

March 2, 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, was present.

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, was present and kept the minutes.

Chairman Stafford called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Johnson 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) Highway 79 Corridor
- County Attorney Item) County's Dirt Policy
- County Attorney Item) Lake Cassidy Permits
- Commissioner Item) Spring Valley/Turbeville Road Bridge

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

Commissioner Johnson offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the February 17, 2026 Regular Session. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Danny Exum, Tri-County Airport Authority Board, discussed the Tri-County Airport's favorable impact to the local economy and the plans for future development. Discussion included seeking appropriations or requesting financial assistance from the Holmes County Development Commission for improvements to the road adjacent to the airport. Mr. Exum invited the Commissioners to the Tri-County Economic Meeting on April 16th at the airport.

Kelley Peak, a private citizen, read a statement protesting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and requested that local law enforcement be prohibited from assisting with ICE law enforcement activities. John Tate, Holmes County Sheriff, stated his intentions to work with any federal agency that secures public safety. Sheriff Tate advised that undocumented individuals that commit crimes are reported to ICE with no financial burden placed on his department.

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, presented Amendment #1 for the 2025-2026 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 Wilmer Stafford offered a motion approving the budget amendment. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Budget Amendment #1)

Ryan Mims, a Holmes County resident, introduced himself, discussed his grant writing experience and offered his services to the County.

Jake Mathis, Melvin Engineering, presented a \$48,900 invoice from West Florida Electric to relocate nine power poles on the Bonifay Gritney Road. He advised that, after using a portion of the money the County budgeted for fencing, approximately \$30,000 in additional funds are needed. Mr. Mathis stated that the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) should cover the extra funding needed for the four additional driveways installed since the design was completed. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to use \$35,000 of Local Option Gas Tax (LOGT) funds to cover the additional amount needed for the West Florida Electric invoice. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously

(Invoice)

Jane Dellwo, Board Administrative Assistant, presented a request from the Holmes County Chamber of Commerce for reimbursement of the promotional items distributed during Rural County Days in Tallahassee. Discussion included that the Promotional Activities line-item budget was zeroed out to balance the budget this fiscal year. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to pay the Chamber \$280 using Board Contingencies. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second in the motion passed unanimously.

(Request)

Keith Bennett, Holmes County Building Inspector, requested that the Board adopt the International Code Council's (ICC) building valuation table. He stated that the table is simply a tool to calculate the square footage cost for new construction and there are no fee changes. Discussion included using 90% of the valuation table values to figure the square footage cost. The Board agreed by consensus to table this request to a future meeting so that Mr. Bennett can present examples of using 90% of the ICC valuation table versus actual building costs.

Nina Nallick, representing the Planning Contractor, advised that the Williamson Land Use Amendment second public hearing has been rescheduled to the March 17th meeting.

Tim Parson, Liberty Partner, presented an update on the 2026 Legislative Session stating that the House and the Senate budgets are not reconciled. He stated that a special session is possible due to the budget and property tax reduction legislation. Mr. Parson advised that Liberty Partners has prepared the grant applications for bridge repairs, storm hardening and dam repairs as instructed by the Board.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented a perpetual utility easement for TriTech Wireless to install fiber near Prosperity Park. Clint Smith, TriTech Wireless, advised that his company purchased a lot near the park but needed an easement across the County's property to maintain the telecom lines. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the easement. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Easement)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented a \$20,000 task order for Metric Consulting to review the County's open FEMA projects and take the necessary steps to close the projects. He could provide no guarantee that the amount would be reimbursable through FEMA. The Board agreed by consensus to table the task order until Metric Consulting can be present to answer questions.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, requested clarification on the County's dirt policy. Discussion included that the policy provides for each Holmes County address to receive two loads of ditch dirt upon request if the dirt is available. Discussion also included issues with a resident owning multiple properties, the possible debris in ditch dirt and possibly changing the policy to two loads per resident. The Board agreed by consensus to have Project Director David Corbin clarify with the Road Department on exactly how the dirt policy reads. The matter of changing the policy was tabled to discuss later.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, requested direction about the number of Lake Cassidy permits to make available to the public. He stated that currently 250 in-state permits and 4 out-of-state permits have been sold. Discussion included the capacity limits for Lake Cassidy. David Brannon, a private citizen, questioned the Board's intention to honor veterans with access to the lake. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a motion to offer a maximum of 400 in-state permits while remaining with the 50 out-of-state permits available. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

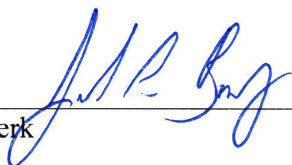
Jake Mathis, Melvin Engineer, presented Change Order #1 for the Bonifay Gritney Road paving project. The change order funds an additional \$43,070 for additional headwalls needed on the road and adds 30 days for the contractor to complete the project. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the change order contingent on DOT's approval. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Change Order #1)

Commissioner Erickson stated that the Board needs to find out if the City of Bonifay is prepared to take over the Highway 79 Corridor. While the State has approved the City taking over the Corridor, no action has been taken. Commissioner Erickson advised that \$50,000 for the Highway 79 Corridor will have to be placed on the 2026-2027 budget if nothing changes. The Board agreed by consensus for Project Director David Corbin to discuss the matter with the City of Bonifay.

Chairman Stafford received a \$515,000 construction quote for the Spring Valley/Turberville Road bridge replacement. He stated that the quote for the inspection services is pending. Discussion included the costs already associated with the project and that little more than \$241,000 remains of the budgeted amount. Chairman Stafford requested that the Board consider using LOGT funds to complete the project. The matter was tabled until the next meeting for the Chairman to present the inspection services quote.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.


Clerk


Chairman