

August 12, 2025
Special Session
Bonifay, Florida

The Holmes County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Session on the above date at the Ponce de Leon High School with the following members present: Commissioners Clint Erickson, Wilmer Stafford, Mitch Johnson and Earl Stafford, Chairman of the Board.

David Corbin, Project Director, and Nate Nolin, County Attorney, were present.

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, was present and kept the minutes.

Chairman Stafford called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Project Director David Corbin led the prayer and pledge.

The first agenda item was Agenda Additions and Deletions. The following additions were made to the posted agenda:

- County Commissioner Item A) Lift Hiring Freeze
- County Commissioner Item B) Quote for Limb Removal on CR 177 & CR 177A

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

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the August 5, 2025 Regular Session. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board convened the Special Session to hear citizens' concerns and suggestions for keeping Lake Cassidy accessible to the public while complying with the terms of the mediated agreement with the Fountain of Youth Ranch.

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to have the Ponce de Leon High School build the gate for the entrance to Lake Cassidy at no cost to the County. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion for the Board to work with Paul Vann to find volunteers willing to open the Lake Cassidy gate at sunrise and close the gate at sunset. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

The discussion of the entrance requirements for Lake Cassidy included the following:

- Day passes for citizens who visit the lake infrequently
- Annual passes for frequent visitors
- Monitoring passes and enforcement of lake's rules
- Cost for day and annual passes
- Method for accepting payments for passes
- Lake access will be from sunrise to sunset

- Terms for entry may change as the County resolves issues with the imposed requirements
- Occupancy number will not be regulated
- Notices and signs to be posted on the lake property
- Costs to the County to maintain and keep the property accessible
- Night fishing will not be allowed on Lake Cassidy initially
- Permanent structures built on the property will incur liability insurance costs
- Vendors are not currently allowed and will have to be addressed in the ordinance
- Town of Ponce de Leon may sell the decals
- No alcoholic beverages allowed on the property
- No noise ordinance currently in effect
- Pet owners must comply with the requirements of the Animal Control Ordinance
- Property will be closed for a period to implement the changes

The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Tina Rushing
- Marissa Smith
- Nathan Morrow
- Dillion Skinner
- Garrett Valcourt
- Jim Smith
- Lisa Brannon
- Jason Powell
- David Brannon
- Paul Vann

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to charge \$50 for resident annual passes and \$120 for non-resident annual passes. The motion died for lack of a second.

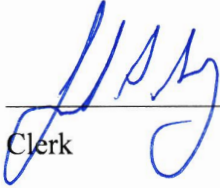
Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to charge Florida residents \$50 for an annual pass and charge out-of-state residents \$150 for an annual pass. The passes will be in the form of vehicle decals that must be purchased for each vehicle wanting access to Lake Cassidy. A red decal will indicate a Florida resident and a blue decal will indicate an out-of-state resident. The colors will change each year. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously. The requirement for annual passes will be effective December 1st and there will be no day passes issued at this time.

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to lift the hiring freeze to fill the Board Secretary position as well as the vacant Road Department positions in District 4 and District 5. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Erickson announced the quotes to remove tree limbs over County Road 177 and County Road 177A. David & Family quoted \$2,000 to complete the work and Great Rate Tree Service

quoted \$1,200. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to hire Great Rate Tree Service on a continuing services basis to remove the quoted tree limbs and possibly others along those roads. Road Department Contingencies funds will be used for the charges. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.



Clerk



Chairman