

January 7, 2025  
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 posted agenda:

- Commissioner Item B) DOT SCRAP/SCOP Projects
- Commissioner Item C) County Road 181 Scope of Work Change
- County Coordinator Item D) Letter of Support for Doctors Memorial Hospital
- County Attorney Item B) Lake Cassidy Survey
- County Attorney Item C) Deacon Road Update

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

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the December 17, 2024 Regular Session. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Melanie Rowand-Mills, Emerald Coast Regional Council, presented a SHIP Satisfaction of Mortgage for each of the following eleven recipients due to expiration of the lien:

- Ruby and Homer Bedford
- Melissa Crabtree
- Royce Ellis
- Patricia Hewett
- Earnest and Helen Hodge
- Thelma Lasseter
- Rebecca Lucas
- Roger and Charlotte Peak
- Jimmie Shirah
- Robert and Opal Whitehead
- Margaret Yohn

Commissioner Newsom offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the eleven SHIP satisfactions and for the Holmes County Clerk to record the documents in the Official Records. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Satisfactions)

Commissioner Newsom presented a \$198,963.75 quote from Southeast Construction to pave Rum Road. Discussion of this matter included the following:

- Mobilization costs not included as the vendor is working on nearby projects
- Use of LOGT funds to finance the paving project
- Current use of LOGT to manage \$15 million worth of SCRAP/SCOP projects
- Advance funding for County Road 181 Phase 1 and 2 not received
- Obtaining a line of credit for the DOT road improvement projects
- Reimbursement of Project Gateway loan interest payments and land clearing expenses from the Development Commission
- David Melvin, Melvin Engineering, to discuss advance funding of CR 181 with DOT
- David Corbin, Project Director, to discuss advance funding of grant projects with Representative Shane Abbott

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for Holmes County Clerk Sam Bailey to bring back terms for a line of credit that can be used for road improvement projects. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, presented Miscellaneous Appropriations Agreements signed by the Tri-County Airport Authority, the Tri-County Community Council, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Council on Aging. She advised that the agreement ensures that each organization agrees to the Board's requirements for the 2024-2025 appropriations. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the appropriations agreements with Commissioner Newsom offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Miscellaneous Appropriations Agreements x4)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented a survey of the property the Fountain of Youth Ranch will sell to the County as part of the mediated agreement in the Lake Cassidy lawsuit. He advised that, while the owners agreed to encapsulate the swimming area in the property sale, they are unwilling to widen the road to Lake Cassidy. Attorney Nolin cautioned about the potential for costly damages should the court case recommence and stated that funding for legal representation through the County's insurance company is diminishing. Discussion included purchasing the property as described in the mediation agreement and then widening the road through an eminent domain process. The Board agreed by consensus for Attorney Nolin to reach out to the County's attorney handling the lawsuit for a legal opinion on rejecting the mediated agreement and continuing the lawsuit.

(Survey)

David Corbin, Project Director, presented a proposed letter confirming the Board's support for the winner of the Miss Holmes County Competition to represent the County at the National Peanut Festival. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the letter of support with Commissioner Johnson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Letter)

David Corbin, Project Director, advised that the next meeting of the Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST) is January 28<sup>th</sup> and provided a list of the current team members. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for Commissioner Wilmer Stafford to be placed on the CTST with Commissioner Newsom offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(List of CTST Members)

David Corbin, Project Director, advised that Chamber of Commerce Coordinator Donna Meldon has offered to combine the Board with the Chamber's booth for the *Rural Days at the Capitol* event in March. Discussion included budgeting the cost of booth registration and seeking travel reimbursement through Opportunity Florida. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to seek travel reimbursement through Opportunity Florida and use Board contingencies to cover the booth registration cost. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

David Corbin, Project Director, advised that Doctors Memorial Hospital has requested letters of support to Florida legislators for appropriations to construct a new medical specialty center. Rohan Anderson, Doctors Memorial Hospital, stated that the amount requested will be \$277,000. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the letter of support. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Letters)

David Melvin, Melvin Engineering, proposed a change in the scope of work on the CR 181 SCOP project. He stated that replacing cross drains on the road will only require a temporary lane closure in lieu of the full road closure stated in the plans. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion approving the change to half road closure while the cross drains are being installed. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

David Melvin, Melvin Engineering, stated that 60% of the design plans have been submitted for review on the Pilot Travel Center in Ponce de Leon. He discussed efforts to keep the project within budget, the advance payment process and settling the Joe Manning Road issue.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented Resolution 25-01 approving the temporary road closure of Rice Machine Road to complete a bridge replacement project. He advised that the closure would last approximately 180 days. Commissioner Johnson offered a motion to adopt Resolution 25-01 with Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution 25-01)

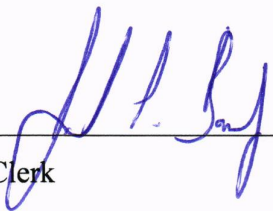
Commissioner Wilmer Stafford advised that Derrick Pitts requested to hold a treasure hunt event involving multiple public places within the County. John Feeny, Contracted Planner, stated that this

event will fall under requirements of the Outdoor Event Ordinance. The Board agreed by consensus to table this matter until Mr. Pitts can attend a Board meeting.

David Melvin, Melvin Engineering, presented Amendment One to the D0216 grant agreement for the Project Gateway water and sewer project. He stated that the amendment is extending the deadline for the project. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the grant amendment with Commissioner Johnson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

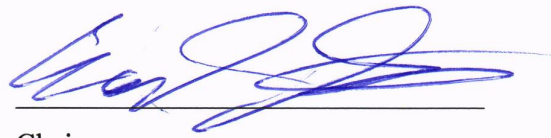
(Grant Amendment)

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.



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Clerk



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Chairman