

September 2, 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. Project Director David Corbin led the prayer and pledge.

The first agenda item was Agenda Additions and Deletions. The following item was removed from the agenda:

- Agenda Item A) Old Sheriff's Building

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 August 19, 2025 Regular Session and the August 26, 2025 Special Session. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Clayton Joiner, Holmes County Road Department Road Maintenance Tech, discussed safety concerns at the Holmes County Road Department. Discussion included damage to machinery, injuries to employees and public safety.

John White, a private citizen, stated his intention to discuss actions by Project Director David Corbin. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, verified that Mr. White and his spouse, Judith White, a former County employee, have retained the services of an attorney in a lawsuit against the County. Attorney Nolin suggested that Mr. White not talk in a public meeting until seeking approval from his attorney. Attorney Nolin advised the Commissioners to not engage in any discussion with Mr. White. Mr. White stated he would return after talking with his attorney.

Anthony Register, Tyler Harrison, and Paige Fleming discussed the improved road conditions in District 3 since Rodney Bowers became the district's Road Department Foreman.

David Corbin, Project Director, presented two options for the Lake Cassidy decal system. He advised that decals adhering to the outside of a vehicle cost \$0.41 each and decals for the inside of a vehicle cost \$2.00 each. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to purchase the decals to be placed on the outside of vehicles. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, requested that the Board impose a purchase order cut-off date of September 16th as the Finance Office starts the process of closing out the fiscal year. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to set a purchase order cut-off date of September 16th, unless it is an emergency expenditure. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Kalyn Waters, Extension Service Director, discussed Cogongrass, an invasive plant that has become established in Holmes County. She advised that the County's policy to give residents ditch dirt has contributed to the spread of Cogongrass. Ms. Waters offered to train the Road Department employees on treating the dirt pits since no special license is required to use the needed chemicals. Discussion also included the availability of grants to help treat the problem. Ms. Waters agreed to research available grants.

Kalyn Water, Extension Service Director, presented a proposed Use/Lease Agreement for citizens to rent the new Ag Center. Discussion included rental amounts and the lack of staff to clean the building following an event. The Board agreed by consensus to table this matter until the next meeting.

(Proposed Lease)

David Corbin, Project Director, presented a letter from Holmes County Tax Collector Harry Bell requesting an additional \$7,674.66 this fiscal year for employee insurance costs. The Board agreed by consensus to wait for Mr. Bell to be present to discuss the request.

(Letter)

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, presented proposed Resolution 25-21 for the second time. The resolution will give Project Director David Corbin the authority to sign off on plats and replats per a recent legislation change. Applications that do not comply with the code will be submitted 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. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to adopt Resolution 25-21. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution 25-21)

Jennifer Green, Liberty Partners, advised that the Board previously approved the alternate bid to have fans installed in the open-air area of the new Ag Center. Contracting Unlimited failed to make the alternate bid item part of the construction contract. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion approving a contract amendment to add the fans. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer Green, Liberty Partners, advised that the EMS portion of the Government Efficiency Center (GEC) will be a new building that requires a construction management service as Holmes County Sheriff John Tate oversees the work. She stated that four responses were received for the EMS Construction Management Request for Qualifications (RFQ). The RFQ does not list prices and requires a general contractor's license. After review by the selection committee, Ms. Green recommended that the Board reject all bids submitted and readvertise as a Request for Proposal (RFP). She stated that the RFP will list prices and allow for a building contractor's license as well as a general contractor's license. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, agreed with the recommendation. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to reject all bids submitted for the RFQ and readvertise an RFP for the construction management services. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously. Upon approval by Attorney Nolin, Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for the RFP to be advertised for two weeks. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

John Feeney, Alday-Howell Engineering, advised that five bids were received for the CR 185 SCRAP project. The lowest bidder was Southeast Construction in the amount of \$1,413,511.65. The bid came in under budget and inspection services have already been awarded to Dewberry Engineers. Mr. Feeney advised that the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) will submit a supplemental agreement reducing the grant funding based on the bid amount. Commissioner Johnson offered a motion to award the project to Southeast Construction with Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

John Feeney, Alday-Howell Engineering, advised that two bids were received for the Dogwood Lakes siphon project with the lowest bid from CVC Construction coming in at \$155,000. 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. Discussion included possible financial assistance from Water Management and that the siphon is part of a required emergency repair. Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, discussed the application submitted for a resiliency grant to fund this project but advised that the grant would not be awarded until next year. Garret Valcourt, a private citizen, discussed giving ownership of the lake to the *Friends of Dogwood Lakes*. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to award the project to the lowest bidder. Commissioner Johnson stated that his son owned property at Dogwood Lakes and was advised by County Attorney Nate Nolin to abstain from voting. No quorum was available to vote on the issue since Commissioner Erickson must also abstain from voting. The matter was tabled until the next meeting for Attorney Nolin to get an Attorney General opinion on the voting issue.

John Feeney, Alday-Howell Engineering, presented an Engineering Work Authorization for the Resilient Florida grant. The authorization will allow Alday-Howell Engineering to continue services on the vulnerability study through 2026 and allow for reimbursement of the work. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the authorization form. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Authorization Form)

Pastor David Davis spoke in support of Road Department Foreman Rodney Bowers' work ethic and character.

John White, a private citizen, reaffirmed his request to address the Board about Project Director David Corbin. County Attorney Nate Nolin advised the Board to not engage in any dialogue with Mr. White due to Judith White's pending lawsuit. Mr. White did not address the Board.

Commissioner Erickson discussed Road Department Foreman Rodney Bowers seeking the District 2 Commissioner seat. County Attorney Nate Nolin discussed the County's policy requiring an employee to resign before running for a political office and how that differs from seeking an appointment to an office.

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


Clerk


Chairman