

September 22, 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: Commissioner Clint Erickson, Commissioner Wilmer Stafford, Commissioner Mitch Johnson, and Commissioner 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 5:01 p.m. David Corbin, Project Director, led the prayer and pledge.

Jake Mathis, Melvin Engineering, stated that several property owners along the Bonifay Chipley Road paving project have complained that their fencing should have been replaced. Mr. Mathis advised that Dewberry Engineers designed the project to include the existing fence that the County would have to replace. He said that approximately 980 feet of fencing is what is in question which will cost \$350 per foot to install. The Board requested that Mr. Mathis see if Dewberry had the property owners along the Bonifay Chipley Road sign off on the design. Mr. Mathis advised that the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) considers this portion of the SCOP paving project completed and that the fencing issue is solely a county matter.

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

County Coordinator Item) Council on Aging Project – Architect Paul Donofro

County Coordinator Item) New Towing Rates

Commissioner Item) State Highway 79 Paving Project

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

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, presented Budget Amendment #3 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year for approval. She advised that the amendment brought on grant revenue, transferred money for items approved by the Board and moved money within departments for overspent line items. Commissioner Johnson offered a motion approving Budget Amendment #3. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Budget Amendment #3)

Pursuant to Public Notice, the Board held a public hearing to establish the final millage and budget. Chairman Stafford advised that the tentative millage was set at 9.4916 which is 9.94% greater than the rolled-back rate of 8.6336. The millage rate of 9.4916 is the current millage. By adopting the same rate for 2025-26 this generates a small increase in revenue which was needed to balance the General and Transportation Trust Funds. The public was given an opportunity to ask questions regarding the millage rate and the effect on their taxes. Terry Mears, a private citizen, discussed the additional revenue anticipated from the final millage rate. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, read Resolution 25-26 which adopts the final millage rate of 9.4916. Commissioner

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

(Resolution #25-26)

Chairman Stafford gave the public an opportunity to discuss changes to the 2025-2026 Final Budget.

Commissioner Erickson discussed the request from the Highway 79 Corridor Authority for a 2025-26 funding amount of \$47,895. The Corridor request was initially cut from the County's 2025-26 budget. Commissioner Erickson advised that the City of Bonifay has sent a letter to Florida Commerce seeking approval to take over management of the property and the Corridor will dissolve upon approval. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to grant the \$47,895 funding request for the 79 Corridor using LOGT funds to offset the added expenditure. Commissioner Johnson offered a second. Commissioners Johnson, Wilmer Stafford and Erickson voted yes with Chairman Stafford voting no. The motion passed.

(Amendment #6 to Revenue Sharing Contribution for FY 2025-2026)

Commissioner Erickson discussed the request from Holmes County Tax Collector Harry Bell for reinstatement of \$53,716 for employee insurance costs. The item was removed from the County's 2025-2026 budget. Mr. Bell was not present to discuss the request. The Board took no immediate action but agreed to consider the matter later in the budget year.

Commissioner Johnson offered a motion to move the amount needed for the newly posted 2025-26 constitutional salaries from Board Contingencies. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

With no further discussion from the public, Attorney Nolin read Resolution #25-27 adopting a Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26 in the amount of \$33,295,819. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to adopt the resolution with Commissioner Johnson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution #25-27)

(Final Budget)

Paul Donofro, Donofro Architects, requested that the Board waive the permit fees on the Council on Aging renovation project. Mr. Donofro stated that the contractor, Bear Construction, has already paid the permit fees and the request will be to refund the contractor. Discussion included that the Council on Aging is a County-owned building and that the CDBG grant funding has contingencies that allow for cost of the \$5,195.63 permit. County Attorney Nate Nolin discussed whether the waiver request was typical of other government entities and requested time to research the matter. Keith Bennett, Holmes County Building Official, advised that the Building

Department does not receive taxpayer funding and must operate off the revenue generated by permit fees. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to waive the fees contingent on County Attorney Nolin's approval. The motion died for the lack of a second.

Brad Castro and Kasey McConnell, Eastern Diesel & Auto Wrecker Service, presented a proposed increase to the approved towing rates. Ms. McConnell stated that Washington County has adopted the same rates. The Board agreed by consensus to table the matter until Project Director David Corbin could research the matter further and come back with a recommendation.

(Proposed Towing Rates)

Chairman Stafford announced that the Florida Department of Transportation will be repaving State Highway 79 through Bonifay. The concrete in front of the Holmes County Tax Collector's office must be lowered to allow handicap access. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for Project Director David Corbin to sign the needed property release. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business at this time the meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.


Clerk


Chairman