

April 1, 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 changes were made to the posted agenda:

- Commissioner Item E) Travel Policy - deleted
- County Coordinator Item C) Lake Cassidy Follow Up – deleted
- Non-Agenda Audience) Moved to End of the Meeting

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 March 18, 2025 Regular Session. Commissioner Erickson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Stafford opened the first public hearing for Ordinance 25-02. John Feeney, Contracted Planner, stated that the ordinance is to amend the land development code for the property surrounding the Tri-County Airport to create an airport impact zone. He advised that Washington County and Jackson County have adopted the same ordinance to assist with the development of the property. Mr. Feeney read the ordinance onto the record, announced that the second public hearing is scheduled for the April 15<sup>th</sup> Regular Session and discussed the residential parcels that will be affected by the ordinance. Chairman Stafford closed the public hearing. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to accept the first reading of the ordinance and to move forward with the second public hearing. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Proposed Ordinance 25-02)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented the Real Property Lease renewal with David Sconiers for the Road Department District 1 yard. He stated that the month-to-month lease agreement contains the same conditions as the prior lease. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the lease. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Lease)

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, presented a quote from Guettler & Guettler to restripe County Road 163 with either painted or thermoplastic pavement markings. Discussion included the possibility of lowering the cost by contracting for multiple roads to be restriped. The Board directed Mr. Sims to get the list of the most critical roads in need of restriping identified by the Road Foremen and present a total cost for the project at the next Board meeting.

(Quote)

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, presented Change Order No. 1 for the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) John Clark Road improvement project. He advised that the change order increases the contract price \$165,000 for an unexpected culvert repair. The order also moves the completion date out 60 days. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the change order with Commissioner Erickson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Change Order)

David Corbin, Project Director, presented a request to reappoint Kyle Coates to the CareerSource Chipola Board. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion approving the reappointment with Commissioner Erickson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Barry Lee, Emergency Management Director, discussed the Board's Interlocal Agreement for Emergency Shelters with the Holmes County School Board. The agreement states that payment to the School Board for aiding in emergency shelters during a local state of emergency would be made within 180 days of the event. Mr. Lee advised that the FEMA reimbursement for the Hurricane Helene shelter expenses has not been received and the 180 days have expired. He presented shelter expenditures in the amount of \$5,113.69 for labor and \$142.92 for food. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to pay \$5,256.61 to the Holmes County School Board for the Hurricane Helene shelter expenses from the Road Department Contingencies. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, advised that Vortex Springs will be hosting its annual rodeo on Memorial Day weekend and an attendance of more than 500 people is expected. The Outdoor Event Ordinance requires applying for a permit at least 90 days before the event. The property owner mistakenly thought the rodeo would be excluded from the required permits as a grandfathered historical event. Mr. Feeney stated that the permits can be issued for the event if the Board will make a one-time exception on the 90-day requirement. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to grant the one-time exception with Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offering a second. Commissioners Erickson, Wilmer Stafford, Johnson, and Chairman Stafford voted yes with Commissioner Newsom voting no. The motion passed.

Rod Adams, Melvin Engineering, presented the bid results for the Pilot Travel Center infrastructure grant project. He stated that the low bidder is still more than \$700,000 over the grant



amount. Mr. Adams discussed the following available options to complete the project within the funded amount:

- Bid was broken into four units making it possible to award bid for each unit as separate contracts
- The \$935,000 of the grant that was awarded to the Busy Bee project could be reallocated to this project
- Request that Pilot contribute to the project
- Watermain extension portion of the project could be downsized
- Pilot wants a notice of award by April 18<sup>th</sup> so they can close on the property
- Removal of pre-qualification requirement and re-bidding not a good option
- Maintenance and cost of the retention pond

Angela Dockery, the property owner, advised that Pilot would be willing to pay up to \$300,000 towards the infrastructure project. Mr. Adams will present the bids with all the options available to the Board at the next meeting.

(Bid Tabulation)

Jake Mathis, Melvin Engineering, stated that the Bonifay Chipley Road paving project continues to be delayed due to the weather. He advised that the road is now passable, but rain may require a temporary road closure from Joe White Road to Parker Grant Road until the lime rock base can be installed. Discussion included the proper placement of the signage should closing the road become necessary.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented the proposed Interlocal Agreement for Oversight of Services assigning responsibility of the EMS and E911 to the Holmes County Sheriff. Attorney Nolin advised that the Sheriff wished to change the verbiage to make hiring employees for these departments at his discretion. Discussion included the need to add Emergency Management the interlocal agreement. The Board tabled this matter to the next meeting to give all parties time to review the agreement and to make the discussed changes.

(Proposed Agreement)

Commissioner Newsom discussed implementing an incentive program for cross training between the Board's administrative staff and the Building Department's staff. Keith Bennett, Holmes County Building Official, stated his willingness to track hours for any cross training should the Board decide to implement the program.

Commissioner Newsom discussed the DOT advanced funding for the SCRAP and SCOP road improvement projects. David Corbin, Project Director, to set up a meeting with DOT officials to discuss the workings of the advance funding program.

Commissioner Newsom suggested that the County start the process to request a Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) audit. Discussion included the surrounding counties who have requested the audit. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, offered to research the process and prepare a resolution or letter to move forward with DOGE efforts in Holmes County. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for Project Director David Corbin to sign the letter responding to the Governor's request concerning the County's financial condition as part of the DOGE efforts. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Letter)

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford discussed the need to pool the County's resources to get road work completed. He stated that if another district will help haul dirt to Roping Road in District 1, he will reciprocate. The Board agreed by consensus for Project Director David Corbin to maintain a list of roads that could benefit from pooling resources.

Commissioner Erickson presented the mosquito spraying invoices for Northdale Subdivision and Dogwood Lakes. He discussed the County paying for mosquito spraying in the unincorporated portions of the County. Discussion included the private property owners and the municipalities currently paying for the service. The Board agreed by consensus to discuss the service with Arthropod Director Lee Duke at the next meeting.

(Invoices)

Richard Willsey, a private citizen, requested information on the Development Commission's plans to reimburse the County for the Project Gateway loan interest. David Corbin, Project Director, advised that Joe Rone, Executive Director for the Development Commission, was to present a proposal to the Board concerning the reimbursement soon.

Richard Willsey, a private citizen, requested that the Board abide by the Sunshine regulations and ensure that all Board conversations can be heard by the public.

Carol Kent, Holmes County Advertiser, discussed the newspaper's role in the community and their efforts to get the correct information to the public.

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

  
Clerk

  
Chairman