

May 5, 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 additions were made to the posted agenda:

- Commissioner Item) Abandonment of County Property on Marian Drive
- County Coordinator Item) Ag Center Update
- County Coordinator Item) Road Department Equipment
- Commissioner Item) Fire Departments

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

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the April 21, 2026 Regular Session. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Alfred Sellers, Pittman Fire Department Chief, requested assistance with paying a \$1,565 invoice from Mike's Auto Repair for repairs to Pittman's attack truck. He discussed the increase in utility and fuel expenses experienced by the department. The Board agreed by consensus to table this matter until the next meeting.

(Invoice)

Marie Bowman, Coursey Road resident, expressed her appreciation to the County for installing blind hill road signs on Coursey Road and cutting back the vegetation. She suggested attaching flashers to the signs. Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, advised that a meeting with the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) is scheduled to discuss installing flashing signs.

Richard Willsey, a private citizen, recommended using rumble strips on Coursey Road to slow down traffic.

Chaim Rabinowitz, Dror Acres resident, presented a letter requesting information on the County's approval of the Dror Acres development. He stated that a boarding school is illegally operating within the development and creating safety concerns. The Board advised Mr. Rabinowitz that the letter would be reviewed and answers would be provided.

(Letter)

Natalie Miller, Holmes County School Board Chairman, requested the Board's support of School Board Resolution 2026-03-31 calling for a referendum on November's ballot concerning the levying of a one-half percent (0.5%) School Capital Outlay Surtax on sales in Holmes County. She stated that the proposed surtax would fund school renovations and construction needs. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, read the resolution on to the record. Rusty Williams, Holmes County Supervisor of Elections, clarified the resolution is calling for a levy of a one-half cent surtax rather than the one-half percent (0.5%) read onto the record. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to support the resolution contingent on the correction to "one-half cent". Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution 2026-03-31)

Chairman Stafford stated that County employees and contractors need to follow the proper chain-of-command by contacting and answering directly to Project Director David Corbin. Mr. Corbin advised that he would clarify the chain of command at the next Department Head meeting.

Becky Marsh, Holmes County Library Director, presented three quotes for installing a new air conditioning unit in the Holmes County Library. She requested that the Board award the service to the lowest quote. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to award the contract to Pat's AC Heating and Electric Contracting Inc. in the amount of \$9,150. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Quotes)

David Corbin, Project Director, advised that the roof on the new Ag Center continues to leak and that County Attorney Nate Nolin recused himself from any further action against the contractor. Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, discussed the actions by the contractor to rectify the problem. Keith Bennett, Holmes County Building Inspector, stated that the contractor has taken the proper steps to address the leaking roof. Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, discussed retaining legal counsel to review the contract and stated that the Florida Association of Counties has presented a proposal for a legal firm to represent the County. Discussion included the need to clarify the warranty terms and that the contractor has offered to put a new roof on the building if the leaking continues. The Board agreed by consensus to readdress the leaking roof after the rain event expected later this week.

David Corbin, Project Director, presented the following quotes for new brush cutting equipment for the Road Department:

- 2026 Caterpillar 309 Excavator with cutting equipment quoted for \$179,891 or \$2,867.53 monthly for a five-year lease
- Alamo Boom Mowers with 22-foot and 25-foot booms
- Cost of new mulching heads that can be used on the County's current equipment
- Trailer World \$33,900 quote for a 30-foot equipment trailer

Discussion of this matter included the following:

- Condition of the County's current brush cutting equipment and repair costs
- Road Department districts in need of equipment

- Auctioning off surplus equipment to help with the cost of new equipment
- Available employees to operate new equipment
- Equipment is offered under State Contract

Commissioner Ellenburg offered a motion to lease four 2026 Caterpillar 309 Excavators with Commissioner Johnson offering a second. Motion was later rescinded. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a motion to purchase one 2026 Caterpillar 309 Excavator to be used in District 2 for \$179,891 using LOGT funds. Motion included selling surplus equipment to reimburse the LOGT funds. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second. Commissioners Ellenburg, Johnson, Wilmer Stafford and Erickson voted yes with Chairman Stafford voting no. The motion passed.

