

July 15, 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 Wilmer Stafford, Mitch Johnson, and Earl Stafford, Chairman of the Board.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, was present.

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

Chairman Stafford called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Johnson led the prayer and pledge.

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

- County Attorney Item A) City of Bonifay's Purchase of Old Sheriff's Building
- County Attorney Item B) RFQ for EMS Building Construction Management Services
- Agenda Item G) Busy Bee Subgrant Agreement
- Agenda Item H) Decon (Deacon) Road Property Sale

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

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the July 1, 2025 Workshop and the July 1, 2025 Regular Session. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Orlando Arrindell, Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM), introduced the members of his FDEM team and offered their expertise to bring the County into FEMA compliance. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, stated that Request for Proposals (RFP) for debris monitoring, debris removal and project management will have to be readvertised and awarded again. Barry Lee, Emergency Management Director, stated that Holmes County is currently in non-compliance and disqualified from any FEMA monetary assistance for disasters. Mr. Lee advised that the State would continue to assist the County with the costs associated with the May tornados, but new disaster services contracts must be awarded following the County's procurement policy. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion for Attorney Nolin to work with the FDEM team to draft and advertise the RFPs. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

John White, a private citizen, stated that he was present to discuss the recent actions of Project Director David Corbin. Mr. Corbin was not present at the meeting due to a family emergency. Mr. White stated that, out of respect for Mr. Corbin's family, he would return to a later meeting when Mr. Corbin was present.

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. The Board advised that no proposal had been received from the Development Commission.

Richard Willsey, a private citizen, discussed the social media policy that the Board is working to create and the vote approving a Pagefreezer subscription to archive videos of the live-streamed meetings. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that the service has not yet been procured but the Board meetings are being live-streamed. Mr. Willsey and his wife presented the Board a check in the amount of \$1,400 to reimburse the County for the initial cost of the Pagefreezer subscription.

Angela Dockery, Dockery Land Holdings, presented a \$5,000 check to the Board for materials to place a new roof on the Holmes County Library.

The Board recognized the members of the local boys baseball team competing in the 10U World Series. Danielle Steverson introduced the team and the coaches. A team member read a statement requesting sponsorships and donations for the trip to the World Series.

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, requested that the Board set the proposed millage rate for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Discussion included the current millage amount and that the Board cannot increase the proposed millage rate without notifying all County citizens. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to set the 2025-26 proposed millage rate at 10.0000. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, requested the Board schedule a Tentative Budget Hearing between September 3, 2025 and September 18, 2025. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to schedule the Tentative Budget Hearing for Thursday, September 4th at 5:01 p.m. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Robin Phillips, CDBG Administrator, presented a proposed agreement granting a one-year extension to the CDBG Housing Grant. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the agreement. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

Robin Phillips, CDBG Administrator, requested approval of a CDBG Housing Grant change order to allow the installation of ADA compliant cabinets and a cooktop to Ronnie Grant's housing project. She also discussed new housing grant applicants. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion approving the change order with Commissioner Johnson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Robin Phillips, CDBG Administrator, presented a modification of the CDBG Council on Aging grant. She stated that the modification awards additional funding for the project which brings the total



grant amount to \$1,545,811. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the modification. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Phillips requested that the Board appoint Project Director David Corbin as the grant's designee to sign all request for funds. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion granting the request with Commissioner Johnson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Modification)

Chairman Stafford presented the modification to the CDBG subgrant agreement for the Busy Bee road improvements project. The modification extends the project deadline to July 31, 2026. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the modification with Commissioner Johnson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously

(Modification)

Chairman Stafford advised that the Jim King Bench located at the Highway 2 boat ramp in Pittman will be unveiled on August 5th at 4:30 p.m.

