

July 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 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:

- Commissioner Item) Highway 79 Park Repairs – added
- Commissioner Item) Park on Sherwood Drive – added
- Agenda Item) John Deere Lease Renewals – deleted
- Building Official Item) Permit Fee Discussion – deleted
- Building Official Item) Building Department Logo – deleted
- Agenda Item) Healthcare Insurance Proposals – deleted

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

David Corbin, Project Director, presented a proposed letter of support for the Town of Ponce de Leon's efforts to secure grant funding for wastewater system improvements. The funding is available through the United States Department of Agriculture Water and Environmental Programs. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the letter of support. Commissioner Erickson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Letter)

Rusty Williams, Holmes County Supervisor of Elections, requested appointment of a Board member to serve as a member of the Canvassing Board and an alternate. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to appoint Commissioner Wilmer Stafford to the Canvassing Board with Commissioner Johnson to serve as an alternate. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Jane Dellwo, Board Administrative Assistant, presented proposed Resolution 26-12 approving the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) grant agreement for County Road 179 Phase 2 improvements from Pheil Drive to the Alabama state line. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, read the resolution on to the record. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion adopting Resolution 26-12 with Commissioner Ellenburg offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution 26-12)

Nate Nolin, County Attorney presented the proposed RFQ 26-07 for design services on the County Road 179 Phase 2 improvement project from Pheil Drive to the Alabama state line. Commissioner Johnson approved advertising the RFQ contingent on verifying the road limits of the project with DOT. Commissioner Ellenberg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(RFQ 26-07)

Chairman Stafford opened the first public hearing to adopt proposed Ordinance 2026-04 permanently banning the development of large-scale data centers and large load customer facilities within unincorporated Holmes County. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that the Planning Commission failed to approve the ordinance at their June 23rd meeting. Attorney Nolin explained that the Board could continue with Ordinance 2026-04 as written or schedule a Workshop to refine the language in the ordinance. John Feeney, Contracted Planner, read Ordinance 2026-04 on to the record. The following items were discussed during the public hearing:

- Planning Commission unanimously voted to not adopt the ordinance, but the commission supports the ban
- Planning Commission recommended further research into the language of the permanent ban to ensure the ordinance is done correctly to avoid litigation
- No applications for a data center have been presented to the Planning Commission or the Board
- Allegations in the Jackson County lawsuit over their data center ban
- Public records request for a development application
- The Sunshine Law prevents the public discussion of a proposed development until the application process is complete
- Learning from and collaborating with the surrounding counties
- Second public hearing on Ordinance 2026-04 scheduled for July 21st at 9:00 a.m.
- One-year moratorium can be extended for another year

The following citizens discussed this matter:

- John Feeney, Contracted Planner
- Jason Powell, Planning Commission Chairman
- Rebecca Peterson
- Steven Peterson
- Marie Bowman
- Daniel Carter
- Garrett Valcourt
- Sarah Johnson

Attorney Nolin advised the Board to follow the recommendation from the Planning Commission and take the time to research the language of the permanent ban further before continuing with the ordinance. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Ellenberg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation with Commissioner Ellenburg offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Ordinance 2026-04)

David Corbin, Project Director, stated that a vehicle exchange has resulted in the Development Commission agreeing to pay for the employer's portion of their secretary's health insurance.

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, stated that three proposals were received in response to the Jail Expansion RFP for design and engineering services. He advised that \$2.25 million has been awarded for the expansion project. Clemons Rutherford & Associates (CRA) from Tallahassee scored the highest. John Tate, Holmes County Sheriff, stated that the jail expansion project is expected to add 64 beds. Commissioner Johnson offered a motion to negotiate with CRA for the design and engineering services. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, advised that an additional \$28,000 is needed for the Turberville Road Bridge replacement project. He stated that the funds are needed due to additional pylons needed to complete the project. Chairman Stafford offered a motion to take the additional funding from LOGT funds. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

John Feeney, Alday-Howell Engineers, recommended awarding the Old Mill Road SCOP construction contract to American Sand & Asphalt. The \$287,117.50 bid came in under budget. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a motion approving the recommendation and for Project Director David Corbin to sign the Notice of Award. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Notice of Award)

Commissioner Ellenburg presented a \$1,283.52 Thompson CAT invoice for new blades to replace the inadequate blades that came on the new cutter machine. He offered a motion to pay the invoice with LOGT funds. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Invoice)

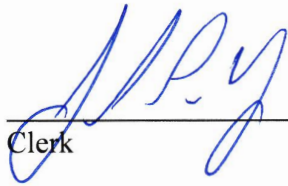
Commissioner Erickson requested that Project Director David Corbin send a work crew to the Highway 79 park on Creek Road to place barricades to prevent vehicles from entering the water and private property. Adjacent property owner, Danielle Dubin, offered to meet with Mr. Corbin to point out property lines.

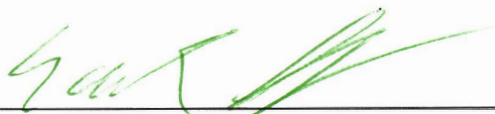
Marie Bowman, a Coursey Road resident, requested an update on the flashing lights for the signs posted on Coursey Road. Commissioner Ellenburg advised that DOT has agreed to sponsor flashing road signs for Coursey Road.

Commissioner Erickson stated that *The Friends of Dogwood Lakes* have expressed a wish to create a park at the Sherwood Drive boat ramp at no cost to the County. The park will consist of picnic tables placed on concrete pads.

Commissioner Ellenburg offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the June 16, 2026 Workshop and the June 16, 2026 Regular Session. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.


Clerk


Chairman