

April 7, 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 6:00 p.m. Project Director David Corbin led the prayer and pledge.

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

- County Coordinator Item) Bonifay Gritney Road – added and moved to first Agenda Item
- County Coordinator Item) Ag Center Final Walk Through - added
- County Coordinator Item) EMS HVAC Bid Opening - added
- County Attorney Item) Ditch Dirt Policy - moved to Agenda Item
- County Attorney Item) Health Insurance RFP - added
- Building Official/Planning Item) Interlocal Agreement with Esto – added
- Commissioner Item) Lake Cassidy Water Management Update – added
- Commissioner Item) Coursey Road Engineering Update - added

Commissioner Johnson 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 March 17, 2026 Regular Session. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Marie Bowman, a Coursey Road resident, discussed the traffic fatality and recent accidents on Coursey Road. She requested that the Board reinstall the speed bumps and support frequent law enforcement patrols to curtail speeders. The Board advised that Dewberry is collecting quotes to install a caution light and that the County will be trimming the vegetation on Coursey Road.

Lesley Hatfield, Holmes County Chamber of Commerce, discussed this year's Down Home Street Festival and expressed appreciation for the local teamwork to make the event successful. She also acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the outgoing Chamber Director Donna Meldon.

Jordan Sammons, 179 Farms, invited the public to the 179 Farms Grand Opening scheduled for May 9th. She discussed the products to be offered by the luxury meat farm.

Mike Alvis, a Bonifay Gritney Road property owner, stated that the Bonifay Gritney Road Phase 2 paving project was not designed to allow proper water drainage for the newly developed lots on the east end of the road. He requested installation of structured ditches to channel the water. Engineer Jake Mathis advised that Melvin

Engineering is handling the inspection services for the project which is being constructed according to the design submitted by Dewberry Engineers. Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, stated that a meeting has been scheduled with the design engineer, Cliff Knauer, later this week to discuss whether design changes are needed. Discussion included that the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) has approved culverts to be installed on the newly developed lots. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for the engineers to pursue a change order with DOT to design and construct a solution to the water drainage at that end of the Bonifay Gritney Road project using the remaining grant funds available. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Eddie Nelson, New Hope resident, advocated for single-member representation in the Holmes County districts. He discussed the benefits to residents being represented by a single commissioner, the process to place the issue on the ballot, and the option for adding two extra commissioners. Discussion included the cost of adding the issue to the ballot and whether the district boundary lines will have to be redrawn due to an unequal population distribution within the districts. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to research the cost of placing the issue on the ballot and discuss the matter further at the next meeting. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Jane Dellwo, Board Administrative Assistant, presented proposed Resolution 26-05 approving Supplemental Agreement Number 4 for the Bonifay Gritney Road Phase 2 paving project. She advised that the supplemental agreement adds \$29,353 in funding for additional drainage work needed on the project. County Attorney Nate Nolin read the resolution on to the record. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to adopt Resolution 26-05 with Commissioner Ellenburg offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution 26-05)

(Supplemental Agreement No. 4)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented a proposed amended Surplus Spoil Dirt Policy for approval. He advised that the amended policy changes wording to two loads per person or entity depending on availability and prevents retrieval of spoil dirt after delivery. Attorney Nolin advised that the Board's options were to leave the policy as is, amend the policy or eliminate the policy. Discussion of this matter included the following:

- Containing the spread of Cogan grass
- Upon removal, the ditch dirt is to be hauled to the closest requesting landowner
- Eliminating the spoil dirt policy and using the dirt to improve the roads or pit reclamation
- Work time spent verifying property owners/addresses eligible for free ditch dirt
- Using the Road Department Foreman to verify addresses and have waivers signed
- The Road Department can repair driveways up to ten feet
- Current spoil dirt policy is costing the County and the taxpayers
- Amending the policy to make ditch dirt available only to eligible homestead property owners
- Requiring a signed Owner's Authorization Form to approve delivery of ditch dirt

The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Gracie Slay, Road Department Secretary
- Kalyn Waters, Extension Service Director

- Jason Powell, Powell Heavy Equipment
- John Feeney, Alday Howell Engineering
- Garrett Valcourt, private citizen

Commissioner Ellenburg offered a motion approving the amended Surplus Spoil Dirt Policy and having the Road Department Foremen take on the responsibility of having the waivers signed. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second for discussion. Commissioners Ellenburg and Johnson voted yes with Commissioners Wilmer Stafford, Erickson and Chairman Stafford voting no. The motion failed. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to eliminate the Surplus Spoil Dirt Policy. Chairman Stafford relinquished the chair to second the motion. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford and Earl Stafford voted yes with Commissioners Ellenburg, Johnson and Erickson voting no. The motion failed. The County will revert to the existing spoil dirt policy.