Mike Alvis, Performance Realty, presented Addendum #2 to the Decon (Deacon) Road property contract. He stated that the purchaser needs time to utilize proceeds from another sale to purchase the Decon (Deacon) Road property. The purchaser has agreed to place a second non-refundable \$5,000 earnest deposit into the escrow account if the Board will agree to the proposed extension. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the addendum agreeing to an extension to August 15<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Addendum #2)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented a letter from the Tri-County Airport Authority recommending reappointment of Greg Cloud to seat #2 on the Authority Board. Commissioner Johnson offered a motion to accept the recommendation with Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Letter)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented the proposed 2025-2026 Operating Plan between the Florida Forest Service, the Board, and the Volunteer Fire Departments. Attorney Nolin recommended approval of the agreement. Commissioner Johnson offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the agreement. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Plan)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that the County's Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) insurance policy for firefighters and law enforcement officers needs to be renewed. He presented the three premium options offered by World Risk Management. Commissioner Johnson offered a motion to renew the policy for a two-year term with annual installments of \$594. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, presented a memo describing the recent legislation changing the process to approve plat and replat submittals. The Board and the Planning Commissioner no longer must approve plat changes that are compliant with the County's Land Development Regulations (LDR). Mr. Feeney requested designation of an authority who can sign the approvals/denials and stated that the County's LDR will be amended to comply with the new legislation. The Board agreed by consensus that Project Director David Corbin can sign a plat and replat approvals and denials. Mr. Feeney advised that regular updates on lot splits would be presented to the Board.

(Memo)

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, discussed the \$1 million appropriations approved for the Holmes County Jail expansion project. He also advised the Board to think about the projects to submit for the 2026 legislative session. Mr. Parson advised that the ribbon cutting for the new Ag Center will be held during the week of the rodeo.

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, stated that grant funding had been approved for the Cork Harris Boat Landing. He stated that the agreement for the design work will be presented soon. Upon completion of the design, a grant application for construction funds can be submitted.

(Letter)

John Feeney, Alday-Howell Engineering, stated that the pre-bid meeting for the Dogwood Lakes siphon system project was held today. The bids will be presented to the Board the first week of August.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, discussed the City's purchase of the old Sheriff's building from the County using impact fees due for the Government Efficiency Center (GEC). He stated that the property exchange can be done with an interlocal agreement and a deed. He requested guidance about whether the Board wanted to approve the documents or if Attorney Nolin can work with the city attorney to create the documents. Commissioner Johnson offered a motion approving the attorneys to move forward with preparing the documents for the property exchange. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented the proposed RFQ for the EMS building construction management services portion of the Government Efficiency Center (GEC). Tim Parson, Liberty Partners,

advised that this is the final phase of the GEC. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion approving the RFQ with Commissioner Johnson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

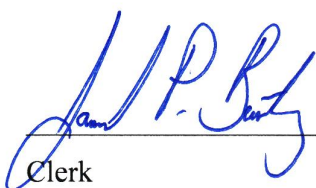
(RFQ)

Jake Mathis, Melvin Engineering, advised that asphalt work on the Bonifay Chipley Road paving project is almost complete.

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford presented the recommendations from the County's insurance company concerning the Lake Cassidy property. He listed the recommended warning signs that should be posted on the property. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to work with Project Director David Corbin to get the recommended signage out to the Lake Cassidy property using the remaining funds allotted for the lawsuit. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously. Richard Wilsey, a private citizen, recommended adding an alligator sign to the list.

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford discussed whether a second Lake Cassidy workshop needed to be scheduled or if the County could move forward with the mediated terms from the Fountain of Youth lawsuit. Angela Dockery, Dockery Landholdings, recommended another workshop solely for Holmes County residents and discussed the Florida statutes regarding animals in the water. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, discussed the animal statutes and the park ordinance currently in place. Garrett Valcort, a private citizen, advised that the restricted access process needs to be discussed in a workshop. Discussion also included if park Ordinance 19-01 allows vending and the need to supplement the park ordinance with the Lake Cassidy requirements. The Board agreed by consensus to schedule the workshop when Commissioner Erickson was present.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

  
Clerk

  
Chairman