

June 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, 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 change was made to the posted agenda:

- Commissioner Item) Data Center Discussion – moved before Non-Agenda Audience

Commissioner Erickson 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 May 19, 2026 Regular Session. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented a draft of Ordinance 2026-03 establishing a one-year moratorium on the development of large-scale data centers and large load customer facilities within the unincorporated portion of Holmes County. He advised that Florida Statutes gives the Board the authority to enact the moratorium which will allow time to establish a permanent restriction. Discussion of this matter included the following:

- Effects of data centers on the health of citizens and natural resources
- Water Management statement that Holmes County does not have sufficient water flow for a data center
- Data centers hiding behind Non-disclosure Agreements (NDA)
- Need for solar farms to be included in the moratorium
- Provisions of Senate Bills 180 and 484
- Definition of “large-scale”
- Two public hearings needed to adopt the ordinance
- Amending the ordinance to a permanent ban on data centers and solar farms

The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Terry Mears
- Dan Curry, Walton County Commissioner
- Richard Willsey
- Margie Butts
- Jordan Sammons
- Harry Crone
- Edward Wacasey
- Nathan Forrester

- Warran Whitaker
- Nan Thompson
- Joannie Williamson
- Audrey Joiner
- Kinsey Cook
- Daniel Carter

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to move forward with the ordinance establishing a moratorium on data centers and to accept the Business Impact Statement. As part of the motion, the first public hearing to adopt the ordinance is to be held at the Bonifay K8 School on June 16, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Drafted Ordinance 2026-03)

The Board reconvened following a ten-minute recess.

Richard Willsey, a private citizen, discussed the need for fire and safety inspections in Holmes County businesses.

Terry Mears, a private citizen, commended the Board and citizens for taking a stand on data centers.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that the Florida Sheriff's Association and Brown & Brown submitted proposals in response to Health Care Insurance Services RFP 26-04. The Insurance Committee has delayed making any recommendations to the Board until insurance premiums are provided. Tiffany Hill and Morgan Johnson presented Brown & Brown's qualifications and services for consideration. Project Director David Corbin advised that the Insurance Committee will make a recommendation when the premiums are received.

Tonya Wright, Globe Life Liberty National, discussed the supplemental insurance products offered by Globe Life Liberty National. She was directed to present the products to the Insurance Committee for consideration.

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, presented Budget Amendment #2 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year for approval. She advised that the amendment brought on grant revenue and transferred money for items approved by the Board. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the budget amendment. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Budget Amendment #2)

David Corbin, Project Director, presented a proposed contract on the Holmes County Agricultural Center Governmental Efficiency Complex Project giving the County a two-year warranty on the building from the date of approval. Discussion included that the law firm of Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson prepared the contract, and the

contractor will receive his final payment upon certification by the engineer. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the contract contingent on receiving the signed form from the engineer. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Contract)

David Corbin, Project Director, stated that the Road Department's operating supplies budget has been overspent. Discussion included the amount needed for the remainder of the fiscal year. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to move \$2,000 from Road Department Contingencies to the Operating Supplies line item. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously. The Board directed Mr. Corbin to prepare a proposed budget request if more funds are required.

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, presented a State Legislature update on the proposed property tax reform measure that passed both houses and will now be on the November ballot. The approved property tax reform includes the following measures:

- The homestead property tax exemption will increase to \$150,000 on January 1, 2027 and then increase to \$250,000 on January 1, 2028
- Restrictions put in place on how the remaining ad valorem revenue can be spent
- School ad valorem tax will remain
- No relief put in the bill for fiscally constrained counties
- Exit polls are showing high voter approval of the property tax reform legislation
- Increase in tax assessments on non-homestead properties and small businesses is capped at 5%

David Corbin, Project Director, advised that Holmes County is projected to lose \$1.7 million in ad valorem revenue by the 2028-2029 fiscal year. The Budget Committee is recommending that all constitutional officers and department heads be required to submit a 2026-2027 budget request that is 5% less than their 2025-2026 budget. Discussion included consolidating the Road Department, increasing employee pay and selling equipment. Terry Mears, a private citizen, requested clarification on the projected loss of ad valorem revenue. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the Budget Committee's recommendation. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Doyle Majors, Development Commission Board Chairman, stated that the Development Commission is hiring a new Executive Director. He requested that the position be placed on the Board's payroll as a full-time employee to receive County benefits. The Development Commission will pay all the costs associated with the position. Discussion included entering into an agreement to place the position on the County payroll. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to move forward with creating an agreement. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that the Development Commission is interested in exchanging the Holmes County Recycling Center property for the County's Gulf Power building. Discussion included the Veterans Service Officer currently housed in the Gulf Power building, the reverter clause on the Gulf Power building deed and that FEMA money was used to put a new roof on the building. Doyle Majors, Development

Commission Chairman, requested that any further action on the property exchange wait until the new Executive Director is hired. No further action was taken on this matter.

Jane Dellwo, Board Administrative Assistant, presented the proposed Certificates of Final Completion for the Ponce de Leon Pilot Travel Center infrastructure improvement. Discussion included whether the issues reported by an adjacent property owner were satisfied. Rod Adams, Melvin Engineering, stated that the sod for the repair was not delivered. The Board agreed by consensus to table the approval of the grant close-out documents until confirmation that the issues have been satisfactorily repaired.

Jane Dellwo, Board Administrative Assistant, advised that the Bonifay Gritney Phase 2 Change Order #3 agenda item will be moved to the next Board meeting.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that the proposed abandonment of the road off Happy Hollow Road will be moved to the next Board meeting.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, requested scheduling a Workshop to discuss installing a Safe Haven Baby Box at the new EMS station. The Board agreed by consensus to schedule the Workshop for June 16th at 5:00 p.m. at the Bonifay K8 School.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented proposed Resolution 2026-11 assigning the DEO Florida Job Growth Infrastructure Grant requirements to the City of Bonifay and dissolving the Highway 79 Corridor Authority. Discussion included the need to amend the resolution which incorrectly lists Holmes County as a party to the DEO grant. The Board tabled this matter until the resolution is amended.

Commissioner Erickson discussed paving Spring Hill Road and Chance Road as well as placing milled asphalt on two lanes. Discussion of this matter included the following:

- Over 30 residents and 20 property owners reside on Spring Hill Road
- Proposed improvements will decrease the need for grader work
- LOGT funds to be used for the improvements

The following residents on Spring Hill Road discussed the need for paving:

- Bobby Paul
- Ashley Rowe

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for Project Director David Corbin to bring quotes for paving the two roads and placing milled asphalts on the two lanes to 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 8:24 p.m.

Clerk 

Chairman 