

March 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. 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:

- Agenda Item) Upward Communities – deleted
- Agenda Item) Beaver Contract Options – deleted
- County Coordinator Item) Highway 79 Corridor – added
- Commissioner Item) Spring Valley/Turberville Road Bridge - deleted

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

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the March 2, 2026 Regular Session. Commissioner Erickson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Richard Willsey, a private citizen, stated that the City of Bonifay discussed taking over the Highway 79 Corridor and requesting an annual \$20,000 appropriation from the County.

David Corbin, Project Director, presented the proposed agreement with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for improvements to Cork Harris Landing. He advised that the reimbursable \$86,005 grant is for Dewberry Engineers to complete the design for the boat ramp improvements. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the grant agreement. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

Chance Pitts, Pine Log Fire Department, requested \$8,000 to assist with unexpected truck repairs and operating expenses. Discussion of this request included the following:

- Improvements to the Pine Log Fire Department building
- Call volume increase
- Increased costs for fuel, training supplies, utilities, and truck maintenance
- Use of Walton County equipment
- Matching grant approval for truck repairs
- Additional repairs needed on tanker and fire engine

- Resubmission of matching grant application when quote for additional repairs is provided

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the \$8,000 request using the Bear Hewitt Landing sale proceeds. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Ashley Helmes, 911 Coordinator, requested approval of the following rural grant applications for 911 system maintenance:

- ESRI in the amount of \$2,100
- Datamark in the amount of \$11,516.37
- Mission Critical Partners in the amount of \$52,162.00
- Converge One in the amount of \$61,933.92

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for the Chairman to sign each of the four 911 grant applications. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Grant Applications)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, discussed setting the Workshop dates for the Safe Haven Baby Box project. The Board directed Mr. Nolin to reach out to Pastor Michael Tadlock, Crosspoint Church, to schedule the dates.

Jane Dellwo, Board Administrative Assistant, presented a proposed \$11,400 task order for Dewberry Engineers to complete the design work for the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) Jack Johnson Lane Bridge improvement project. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the task order with Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Task Order)

David Corbin, Project Director, presented a \$4,500 quote for a one-month vibratory roller rental from Beard Equipment. He advised that the County's roller needs an estimated \$10,000 in repairs. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion approving the one-month rental using Road Department contingency funds. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Quote)

David Corbin, Project Director, stated that the City of Bonifay will meet next month to determine if they will take over the Highway 79 Corridor. He advised that the City may request funds from the Board in support of the Corridor. The Board agreed by consensus to wait until the City acts since new agreements will have to be approved with all the involved entities.

David Corbin, Project Director, introduced the new Board Secretary Abbi Skipper.

Keith Bennett, Holmes County Building Inspector, presented examples of permit fees using 90% of the values on the International Code Council's (ICC) building valuation table as directed by the Board. He requested

the Board adopt the ICC Valuation Table as a tool to calculate the square footage cost for new construction. Mr. Bennett stated that the use of the table will make permit fees consistent on new construction. Bryan Bell, Holmes County Property Appraiser, stated that the valuation table was an effective tool for the Building Department and will assist with establishing home values. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion for the Building Department to adopt 90% of the values on the ICC Valuation Table to calculate the square footage cost for new construction permit fees. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second. Commissioners Ellenburg, Wilmer Stafford and Chairman Stafford voted yes with Commissioners Johnson and Erickson voting no. The motion passed

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, presented proposed Ordinance 26-01 for a second public hearing. He advised that the ordinance is to change the Future Land Use Designation for Parcel Number 0324.00-000-000-001.100 owned by Eric Williamson from Agriculture to Commercial. Mr. Feeney stated that the Planning Commission held the first public hearing and unanimously approved the ordinance. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to adopt Ordinance 26-01 with Commissioner Ellenburg offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Ordinance 26-01)

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, presented the following updates:

- The Request for Quotes for the EMS building's new HVAC system has been advertised
- The punch list and final walk through of the new Ag Center to be completed soon
- DOT has approved the County doing the work for the Beautification Grants
- The EDA grant applications for bridge repairs, storm hardening and dam repairs are ready to be uploaded
- The 2026 Legislative Session has been adjourned without completing the budget and the outstanding Property Tax Reduction legislation

Rod Adams, Melvin Engineering, presented the following project updates:

- The County Road 181 sidewalk grant needs a letter referencing the County's Comprehensive Plan
- The two SCRAP/SCOP applications assigned to Melvin Engineering are ready to submit
- The Ponce de Leon Pilot Travel Center infrastructure project should be completed next week
- The contractor on the Project Gateway infrastructure project has mobilized

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. Billy Waddell, Metric Consulting, advised that this is not a reimbursable expense since all administrative funds have been disbursed. Barry Lee, Emergency Management Director, stated that Wheeler is currently working on the County's reimbursement for Hurricane Helene Cat Z expenditures. He advised that Metric has approximately ten years of FEMA projects to review. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the \$20,000 task order using FEMA validated funds. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Task Order)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, discussed amending the County's dirt policy from two free loads of ditch dirt annually for each valid 911 address to two loads per person or entity annually. Discussion of this matter included the following:

- Policy based on calendar year (January to December)
- Change "business" wording in current policy to "entity"
- Changing policy to one load per address
- Effect of policy change on residents that own rental property
- Taking the geographical location of the dirt request into consideration
- Eliminating the ditch dirt policy to contain the spread of Cogan Grass within the County
- Availability of ditch dirt
- Implementing an application process for the ditch dirt
- Waiver signed by citizens before receiving ditch dirt
- Reviewing the driveway policy before eliminating the dirt policy

The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Richard Willsey
- Danielle Dubin
- Jordan Sammons

The Board agreed to table this issue until a workshop can be scheduled.

(Waiver)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, discussed a road abandonment action requested by Larry Williamson, a property owner on Happy Hollow Road. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to advertise the road abandonment public hearing for the next meeting. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.


Clerk


Chairman