(Quotes)

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, presented a proposed Affidavit of Acknowledgement for Exemption of Second Residential Structure at 1000 Whitaker Road, Graceville for Daniel and Jamie Peters, the property owners, and Jody Peters, the affiant, to execute. Mr. Feeney stated that the affidavit acknowledges that the Board is granting the exemption for a second residential structure to be placed on Parcel ID Number 0119.00-000-000-006.000 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 Ellenburg offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Proposed Affidavit)

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, presented a proposed Affidavit of Acknowledgement for Exemption of Second Residential Structure at 1252 Underwood Road, Graceville for Kenneth Kelley, the property owner, and John Kelley and Theresa Forehand, the affiants, to execute. Mr. Feeney stated that the affidavit acknowledges that the Board is granting the exemption for a second residential structure to be placed on Parcel ID Number 0205.00-000-000-005.100 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 Erickson offered a motion approving the exemption with Commissioner Johnson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Proposed Affidavit)

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, advised that an update on the Resilient Florida Assessment grant will be presented at the next meeting and then submitted to the State. The project will then be closed out.

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, advised that the State Legislature will convene a Special Session next week to continue working on the budget.

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, presented an \$80,000 task order to provide inspection services for the Spring Valley/Turberville Road Bridge replacement project. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the task order with Commissioner Ellenburg offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Task Order)

Rod Adams, Melvin Engineering, advised that the close-out documentation for the Ponce de Leon Pilot Travel Center will be presented at the next meeting. Pilot is processing the invoice for their portion of the project costs. He stated that DOT is currently working on permanent signage to mark the car and truck entrances.

Rod Adams, Melvin Engineering, stated that the grant funding for the construction phase of alleviating the flooding issues in the Northdale Subdivision was not awarded. Mr. Adams will check on reapplying for the funding.

Rod Adams, Melvin Engineering, advised that the Project Gateway infrastructure grant work is continuing with construction of the State Road 79 turning lanes to begin in approximately two weeks.

Rod Adams, Melvin Engineering, stated that Melvin has responded to DOT comments on the SCRAP/SCOP applications for County 177A and Bonifay Chipley Road Phase 2.

John Feeney, Alday-Howell Engineers, advised that the two B-SCOP projects that Alday-Howell has provided inspection services for are complete and the bridges are now open to traffic. He stated that the contractors have agreed to taper the approach to each bridge at no extra cost to the County.

Commissioner Erickson presented a plat map of two houses on Marian Drive stating that the County owns the 40-foot parcel between the residences. He suggested that the County abandon the property due to liability issues and split the property between the two adjacent property owners. Discussion included the process to abandon the property and the division of the parcel between the property owners. John Feeney, Contracted Planner, advised that the Land Development Regulations (LDR) include a process to abandon and divide property. The Board agreed by consensus to allow Mr. Feeney to handle the matter according to the LDR.

(Map)

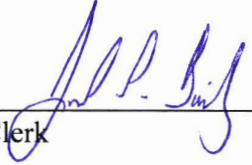
Rodney Bowers, a private resident, presented a request from a Dogwood Lakes resident who is clearing a small lot and has requested to deposit the debris in a Road Department pit. Discussion included setting a precedent and the permits needed to put debris in the County's pits. No action was taken on this request.

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to appoint Jackie Faircloth to the District 5 seat on the Development Commission Board. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Stafford discussed placing the County's fire departments under the authority of Holmes County Sheriff John Tate. Sheriff Tate stated he is working to structure the transition and can present a proposal to the

Board at the next meeting. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for Sheriff Tate to move forward with creating a proposal. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.


Clerk


Chairman