

August 19, 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 Purvee, Finance Director, was present and kept the minutes.

Chairman Stafford called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Project Director David Corbin led the prayer and pledge.

Chairman Stafford called for a motion to temporarily close Lake Cassidy to give the County time to impose safety measures. Discussion included the method of barring entrance to the lake and the need to adopt an enforceable ordinance. Private citizens, Danielle Dubin and Richard Willsey, discussed the method and time frame for closing the lake. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to close access to Lake Cassidy until January 1, 2026. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously

The first agenda item was Agenda Additions and Deletions. No changes were made to the posted agenda. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to adopt the agenda with Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offering the second. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the August 5, 2025 Regular Session and the August 12, 2025 Special Session. Commissioner Erickson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Richard Willsey, a private citizen, discussed the authority and process of removing members from the Holmes County Development Commission (HCDC) Board. He also discussed the current lack of communication between the two boards and the letter sent to the HCDC demanding partial reimbursement of the Project Gateway loan interest paid by the County.

Heather Shelby, Dogwood Lakes Golf Course, requested information on the bids received for the Dogwood Lakes siphon project. John Feeney, Alday Howell Engineering, advised that two bids have been received for the project. The contractor has offered to honor the quote for the labor until funding is received but requested payment for any increase in the cost of the materials when purchased.

Heather Shelby, Dogwood Lakes Golf Course, requested information on grants available to raise the water level at Dogwood Lakes. Commissioner Erickson discussed possible grants available through Water Management for both the siphon project and raising the water level. Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, advised that the resiliency grant for Dogwood Lakes was not awarded to Holmes County but requested authority to continue pursuing grant funding for the projects. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a

motion for Liberty Partners to apply for the grant funding. Commissioner Johnson offering a second. Commissioner Erickson abstained from voting with all other Commissioners voting yes. The motion passed.

(Voting Conflict Form)

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, presented proposed Resolution 25-21 giving Project Director David Corbin the authority to sign off on plats and replats per a recent legislation change. He advised that this is a temporary fix until the Land Development Regulations (LDR) are updated. Applications that do not comply with the code will be sent to Mr. Corbin for his signature with Mr. Feeney approving all other applications. Per the new legislation, public hearings are not required, and the Board will no longer approve the applications. Discussion included how this staff-level review will speed up the approval process for the applicants and that development orders for roads will still require Board approval. The Board agreed by consensus to table this matter until the next meeting for further review of the new legislation.

(Proposed Resolution 25-21)

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, presented an exemption request to allow a second residence on Parcel ID 1823.00-000-000-012.500. He advised that the second residence placed on the parcel will be for a family member. Mr. Feeney recommended approval of the request. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion approving the exemption request. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Exemption Request)

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, stated that four bids were received in response to the EMS Construction Management Services RFQ. The selection committee will review the bids and bring a recommendation back to the Board at the next meeting. He also stated that the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Ag Center is scheduled for October 2nd at 2:00 p.m.

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, presented proposed Resolution 25-22 authorizing the Chairman to sign supplemental agreement #3 for the Bonifay Gritney Road Phase 2 Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) project. He advised that the supplemental agreement reduces the grant amount by \$848,162 due to the bids received. The Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) will allow the project to proceed upon approval of this supplemental agreement. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for the Chairman to sign Resolution 25-22 and the supplemental agreement. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution 25-22)

(Supplemental Agreement)



Rod Adams, Melvin Engineering, presented proposed Resolution 25-20 approving the rural infrastructure grant application for two projects. The first project will be for improvements to the industrial park property on Thomas Drive. The second project will be for further infrastructure improvements for the Busy Bee/Project Gateway property. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving Resolution 25-20. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution 25-20)

Rod Adams, Melvin Engineering, presented the final pay request and project closeout for the Bonifay Chipley Road Phase 1 SCOP project. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the documents with Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Close Out Documents & Final Pay Request)

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineering, advised that he would contact Engineer Cliff Knauer about warranty work needed on the Ammons Road culvert project.

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineering, was assured that the fencing for the Bonifay Gritney Road paving project was still on the budget.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that four garbage franchises within the County are due for renewal. He requested approval for Project Director David Corbin to reach out to the franchises to request the required documentation and fees. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion approving the request with Commissioner Johnson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented the Northwest Florida Opioid Agreement for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. John Tate, Holmes County Sheriff, discussed the use of these funds by the Sheriff's Office and EMS to fight the opioid crisis within the County. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the agreement with Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that a new legal contract for his services will be presented at the next meeting.

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford discussed the problem with Cogon Grass within Holmes County. Discussion included how the County's ditch dirt policy is contributing to the problem with the invasive species and treating the dirt at the yard before delivering to residents. The Board agreed by consensus to have Extension Service Director Kalyn Waters train the Road Department employees how to properly treat the ditch dirt before delivering.

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford discussed rescinding his second to the motion to submit a letter to the Development Commission demanding a payment of \$160,000 by September 30, 2025 and another \$160,000 payment by September 30, 2026 with the condition that failure to make the payments will result in eliminating all funding for the Development Commission position and not approving any new appointments to the Development Commission Board. Discussion included the resignation of the current Development Commission Secretary due to the actions taken by the Board. Private citizens, Richard Willsey and Angela Willsey, discussed the need to get the taxpayer funding back from the Development Commission. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion for the Board to meet with the Development Commission during a Special Session on Tuesday August 26th at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to rescind his second to the motion approving the letter to the Development Commission. Commissioner Johnson offered a second. Commissioners Wilmer Stafford, Johnson and Chairman Earl Stafford voted yes with Commissioner Erickson voting no. The motion passed.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

  
Clerk

  
Chairman