(Amended Spoil Dirt Policy)

Becky Marsh, Holmes County Library Director, advised that the posted State Aid amount for Holmes County is \$80,000. She budgeted to receive \$20,000 in State Aid for 2025-26. Ms. Marsh requested using \$30,000 of the extra \$60,000 for maintenance on the library building. Discussion included the new HVAC unit budgeted for the Library and funding a new part-time position. The Board agreed by consensus for Ms. Marsh to work with Project Director David Corbin and Finance Director Angie Purvee to prepare a proposed budget amendment using the extra funding for approval.

Robin Phillips, CDBG Administrator, presented the bids for the CDBG Housing Grant improvements to 2245 Yoopon Lane. She recommended the lowest bidder, Kevin Smith Contracting, in the amount of \$55,400. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to award the bid to Kevin Smith Contracting. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Robin Phillips, CDBG Administrator, stated that the Council on Aging improvement project was 60% complete.

David Corbin, Project Director, requested clarification for hiring two law enforcement officers to patrol Lake Cassidy on the July 4th, Memorial Day and Labor Day holidays. John Tate, Holmes County Sheriff, advised that an off-duty officer is typically paid \$250 per day for such work. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a motion to use \$4,500 of the Lake Cassidy decal revenue to pay for the law enforcement presence on the stated holidays. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

David Corbin, Project Director, stated that the final walk through of the new Ag Center has not been completed. He presented a list of construction issues with the new Ag Center that need to be addressed. Contractor Trey Cook agreed to pay for the repairs to the leaking roof. Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, and Kalyn Waters, Extension Service Director, discussed the issues. The Board tabled the matter until Dewberry Engineers and the Holmes County Building Inspector can do the final inspections.

(List)

David Corbin, Project Director, advised that one bid was received in response to the EMS building HVAC request. P&P Heating & Cooling submitted a bid in the amount of \$128,270. John Tate, Holmes County Sheriff, stated he intends to negotiate with the bidder to cut costs where possible. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion awarding the bid to P&P Heating & Cooling and allow Sheriff Tate to negotiate the price. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, presented a proposed Interlocal Agreement for Planning and Land Development Review for Holmes County to provide planning services to the Town of Esto for three years. He advised that Esto has already approved the agreement. Commissioner Johnson offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the agreement with Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, advised that the State will require an interlocal agreement between the County and all five municipalities for administration and enforcement of floodplain management regulations. He presented a proposed draft of an agreement for the Board's consideration at a future meeting.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the County's health insurance is ready to be advertised. He stated that the Holmes County School Board will not be participating with the County in forming a consortium, but he intends to reach out to the City of Bonifay. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to advertise the RFP with Commissioner Johnson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

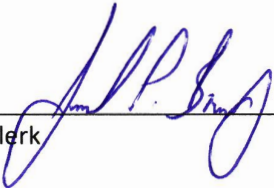
Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to approve Richard Willsey to the District 5 seat on the Development Commission Board. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Erickson discussed the disrepair of the public park on Highway 177A at the entrance to Dogwood Lakes. Discussion included having to board up the bathrooms due to needing a new well, the Sheriff's crew plans to clean up the park and the issues with placing a well close to a body of water. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to tear down the existing building and apply for a FRDAP grant to make improvements that the County will be required to maintain. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Ellenburg requested to change the County's Employee Policy to allow each Road Department District to maintain a non-CDL position. He stated that it should be discretionary as to whether the district wants to keep a non-CDL position or require a CDL for all positions. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a motion to change the policy to allow each Road Department district one non-CDL position. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford stated that only four out-of-state Lake Cassidy decals have been sold. He discussed using the 46 remaining out-of-state decals for locals. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to end the sale of Lake Cassidy out-of-state decals and obtain 46 more local decals to keep the total number available at 400. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second. Commissioners Ellenburg, Johnson, Wilmer Stafford and Chairman Stafford voted yes with Commissioner Erickson voting no. The motion passed.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.


Clerk


Chairman