

December 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, Wilmer Stafford, Mitch Johnson, Brandon Newsom and Commissioner Earl Stafford, 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 Stafford called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.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 A) Corinth Road
- Commissioner Item B) Case Law
- Commissioner Item C) Sandy Creek Road
- Commissioner Item D) Equipment Inventory

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

Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the November 19, 2024 Regular Session and the November 25, 2024 Special Session. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Dearl Baxley, a private citizen, requested information about the dimensions of the County's right-of-way on a dirt road. Discussion included a private company burying internet cable and installing a box within the right-of-way near Mr. Baxley's property. The Board advised Mr. Baxley that should a survey show the company encroached onto his property the matter will have to be settled through a civil case.

Arthur Luebano, a private citizen, discussed a letter he received from the Holmes County attorney requesting the demolition of a building addition to his business on Joe Manning Road. Mr. Luebano stated that the letter advised the addition was built without a permit and encroached on the road right-of-way. Discussion included that Mr. Luebano's business is next to the property that will be the site for the Ponce de Leon Pilot Travel Center. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised Mr. Luebano to present his survey to the Holmes County Building Official and work with him to resolve the issue.

Richard Willsey, a private citizen, restated the need for annual fire inspections of businesses within the incorporated and unincorporated portions of the County. Keith Bennett, Holmes County Building Official, will prepare and present a proposal for future fire inspections to the Board.

Chairman Stafford opened the final public hearing for Outdoor Event Ordinance 24-06. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, reviewed the purpose and the requirements contained in the ordinance. Discussion of this matter included the following:

- Property owner will be held liable for events held on their property
- Ordinance is only for the unincorporated areas of the County governed by the Board
- Noise ordinance contained the County's Land Development Regulations (LDR)
- Application review committee and process
- Religious exemption was previously removed from the ordinance

The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Lonzo Hornsby, a private citizen
- Brooke Ferenchak, Attorney for Dockery Land Holdings
- Garrett Valcourt, No Place Like Holmes Farms
- Keith Bennett, Holmes County Building Official
- Richard Wilsey, a private citizen
- Steven Burroughs, a private citizen
- John Feeney, Contracted Planner
- Jimmy Kirkland, a private citizen

The public hearing was closed. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to adopt Ordinance 24-06 with Commissioner Newsom offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Ordinance 24-06)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that no bids were received in response to the invitation to bid on the County's Deacon Road property. Real Estate Broker Mike Alvis is prepared to publish the property on the MLS. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to readvertise the invitation to bid with the bids to be opened at the Regular Session on February 18, 2025. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Robin Phillips, CDBG Administrator, stated that the CDBG Housing Rehabilitation grant is for the rehabilitation or replacement of homes to qualified citizens in the unincorporated areas of the County. She advised that bids were accepted for the removal and replacement of the mobile home located at 2199 North Highway 181. U.S. Mobile Homes submitted the only response received with a \$179,090 bid. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to award the bid to U.S. Mobile Homes with Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Bid)

Robin Phillips, CDBG Administrator, presented an update on the CDBG Council of Aging renovation grant. She stated that the asbestos has been removed and the construction bids will be advertised in January with bids due in February.

Rusty Williams, Holmes County Supervisor of Elections, presented a \$50,205 quote from Elections Systems & Software for a required software update. Discussion included that more equipment will be necessary for the update and that the Board previously approved \$60,000 for the update. The Board agreed by consensus to accept the quote.

(Quote)

Chairman Stafford discussed the proposed Commissioner Assignments for 2024-2025. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to accept the assignments as proposed. Commissioner Erickson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Commissioner Assignments)

David Corbin, Project Director, presented a 911 Rural County Grant Program agreement with the Florida Department of Management Services for approval. The purpose of the grant is to upgrade the County's 911 system. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion approving the Chairman to sign the grant agreement with Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

David Corbin, Project Director, advised that Beard Equipment has agreed to add the ride control kits to the five leased backhoes for a monthly increase of \$105.45 per backhoe. Discussion included the need for trailers to transport equipment. Commissioner Johnson offered a motion to use \$5,272.50 of Road Department Contingencies to pay the increased backhoe lease amounts for this fiscal year. Commissioner Newsom offered a second. Commissioners Newsom, Wilmer Stafford, Johnson, and Earl Stafford voted yes with Commissioner Erickson voting no. The motion passed.

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, requested Board direction for approving the County right-of-way permits for Trittech Wireless to install internet cable in the Pittman area knowing that the company is making adjustments in the field rather than having a firm plan for the placement of the cable. Clint Smith, Trittech Wireless, discussed the inconsistencies with the different GPS imagery systems, the difficulties with locating utilities and the assistance requested from the Road Department Foremen. Mr. Smith advised that Trittech Wireless will have internet available to three quarters of Holmes County by the end of 2026. The Board agreed by consensus for Mr. Feeney to approve Trittech's right-of-way permits for the Pittman and Peak Road Projects.

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, discussed the Holmes County legislative delegation meeting scheduled for the first week of January.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that the purchase of the Dogwood Lakes boat ramp from Don Smith is still pending.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, discussed the negotiations to close on the Lake Cassidy property. He stated that the closing will be held before the end of the calendar year and that Panhandle Land Title will handle the closing.

Commissioner Newsom discussed complaints received about the road maintenance on Corinth Road. Discussion included offering more training for the County's road grader operators and implementing a spray program for Cogon grass.

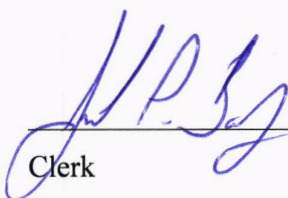
Commissioner Newsom provided a copy of case law advising that the Board of Commissioners have authority to remove members from the local boards appointed by the commissioners. County Attorney Nate Nolin to review the case law and do further research.

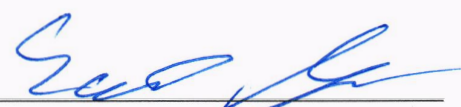
(Case Law)

Commissioner Newsom discussed the process of reverting Line Road back to Sandy Creek Road. Discussion included the ordinance detailing the road name changing process and changing the name may require renumbering the addresses along the current Sandy Creek Road. John Feeney, Contracted Planner, to send a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Young describing the process and the approximate costs associated with changing the road name.

Commissioner Erickson discussed the amount of old and unused equipment at the Holmes County Road Department. The Board agreed by consensus for Project Director David Corbin to inventory the equipment and develop a plan to use or sell the equipment.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

  
Clerk

  
Chairman