August 4, 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:

- County Attorney Item) Development Commission Executive Director Agreement
- County Coordinator Item) August 18th Regular Session

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

Commissioner Johnson offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the July 21, 2026 Budget Workshop and the July 21, 2026 Regular Session. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Becky Marsh, Holmes County Library Director, presented a report on the Holmes County Library's America 250 activities. She advised that the America 250 grant provided funds to support 22 Library programs with over 1,000 people in attendance. She stated that the State has requested information and pictures from Holmes County's programs to use as promotional material.

Richard Willsey, a private citizen, suggested hiring a Holmes County Fire Marshal since the fire services had been consolidated under the Holmes County Sheriff. John Tate, Holmes County Sheriff, advised that he would have to check with the State about the qualifications for a Fire Marshal.

John Tate, Holmes County Sheriff, discussed the changes he has implemented since taking on the EMS Department. He presented an opportunity for Holmes County to have an air ambulance service full-time in Holmes County. He proposed that the Board execute a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) for Enterprise Rescue to place a medivac helicopter at the Tri-County Airport. Arnold Woodham, Enterprise Rescue, discussed the nonprofit organization's program stating that pilots, mechanics, medical staff and supplies as well as the helicopter would be provided to the County at no cost. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, reviewed and approved of the Board executing the certificate. Jack Locke, Tri-County Airport, discussed the airport's support of the services. Sheriff Tate stated that the local hospital will also utilize the helicopter services to transport patients. Commissioner Johnson offered a motion approving the Chairman's signature on the COPCN certificate. Commissioner Ellenberg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(CPOCN Certificate)

Jane Dellwo, Board Administrative Assistant, presented Modification #2 to Grant Agreement Number H2525 for Project Gateway infrastructure improvements. The modification extends the completion date to July 31, 2027. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the modification with Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Modification)

Jane Dellwo, Board Administrative Assistant, presented Resolution 26-13 adopting the Supplemental Agreement #5 on the Bonifay Gritney Road Phase 2 paving project. The supplemental agreement increases the contract amount by $73,721.00 for geogrid installation and $37,260 to add side drainpipes to the project. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to adopt Resolution 26-13. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Resolution 26-13)
(Supplemental Agreement #5)

Jane Dellwo, Board Administrative Assistant, presented a proposed assignment and assumption of the DEO grant agreement for the Highway 79 Corridor. She stated that the agreement removes Holmes County and Washington County's obligation to the Highway 79 Corridor and conveys all the grant obligations to the City of Bonifay. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the agreement with Commissioner Johnson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

Jane Dellwo, Board Administrative Assistant, presented a summary of the FRDAP grant program and requested a project recommendation from the Board. Discussion included the Dogwood Lakes park on County Road 177A and parking lots at the boat ramps. The Board tabled this matter until the next meeting.

Andy Tharp, Road Department Shop Foreman, presented the grader quotes to replace the eight graders whose lease will terminate starting in February. A Dobbs Equipment representative advised that the County could keep the eight graders currently leased at the same rate by paying an additional $500 per month per unit for a powertrain and hydraulics warranty. He stated that this offer is good for one year. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to keep the current graders and add the one-year warranty. Commissioner Erickson offered a second in the motion passed unanimously.

(Quotes)

Melinda Gates, Interim Executive Director of the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program, requested Board action on the following three items:

- First item was approval to terminate the Interlocal Agreement establishing the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Coalition. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to terminate the interlocal agreement with Commissioner Johnson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.
- Second item was approval to opt-in to the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance Estuary Program Steering Council and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion approving the request. Commissioner Erickson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.
- Third item was to appoint a representative and an alternate to the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance Estuary Program Steering Council. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to appoint Commissioner Wilmer Stafford as the representative with Project Director David Corbin to act as alternate. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

Philip Slater and Brandon McCray, Emergency Watershed Protection Program, discussed the assistance offered by the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program to help local communities recover from qualifying disasters. The presentation included the process of applying for assistance and that the 75/25 required match could be satisfied with in-kind labor.

David Corbin, Project Director, presented a proposed two-year contract extension with Liberty Partners for lobbying services. He stated that there are no changes to the cost of services. Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, discussed the services and support of local activities that Liberty Partners has provided. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the extension. Commissioner Ellenberg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Extension)

David Corbin, Project Director, advised that the Road Department's Operating Supplies budget has been exceeded and requested an additional $5,000 to finish the fiscal year. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to move $5,000 from Road Department Contingencies to the Road Department's Operating Supplies budget. Commissioner Ellenberg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

David Corbin, Project Director, requested approval to reschedule the August 18th Regular Session to Wednesday, August 19th at 9:00 AM due to the election. The Board approved the request by consensus.

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, presented a proposed Affidavit of Acknowledgement for Exemption of Second Residential Structure at 1263 Underwood Road for Riley Jones, the property owner, and Casey Jones, 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 0801.00-000-000-015.100 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, presented a proposed Affidavit of Acknowledgement for Exemption of Second Residential Structure at 2396 Highway 179A for William Hatcher, the property owner, and Carrie Harris, 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 1332.00-000-000-019.000 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 Erickson offered a motion approving the exemption with Commissioner Johnson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Proposed Affidavit)

Jake Mathis, Melvin Engineering, presented an update on the Bonifay Gritney Road paving project. He stated that the contractor has completed the paving of the main road and is currently working on aprons and turnouts. Discussion included placing road material in the dip on Jim Bush Road to prevent erosion. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford discussed the need to consider installing a drainage ditch near Mr. Kneller's property upon completion of the paving project.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented an agreement with the Development Commission to place Chris Lauen, Executive Director of the Holmes County Development Commission, on the County's payroll. He stated that the agreement is for the Development Commission to reimburse all the costs associated with the position as well as any County fuel used by Mr. Lauen. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to place the Development Commission Executive Director on the Board's payroll and allow the use of the County's fuel. The costs are to be reimbursed monthly. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

Commissioner Erickson presented quotes to pave Springhill and Chance Roads. He discussed using LOGT funds to pay for the expenses. Discussion included that the roads have the width and sub-base needed for paving. Residents of the roads discussed the lack of regular road maintenance and spoke in favor of the paving. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to use $312,500 from LOGT funds to pave Spring Hill and Chance Roads. Commissioner Johnson offered a second. Commissioners Erickson and Johnson voted yes with Commissioners Ellenberg, Wilmer Stafford and Chairman Stafford voting no. The motion failed. Commissioner

Erickson offered a motion to purchase rock for the roads in the amount of $15,000 per road using LOGT funds. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Quotes)

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Clerk

Chairman