

August 4, 2026
Special Session
Bonifay, Florida

The Holmes County Board of Commissioners met for a Special 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 5:00 p.m. Project Director David Corbin led the prayer and pledge.

The first agenda item was Agenda Additions and Deletions. No changes were made to the posted agenda. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to accept the agenda with Commissioner Ellenburg offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Stafford advised that the Special Session had been convened to discuss the 2026-2027 budget. Angie Purvee, Finance Director, stated that the 2026-2027 budget shortfall is an estimated \$1.1 million. David Corbin, Project Director, presented the proposed changes to the 2026-2027 budget made by the Budget Committee in addition to the budget changes approved by the Board at the July 21st Regular Session.

(2026-2027 Budget Changes)

David Corbin, Project Director, proposed making the following changes to the 2026-2027 budget for the Board's Department:

- Eliminate Travel = \$1,500
- Eliminate Training = \$1,000
- Eliminate Janitorial Services = \$20,156
- Cancel Membership to Opportunity Florida = \$2,000
- Cancel Membership to National Association of Counties (NACo) = \$500

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to approve the proposed changes to the 2026-2027 budget. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Ellenburg discussed the \$108,473 computer software request submitted by Holmes County Tax Collector Harry Bell. The request included the initial purchase of the software plus an annual maintenance cost of \$32,600. Discussion included the procurement process used to secure the software quote from Net South Inc. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, stated that the Board's procurement policy has a software exemption, but advised bidding out the product due to the high cost. The Board directed Project Director David Corbin and Attorney Nolin to discuss the procurement procedure with the Holmes County Tax Collector.

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, advised that Chief Judge Christopher Patterson has approved using Court Facilities funds to pay for the Courthouse's air conditioner and elevator maintenance. This change will remove approximately \$9,000 from the Board's Department budget annually.

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford discussed the cost of allowing Road Department employees to bury dead animals as a courtesy to County residents. Discussion included that approximately half of the Road Department's employee overtime expenditure can be attributed to this service and that the service can be eliminated by Project Director David Corbin as it is not a Board policy. Mr. Corbin will calculate the cost of offering this service and discuss it further at the next budget meeting.

Commissioner Erickson discussed the efforts to combine the Road Department's District 3 and District 5. He proposed turning off the utilities to the District 5 yard and selling the property. Discussion of this matter included the following:

- The 53-acre District 5 dirt pit is located on Long Round Bay Road
- Estimated amount of the sale proceeds
- FWC lease on the property for water and power
- Other County-owned properties that could be sold and placed back on the tax roll
- Obtaining an appraisal of the property

Richard Willsey, a private citizen, clarified the amount of acreage in the District 5 property. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised bidding out the realtor services. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to obtain realtor quotes to sell the District 5 dirt pit property. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board directed Project Director David Corbin to find out the status of the closed County landfill.

The Board discussed the impact should the pending property tax reform be approved by voters in November. Discussion included that imposing any additional special taxes must be in effect before January 1, 2027. Additional revenue could be obtained by imposing added sales tax, franchise fees and gas taxes. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that the Small County 1 cent sales surtax was capped out and that the 1 cent for Fire Rescue Services was the only additional sales surtax available. Attorney Nolin reviewed the statutory requirements for the use of the revenue and that the tax must be voter approved. Rusty Williams, Holmes County Supervisor of Elections, stated that the ballot deadline is August 25th. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to move forward with an ordinance implementing an Emergency Fire Rescue Services surtax up to 1 percent. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously. The Board stated that the Emergency Fire Rescue Services surtax revenue would not need to be shared with the municipalities as the county-wide services fall under the Sheriff's authority.

Richard Willsey, a private citizen, discussed the School Board Capital Outlay half-cent surtax that will be on the November ballot.

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford discussed reducing the number of porta potties rented by the County for parks and boat landings.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m.


Clerk


Chairman