

February 17, 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 Mitch Johnson, Commissioner Wilmer Stafford, 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 9:00 a.m. David Corbin, Project Director, led the prayer and pledge.

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

- Commissioner Item) Road Repair at Bonifay K-8 School- added
- Agenda Item) Griffin Traffic Signal Contract Renewal – deleted
- County Attorney) RFP for Healthcare Insurance - added

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

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the February 3, 2026 Regular Session. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Kalyn Waters, Extension Service Director, presented a proposed five-year agreement with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) to lease office space in the Holmes County Ag Center. She discussed the benefits of having a FDACS employee in the office and advised that the County will receive \$250 per month in rental revenue with an incremental annual increase over the next five years. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the lease agreement. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

Kalyn Waters, Extension Service Director, advised that the no-till drill donated to the Extension Service by the disbanded Holmes County Soil & Water Board has generated approximately \$1,600 in rental revenue. She requested using all rental revenue received for maintenance and repair to the drill. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the request. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

John Feeny, Contracted Planner, presented a proposed Affidavit of Acknowledgement for Exemption of Second Residential Structure at 1644 White Road for Daniel Blair and Maria Dickinson, the property owners, and Julie Dickinson, the affiant, to execute. Mr. Feeny stated that the affidavit acknowledges that the Board is granting the exemption for a second residential structure to be placed on Parcel ID Number 1734.00-000-000-019.000 for an immediate family member. He advised the updated Land Development Regulations (LDR) will

make provisions for immediate family members. Mr. Feeney recommended approval of the exemption. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion approving the exemption with Commissioner Erickson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Proposed Affidavit)

Sherel Crews Leavins, a private citizen, requested placing memorial signs on County Road 179 in honor of her father, the former Holmes County Commissioner L. D. Crews. Ms. Leavins stated that her father was instrumental in the paving of CR 179. She presented a history of her father's service to the county during his tenure and her family's history of service to the county and country. Commissioners offered to donate the funds to purchase the sign. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the placement of a L.D. Crews memorial signs on County Road 179 south of Highway 2 and north of the Washington County line. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

David Corbin, Project Director, advised that the Holmes County Household Hazardous Waste Amnesty Day has been scheduled for Saturday, February 28th. He urged County-wide support for the event.

Jane Dellwo, Board Administrative Assistant, requested rescheduling the March 3rd Regular Session to March 2nd at 6:00 p.m. due to scheduling conflicts. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the request. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Jane Dellwo, Board Administrative Assistant, presented proposed Resolution 26-04 approving the County's 2026 Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) applications for the SCRAP, SCOP, BSCOP and CIGP funding programs. She read the resolution on to the record. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to adopt Resolution 26-04 with Commissioner Ellenburg offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution 26-04)

Jane Dellwo, Board Administrative Assistant, advised that an upgrade to the Road Department's iWorQ System is available that will allow citizens to electronically submit road issues. The Road Department staff will be able to verify the request and message the citizen about the issue. Ms. Dellwo stated that the initial cost for the program will be \$3,000 with an annual subscription cost of \$2,500. The Board agreed by consensus to consider the upgrade next budget year.

John Tate, Holmes County Sheriff, requested that the Board contract with Liberty Partners to manage the Holmes County Jail expansion grant. He discussed the need for the jail space. Commissioner Johnson offered a motion approving the request with Commissioner Ellenburg offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Task Order)

John Tate, Holmes County Sheriff, requested approval to advertise a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Holmes County Jail expansion design and architect services. Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, discussed the potential

cost of the jail expansion and plans to secure further funding for the project. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion approving the request to advertise an RFP. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, discussed the progress of the property tax reform through the legislation.

Rusty Russell, Crime Stoppers volunteer, presented a proposed letter to the Florida Attorney General authorizing the Panhandle Crime Stoppers of Bay County to act as Holmes County's agent for receiving and applying for Crime Stopper Trust Fund money. Holmes County Sheriff John Tate discussed the County's history with Crime Stoppers. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the letter with Commissioner Johnson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Letter)

Matt Watson, Modern Tech Squad, presented a \$4,123 quote to replace the wireless microphones in the Board's meeting room with hardwired microphones. Discussion included how the new microphones will work with Facebook Live. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion approving the quote using Board Contingencies for the expenditure. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second. Commissioners Ellenburg, Johnson, Wilmer Stafford and Chairman Stafford voted yes with Commissioner Erickson voting no. The motion passed.

(Quote)

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, presented a memo listing available grant programs that will benefit the County. Discussion included grant funding for bridge repairs, storm hardening and dam repairs. Mr. Parson advised that the typical 20% match could be reduced or waived for a fiscally constrained county. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a motion to have Liberty Partners move forward with applying for the listed grants on behalf of the County. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Memo)

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, presented the following project updates:

- Pre-construction conferences for the Peak Road Bridge and Roping Road Bridge projects were held last week. Construction is set to begin in March with Alday-Howell doing the inspections.
- Work on the CR 185 road improvement project began last week
- Little John Lane boundaries will be re-staked today at the latest

Jake Mathis, Melvin Engineering, advised that earth work is being done on the Bonifay Gritney Road paving project. He discussed working around new residential driveways that were installed after completion of the design and that the County will have to pay for any utility poles that must be relocated.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, requested hiring a consultant to assist with the RFP for the County's Healthcare Services. Discussion included how RFPs have been advertised historically and using Small County Coalition resources. Holmes County Sheriff John Tate advised that the Holmes County School Board and the City of Bonifay are willing to join the County's insurance pool to improve health insurance premiums. Attorney Nolin advised that the RFP will be advertised six months prior to the renewal date, and he will bring back the final RFP for Board approval.


Commissioner Erickson discussed road and parking lot improvements needed at the Bonifay K-8 School. Discussion of this matter included the following:


- Erosion due to cars parking and driving on the sod
- Paving of that section will cost approximately \$100,000
- C. W. Roberts parks equipment on school property and is willing to assist with the improvements this summer
- Moving the field driveway and addressing the water drainage issue

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to use \$5,000 from the District 5 Road Materials budget to purchase lime rock for a base. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered his appreciation for assistance with having County Road 179 re-striped.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.


Clerk


Chairman