

April 11, 2025
Special Session
Bonifay, Florida

The Holmes County Board of Commissioners met for a Special 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 Purveen, Finance Director, was present and kept the minutes.

Chairman Stafford 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. No changes were made to the posted agenda. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to accept the agenda with Commissioner Johnson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Newsom advised that the Special Session had been convened to discuss the public records that were released containing unredacted private information on current and former County employees as well as their beneficiaries. Discussion included the following:

- Public records requests were received from Commissioner Newsom and the Holmes County Advertiser for the contents downloaded from the computer of the Board's former Administrative Assistant by Modern Tech
- County Attorney Nate Nolin reviewed the contents of the flash drives
- Three flash drives were released to the Holmes County Advertiser, Commissioner Newsom, and Commissioner Erickson
- The unredacted contents of the flash drives contained Social Security numbers and dates of birth of current and former County employees and their beneficiaries
- Responsibilities of the custodian of the County's records
- Policy and procedure for handling public records requests
- Identity theft protection for the affected County employees

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that the three flash drives that contained the downloaded content were returned to his custody with a formal chain of custody. Mr. Nolin accepted responsibility for the release of the flash drives with the unredacted records but stated that with their return there was no breach of information.

Further discussion of this matter included the following:

- "Reasonable time" to respond to a public records request
- Modern Tech's authorization to download the records onto the flash drive
- Security for the Board's server and increasing internal controls
- Records retention schedule is determined by the State

- County Attorney's responsibility when public records are requested
- Fees for public records requests

The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Carol Kent, Holmes County Advertiser
- Bryan Bell, Holmes County Property Appraiser
- Rusty Williams, Holmes County Supervisor of Elections
- Sam Bailey, Holmes County Clerk


(LifeLock Quote)

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to amend the job description for the Board's Administrative Assistant to include being custodian of the records and handling all public records requests. The job will have a starting pay rate of \$20 per hour. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Newsom offered a motion for Modern Tech to search the contents on the flash drive to find the employees associated with the compromised information. He also motioned for County Attorney Nolin and Board Secretary Judi White to work on obtaining three quotes for identity theft protection for these employees and bring the information to the next meeting. Commissioner Erickson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.


Clerk


Chairman