

July 21, 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.

Melissa Kabaci, Deputy Clerk, was present and kept the minutes.

Chairman Stafford called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.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:

- County Coordinator) Letters Regarding Constitutional Officers – added

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

Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the July 7, 2026 Special Session and the July 7, 2026 Regular Session. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Sara Johnson, a private citizen, requested clarification on the status of the data center permanent ban. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that the Board and the Planning Commission continue to work on the ordinance placing a permanent ban on the data centers. Ms. Johnson requested that the Board schedule a Special Session to discuss the ban. John Feeney, Contracted Planner, stated that the data center ban will be discussed at the Planning Commission meeting scheduled for July 28th at 5:00 p.m.

Andy Tharp, Road Department Shop Foreman, advised that the lease on the Road Department's eight graders will begin to terminate in February 2027. He stated that renewing the existing leases will be without warranties, making the County responsible for all repairs. David Habbard, Dobbs Equipment, stated that new leases for four of the graders can be signed in January at the same lease price with the purchase of a warranty. Mr. Habbard will return to the next meeting with the cost of the warranties. A Thompson CAT representative presented state-contract lease options for new Caterpillar graders. Thompson CAT will return to the next meeting with the cost of all the available lease options. Discussion included advertising an RFP for graders comparable to the County's current graders. The Board agreed by consensus for Project Director David Corbin and Shop Foreman Andy Tharp to consider the numbers submitted by both companies and present a recommendation at the next meeting.

Jane Dellwo, Board Administrative Assistant, presented a proposed two-year traffic signal maintenance agreement with Griffin Signs. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the agreement with Commissioner Erickson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

Melissa Kabaci, Deputy Clerk, advised that two Commissioners needed to be appointed to serve on the Value Adjustment Board (VAB). Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to appoint Chairman Stafford and Commissioner Ellenburg to the VAB. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Melissa Kabaci, Deputy Clerk, advised that a VAB Chairman needs to be appointed to serve on the Value Adjustment Board (VAB). Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to appoint Chairman Stafford as the VAB Chairman. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Stafford recommended appointing Anthony Register as the homestead property owner on the Value Adjustment Board (VAB). Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the recommendation. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Sam Bailey, Holmes County Clerk, requested that the Board set the proposed millage rate for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Discussion included that the Board cannot increase the proposed millage rate without notifying all County citizens. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to set the 2026-2027 proposed millage rate at 10.0000. Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Sam Bailey, Holmes County Clerk, requested the Board schedule a Tentative Budget Hearing between September 3, 2026 and September 18, 2026. The Board agreed by consensus to schedule the Tentative Budget Hearing for Tuesday, September 8th at 5:01 p.m.

David Corbin, Project Director, requested instructions for handling the constitutional officers that failed to reduce their 2026-2027 budgets by the requested 5%. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to have Mr. Corbin talk with the officers about the consequences of not reducing their budget requests. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, discussed projects that are on the Board's 2026-2027 budget that may qualify for grant funding. The Board requested that Mr. Parson seek any grant funding that may qualify.

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, advised that Clemons Rutherford & Associates (CRA) should have their proposal and a rough draft budget of the Jail Expansion project available soon.

Jon Sims, Dewberry Engineers, stated that the Turbeville Road Bridge replacement project should be completed next month.

Jake Mathis, Melvin Engineering, presented an update on the Bonifay Gritney Road paving project and the Project Gateway infrastructure work.

John Feeny, Alday-Howell Engineers, advised that a pre-construction meeting is scheduled for the Old Mill Road SCOP project next week.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, stated that the RFQ for engineering services will be advertised later this month. Discussion included the number of engineering contracts the County will award and that the County's current engineering firms will be required to submit a response. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for the Board to score the submittals. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second. Commissioners Ellenburg, Wilmer Stafford and Erickson voted yes with Commissioner Johnson and Chairman Stafford voting no. The motion passed.

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford stated that the bridge donated by Walton County for the Turbeville Road bridge replacement project did not have the required steel posts. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to use \$1,200 from LOGT funds to have steel posts modified for the project. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford discussed leaving five positions in the Road Department vacant until the 2026-2027 budget discussions are completed. Discussion included filling positions temporarily or moving forward with the Road Department consolidation through transfers within the districts. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford made a motion to implement the following changes within the Road Department effective immediately:

- Eliminate one Road Maintenance Tech position in Districts 1, 2 and 4 each
- Consolidate Districts 3 and 5 under one foreman
- Eliminate one Road Maintenance Tech position in Districts 3 and 5
- Award a 3% pay increase to the remaining Road Department employees
- Sell two dump trucks in the August auction

Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second. Commissioners Ellenburg, Wilmer Stafford, Erickson, and Chairman Stafford voted yes with Commissioner Johnson voted no. The motion passed.

Commissioner Ellenburg presented a list of unused Road Department equipment with the expected auction proceeds from the JM Wood Auction Company. Commissioner Ellenburg declared the listed equipment as surplus to sell at the August auction minus the reclainer. The auction proceeds are to be used to reimburse the LOGT funds. Commissioner Erickson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Equipment List)

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford directed Project Director David Corbin to get quotes for t-shirts for the Road Department employees.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Clerk 

Chairman 