

August 26, 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 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 9:00 a.m. Project Director David Corbin led the prayer and pledge.

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

The Board convened the joint meeting with the Holmes County Development Commission (HCDC) Board.

Richard Willsey, a private citizen, discussed the strained relationship between the boards, the HCDC's charter requirements and the legality of paying the HCDC with taxpayer funds. He also discussed the Project Gateway loan history.

Doyle Majors, HCDC Chairman, opened the Development Commission meeting.

Joe Rone, HCDC Executive Director, discussed the Development Commission's willingness to reimburse half of the interest the County paid on the Project Gateway loan. Discussion included the options of paying the reimbursement in one lump sum or two separate payments. Mr. Rone advised that the HCDC wanted to secure receipt of 5% of the sales tax generated by the businesses on the Project Gateway property as agreed upon in the Joint Venture Agreement. Discussion of this matter included the following:

- Calculating the sales tax revenue from the Project Gateway businesses
- An annual appropriation to the HCDC in lieu of the sales tax revenue
- Legality of paying the HCDC a portion of the tax revenue
- Time frame to start the annual appropriations
- Interlocal agreement to implement the annual payment
- Length of time to pay the annual appropriations to the HCDC before revisiting
- FEMA Validated funds were used to pay the interest on the Project Gateway loan
- Busy Bee to start construction in November 2025 with plans to open by December 2026

The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Doyle Majors, HCDC Chairman

- Sam Bailey, Holmes County Clerk
- Rickey Callahan, HCDC Vice-Chairman
- Nate Nolin, County Attorney
- Stephanie Cloud, HCDC Board Member
- Richard Willsey, private citizen
- Ben Armstrong, HCDC Attorney
- Angela Willsey, private citizen
- Jeff Good, former Commissioner

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to budget an annual appropriation to the HCDC in the amount of \$100,000 for five years beginning in fiscal year 2027-2028. This appropriation is in addition to the funding for the Development Commission Secretary position and the amount will be revisited after five years. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.


Joe Rone, HCDC Executive Director, recommended that the HCDC pay the \$288,779.02 in one lump sum and accept the offer of an annual \$100,000 appropriation for five years with the amount to be revisited at the end of that term. HCDC Chairman Doyle Majors received a motion and a second. The motion was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to use the \$288,779.02 reimbursement to help balance the County's 2025-2026 budget instead of reimbursing the FEMA Validated funds. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

The HCDC adjourned their meeting.

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


Clerk


Chairman