearing. Ms. Nallick advised that this ordinance is amending the future land use category of two parcels at the intersection of Cedar Street and Hawkins Street from low density to public. She stated that the amendment is needed for a grant to construct a multi-use emergency services building. The Town of Westville and the Planning Commission unanimously approved the ordinance. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, read the ordinance onto the record. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to adopt Ordinance 24-05 with Commissioner Music offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Ordinance 24-05)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that Melvin Engineering submitted the only response to the Project Wood RFQ 24-04. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to award the contract to Melvin Engineering. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Steve Connell, EMS Director, requested approval to create two full-time EMS positions at the New Hope station. He advised that the expense is included in the EMS 2024-2025 budget. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion approving the request with Commissioner Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

David Corbin, Project Director, presented Emerald Coast Regional Council's 2024-2025 Small Quantity Generator annual contract renewal. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the renewal with Commissioner Newsom offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

Ethan Merchant, Liberty Partners, discussed the Government Efficiency Center (GEC) Ag Center groundbreaking ceremony held earlier in October.

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, presented updates on the following projects:

- The Ammons Road Culvert FEMA #4564 project should be completed soon
- The John Clark Road pre-construction conference will be scheduled soon; a supplemental agreement will be presented at the next meeting to reduce the grant amount due to the lower bids submitted
- The Bonifay Gritney Road paving project is waiting for permits from the Army Corps of Engineers
- The preliminary work is being completed on the Bonifay Chipley Road paving project and construction should begin shortly

Rod Adams, Melvin Engineering, presented an update on the CR 181 Phase 1 and 2 SCOP project. A Notice of Award has been sent to the contractor and the pre-construction meeting will be scheduled soon.

Commissioner Newsom discussed moving or restoring the Westville Post Office. Jim King, a private citizen, spoke in favor of restoring the post office. Ethan Merchant, Liberty Partners, advised that grants can be researched, but the building is currently on private property which makes it ineligible for most grant funding. The Board directed Project Director David Corbin to get an estimate for moving the building.

David Corbin, Project Director, presented a \$24,886 invoice from Wheeler Emergency Management Consulting for their emergency protective services work done for Holmes County in advance of Hurricane Helene. Sam Bailey, Holmes County Clerk, advised that the amount is fully reimbursable by FEMA. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to pay the invoice using FEMA Validated Funds which is to be refunded upon receipt of the reimbursement from FEMA. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Invoice)

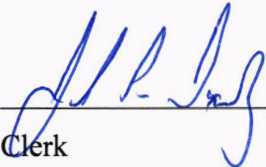
Commissioner Erickson advised that the next Regular Session is scheduled for Election Day November 5th and offered a motion to reschedule the meeting to Monday, November 4th at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

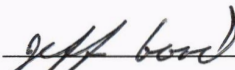
Commissioner Erickson discussed the Project Gateway loan agreement and the repayment of the principal. Sam Bailey, Holmes County Clerk, advised that the Board agreed to pay the loan interest payments for three years. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for Project Director David Corbin to attend the Development Commission meeting to find out the closing date on the Busy Bee property and the estimated time frame of the loan pay off. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Stafford discussed the need to clean up the District 4 dirt pit after the timber is harvested. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to use the money earned from the timber to rent the equipment needed to clear the property with the expense not to exceed \$10,000. Commissioner Erickson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Jim King, a private citizen, discussed the money owed to the vendors and the County by the Sol Fest Music Festival promoters. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that the matter is still being pursued.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.


Clerk


Chairman