

July 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, and 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 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:

- County Coordinator Item E) Library Roof
- County Coordinator Item F) Hathaway Mill Road Speed Limit

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to adopt the amended agenda with Commissioner Johnson offering the second. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Johnson offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the June 17, 2025 Regular Session and the June 24, 2025 Workshop. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Richard Willsey, a private citizen, requested information on the Development Commission's plans to reimburse the County for the interest paid on the Project Gateway loan. 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.

The Board presented a plaque to former Commissioner Jim King in recognition of his many years of service to Holmes County.

John Tate, Holmes County Sheriff, advised that Governor DeSantis has approved the \$1 million appropriations for the jail expansion.

John Tate, Holmes County Sheriff, presented checks to reimburse each of the following departments for their work following the tornado that hit Holmes County in May:

- Bonifay Fire Department
- Bonifay Police Department
- Esto Fire Department
- Pittman Fire Department
- Pine Log Fire Department
- Gritney Fire Department

- Ponce de Leon Fire Department

Sheriff Tate read a statement praising their dedication to the County.

John Tate, Holmes County Sheriff, offered the use of inmate labor to place a new roof on the Holmes County Library. He advised that with approximately \$9,000 in materials, the inmates could replace the roof. Keith Bennett, Holmes County Building Official, discussed the savings this would be for the County. David Corbin, Project Director, shared that Angela Dockery, Vortex Springs owner, has agreed to donate \$5,000 towards the project. Commissioner Johnson offered a motion to use \$4,000 of Board Contingencies to fund the balance needed for the materials. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second. The motion was later rescinded when Heather Shelby, Dogwood Lakes Golf Course owner, volunteered to pay the balance owed for the materials. Becky Marsh, Holmes County Library Director, expressed her appreciation for everyone's efforts to replace the library's roof.

David Corbin, Project Director, presented Resolution 25-19 authorizing the Chairman to sign the Supplemental Agreement #3 on the John Clark Road SCOP project. He advised that the supplemental agreement brought on grant money that was inadvertently left off the original agreement. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, read the resolution onto the record. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to adopt Resolution 25-19 with Commissioner Johnson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution 25-19)
(Supplemental Agreement)

Chairman Stafford recommended appointing Jeff Good as the homestead property owner on the Value Adjustment Board (VAB). Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion approving the recommendation. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Stafford presented a letter from the town of Noma requesting assistance with the demolition and removal of a condemned building within the municipal limits. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion granting Noma's request. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Letter)

David Corbin, Project Director, discussed closing the County offices Thursday, July 3rd and giving all County employees administrative leave in response to Governor DeSantis closing the State offices the day before the July 4th holiday. Discussion included that the administrative leave for the Road Department would go in effect Wednesday, July 2nd due to that department's work schedule. Commissioner Johnson offered a motion to give all County employees administrative leave Thursday, July 3rd for their regularly scheduled work hours. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second. Commissioner Erickson discussed recognizing all extra holidays awarded by the Governor as administrative leave days for County employees. Commissioner Johnson amended his motion to grant

administrative leave to County employees for any extra holidays recognized by the Governor. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

David Corbin, Project Director, recommended decreasing the speed limit on Hathaway Mill Road from 35 mph to 15 mph. Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineering, advised that the dangerous curve requires new signs and a lower speed limit at a minimum. Jalissa Brannon, a private citizen, recommended placing speed bumps on the road. Discussion also included clearing the vegetation, creating an intersection with a stop sign and striping the road. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to reduce the speed limit to 15 mph and place signs on the curve. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Jake Mathis, Melvin Engineering, advised that the Bonifay Chipley Road paving project was approximately three weeks from completion. He stated that the phone lines and the fire hydrant were successfully moved.

John Feeney, Alday-Howell Engineers, stated that the Dogwood Lakes small lake dam repair bid was advertised in the newspaper. He advised that the ad must run for 30 days.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented two parcels of surplus property on Lewis Leavins Drive and Bear Hewett Landing Road that the County acquired through tax deeds. He advised that there are potential buyers for both parcels. Discussion included that the parcels must be sold through sealed bids or by sending direct notice to the adjacent property owners. Private citizens, Shawnda Langford and Danielle Dubin, spoke on behalf of the parties interested in the properties. Commissioner Johnson offered a motion to send a direct notice to the adjacent property owners and advertise for seal bids in the newspaper. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Property Descriptions)

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford discussed reducing the speed limit on a portion of Hardy Skipper Road to 15 mph due to children playing in the area. Discussion included asking the property owner about releasing property to move and widen the road. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to lower the speed limit on a portion of Hardy Skipper Road to 15 mph. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Erickson discussed implementing a social media policy. Discussion included record retention requirements for live streamed Board meetings. County Attorney Nate Nolin advised that if the meetings continued to be live streamed then they must be backed up. Carol Kent Smith, Holmes County Advertiser, discussed the need to back up live streamed videos and the legal ramifications for posting to social media. Discussion included changing the platform on which the Board meetings are streamed, Facebook's new rules about retaining live streamed videos and the Board's internet service. The Board directed County Attorney Nate Nolin to draft a social media policy and research backing up the

videos currently on the Commissioners' Facebook page. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to continue live streaming the Board meetings and subscribe to Page Freezer using \$1,500 of Board Contingencies. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.


Clerk


Chairman