

September 4, 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 5:00 p.m. Project Director David Corbin led the prayer and pledge.

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

- Commissioner Item A) DD Eldridge Park in Prosperity
- County Coordinator Item A) RIF Grant D0233 Amendment
- County Coordinator Item B) Wheeler Quote for Hurricane Sally
- Commissioner Item B) Employee District Transfers

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

John Tate, Holmes County Sheriff, stated that Holmes County EMS currently manages the rental of the New Hope Fire Station building with the Board retaining the proceeds. He requested turning control of renting the facility over to the New Hope Fire Department with the department retaining the rental funds. Discussion included using inmate work crews to ensure the facility is cleaned following an event. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion granting the Sheriff's request with Commissioner Johnson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Roderick Bowers, a private citizen, read a statement protesting the proposed property tax increase.

Pursuant to Public Notice, the Board held a public hearing to establish the tentative millage and budget. Chairman Stafford advised that the proposed millage was set at 10.0000 and gave the public a chance to discuss the increase. The following citizens discussed the tax increase:

- Dan Smith
- Tyler Harrison
- Taylor Russ
- Michelle Stout
- Paige Fleming
- Garret Valcourt
- John Tate, Holmes County Sheriff

- Rusty Williams, Holmes County Supervisor of Elections
- Rodney Bowers

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to set the tentative millage rate back to the current rate of 9.4916. General Revenue Funds will be used to cover the \$182,786 budget shortfall with LOGT funds to be used to offset the reduced General Revenue Funds allocated to Transportation Trust. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second. Commissioner Erickson, Wilmer Stafford and Chairman Stafford voted yes with Commissioner Johnson voting no. The motion passed unanimously.

(2025-26 Budget Committee Proposal to the Board)

Chairman Stafford stated the tentative millage rate of 9.4916 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. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, read Resolution 25-24 which adopts the proposed millage of 9.4916. The public was given an opportunity to ask questions regarding the millage rate and the effect on their taxes with no one responding. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to adopt the resolution with Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution #25-24)

Chairman Stafford gave the public an opportunity to discuss changes to the Tentative Budget.

David Corbin, Project Director, presented a letter from Holmes County Tax Collector Harry Bell requesting an additional \$7,700 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year for employee insurance costs. The letter also requested reinstatement of the health insurance benefits for his employees on the 2025-2026 budget which were eliminated during the budget process. The Board agreed by consensus to entertain the request when Mr. Bell is present to discuss the matter.

Discussion of the 2025-2026 budget also included that a pay increase for the Holmes County Library Assistant Director was funded and that the Road Materials budget for each district was reduced to \$27,500 to fund the County's employee life insurance.

David Corbin, Project Director, presented a quote from Wheeler Emergency Management consulting for future project management services on the Hurricane Sally DR #4564 project. The quote for work to be done in October, November and December was in the amount of \$4,650. Kenneth Williams, Wheeler Emergency Management, discussed the free work performed by his company on Hurricane Sally and advised that Wheeler is writing off the project management costs for the May 2025 tornados that was not allowed by the State. The Board agreed to use 2025-2026 Board Contingencies to fund Wheeler's quoted amount of \$4,650.

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to accept all the discussed budget changes with Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

With no further discussion from the public, Attorney Nolin read Resolution #25-25 adopting a Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26 in the amount of \$33,428,102. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to adopt the resolution with Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution #25-25)
(Tentative Budget)

The Board agreed by consensus to the schedule the Final Budget hearing for Monday, September 22, 2025 at 5:01 p.m.

David Corbin, Project Director, presented Amendment 2 to Rural Infrastructure Grant D0233 for Project Gateway water and sewer improvements. The amendment extends the grant deadline. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the amendment with Commissioner Johnson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Amendment)

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford presented pictures of the disrepair of the handicap ramp at DD Eldridge Park in Prosperity. Discussion included plans to have the Sheriff's work crews tear out the old ramp and build a new concrete handicap pad to provide access. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion for the work to be completed using \$3,600 in the Parks budget. Commissioner Erickson offered a second the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Erickson discussed eliminating the ability for employees to transfer districts. Discussion of this matter included:

- Policy currently allows employees to transfer between districts
- Problems keeping position filled in all districts
- Policy requires a job posting in-house for three days prior to advertising outside
- Policy requires transfer approval by the Road Department Foremen and the Project Director
- Eliminate transfer by making an employee apply for the job and start over on probation
- Requiring a transferred employee to start over again with longevity and PTO
- Not allowing the transfer until the old position is filled
- Consolidation of the road department
- Precedence has now been set and will require a policy change to prevent in the future

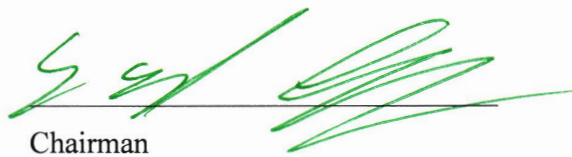
The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Rodney Bowers
- Tyler Love
- Garret Valcourt

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion giving Project Director David Corbin full discretion for approving transfers. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.


Clerk


Chairman