

February 3, 2026
Regular Session
Bonifay, Florida

The Holmes County Board of Commissioners met for a Regular Session on the above date with the following members present: Commissioner Wade Ellenburg, Commissioner Wilmer Stafford, Commissioner Mitch Johnson, Commissioner Clint Erickson, 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 6:00 p.m. David Corbin, Project Director, led the prayer and pledge.

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

- Commissioner Item) Development Commission Board District 3 Seat
- County Coordinator) Gritney Fire Truck Repair
- Commissioner Item) EDA Grant
- Commissioner Item) Brian Mims Grant Administration Services

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

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the January 20, 2026 Regular Session. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Lori Patterson, a private citizen, discussed an online exchange with a County Commissioner and requested the Board reaffirm their dedication to the public trust. Ms. Patterson stated her intention to present evidence of the online exchange at a future meeting.

John (Sodie) Braxton, Jr., a private citizen, requested that a memorial sign be placed on County Road 179A in honor of his father, former Holmes County Sheriff John Braxton. Mr. Braxton stated that he would pay for the sign and his request does not include changing the road name. Discussion included the placement of the proposed sign. John Feeny, Contracted Planner, advised that the request can be granted by a motion from the Board and cautioned about the possibility of vandalism to the sign. The Board agreed by consensus to table this matter until a publicly advertised future meeting to unveil the memorial sign.

Richard Willsey, a private citizen, offered financial assistance with the Sheriff John Braxton memorial sign. He also discussed the need for more Holmes County representation at next year's Rural County Days in Tallahassee.

Jimmie Moore, a private citizen, requested direction on preventing illegal mobile homes from being set-up within the County. Discussion included the County's lack of Code Enforcement. John Feeny, Contracted Planner, discussed the efforts by the Planning and Building Departments to stop the illegal activity. The contact information for the State Mobile Home Inspector was provided to Mr. Moore.

Jane Dellwo, Board Administrative Assistant, discussed the benefits of the Board attending the 2026 FPL Economic Symposium scheduled for March 2026. She advised that Opportunity Florida has scholarships available to reimburse the costs for the County's participation in the event. The Board directed Ms. Dellwo to make the necessary arrangements for the interested parties to attend.

Commissioner Erickson presented a plat map indicating that a name is needed for the road that forks off Little John Road. He advised that District 5 will improve the road when the boundary lines are marked. Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, quoted \$900 to re-stake the road boundaries. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for the road to be named Legend Way and to use \$900 of LOGT funds to have Dewberry Engineers re-stake the road boundaries. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Plat Map)

Commissioner Erickson discussed the County's history with obtaining and repairing the dams on the Dogwood Lakes big and small lakes. Discussion included that the federally registered dams cannot be abandoned by the County unless another entity, that meets certain criteria, is prepared to take responsibility for the dams. John Feeney, Alday-Howell Engineers, advised that the siphon system has been installed on the small lake but phase two of the permanent repair will involve abandoning the old pipe and constructing a new weir. He stated that the approximate costs for phase two will be \$100,000. Discussion included searching for federal grants to fund the repair. The following private citizens discussed this matter:

- Jason Powell
- Lori Patterson

The Board tabled this matter to contact federal representatives for possible grant funds.

Jane Dellwo, Board Administrative Assistant, presented proposed Resolution 26-03 authorizing the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) to replace the Prim Avenue Bridge over Holmes Creek. She read the resolution onto the record. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to adopt Resolution 26-03. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution 26-03)

Commissioner Erickson presented a \$16,960 invoice from Wheeler Consultants for Hurricane Helene work performed on the County's behalf. Discussion included that Wheeler would request reimbursement for the \$12,865 that is eligible. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to pay the invoice with \$4,095 of Road Department contingencies and \$12,865 in validated FEMA funds. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Invoice)

David Corbin, Project Director, presented a \$9,377.02 quote from Ten-8 Fire & Safety, Inc. to repair the Gritney Fire Department fire engine. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to use the proceeds from the Bear

Hewitt Landing property sale to pay for the repair. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Quote)

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, presented a proposed Minor Development Order for the 189-acre Ponce de Leon Borrow Pit Facility. He stated that the Town of Ponce de Leon and the Planning Commission have recommended approval of the project. Mr. Feeney advised that the developer has complied with all the requirements, and he recommended approval of the project. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the minor development order with Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Proposed Minor Development Order)

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, advised that the Spring Valley/Turberville Road bridge replacement project does not qualify for DOT B-SCOP funding. The Board tabled the Spring Valley/Turberville Road bridge replacement project and requested that Mr. Sims work with the Road Department's Bridge Crew to find two eligible B-SCOP projects within the County.

Rod Adams, Melvin Engineering, will present resolutions at the next meeting to attach to the SCRAP/SCOP applications for CR 177A and Bonifay Chipley Road Phase 2.

Rod Adams, Melvin Engineering, advised that the paving, lift station and water line have been completed for the Ponce de Leon Pilot Travel Center. The project will be complete when Florida Power and Light provides power to the lift station, the fencing has been installed and the final striping complete. Discussion included the scheduling of the ribbon cutting event.

Rod Adams, Melvin Engineering, discussed the pre-construction meetings scheduled for the Project Gateway infrastructure project. He stated that the Notice to Proceed will be issued March 2nd.

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, stated that the punch list for the new Ag Center has been completed. He will schedule the final walk through with the contractor.

John Feeney, Alday-Howell Engineers, proposed applying for County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP) funding for Coates Road. He advised that the County qualifies for a waiver of the grant match. The Board agreed by consensus to request CIGP funding for Coates Road.

John Feeney, Alday-Howell Engineers, stated that drainage issues are being addressed on the Old Mill Road improvement project. The design plans should be presented next week.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented the agreement awarding Metric Consulting the Disaster Recovery Administration Services contract. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the agreement with Commissioner Ellenburg offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

Rod Adams, Melvin Engineering, presented the proposed agreement for ECSC, LLC to complete the construction for the Project Gateway infrastructure project. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the agreement with Commissioner Ellenburg offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

Commissioner Ellenburg presented information on the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) Disaster Supplemental Grant Program. The Board agreed by consensus to allow Commissioner Ellenburg to determine if the County qualifies for any grant funding for 2024-2025 fiscal year disaster events.

Commissioner Ellenburg advised that Brian Mims offers grant and healthcare consulting services that might benefit the County. Discussion included a possible conflict with Liberty Partners' contract. The Board agreed by consensus for County Attorney Nate to research conflicts with current contracts and bid requirements before Mr. Mims addresses the Board.

Commissioner Johnson offered a motion to appoint Garrett Valcourt to the Development Commission Board District 3 seat. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board held a moment of silence for former Washington County Administrator Jeff Massey.

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford discussed installing drop-down microphones in the Board's meeting room in lieu of the wireless microphones. The Board directed Project Director David Corbin to obtain quotes for the drop-down microphones.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.


Clerk


Chairman