

August 13, 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 (late), 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. The following item was deleted from the posted agenda:

- Agenda Item) Budget Discussion

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

Chairman Stafford opened the first public hearing for Ordinance 26-05 providing for the levying of a one percent Emergency Fire Rescue Services and Facilities surtax. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, discussed the following requirements of the surtax:

- Surtax is not a MSBU or a special assessment
- Surtax must be approved by voter referendum
- Performance audit by a CPA firm required 180 days before the surtax can appear on a ballot
- Must be on a General Election ballot with the earliest available ballot in 2028

Discussion included the cost of the performance audit. The Board agreed to table this matter until closer to 2028.

Becky Miller, Florida Sheriffs Employee Benefits Trust, presented the quote for the County's employee health insurance from United Healthcare. She advised that Florida Blue had an initial 40% premium increase, but she is still in negotiations for a revised quote. David Corbin, Project Director, presented the Insurance Committee's following recommendations:

- Impose a deadline of Monday, August 17th at 10:00 a.m. for Florida Blue to submit a revised quote
- Accept the quote for the three plans from United Healthcare should Florida Blue fail to meet the deadline or revise their quote
- Eliminate the "free" health insurance plan and require a \$25/month deduction from the employee

Ms. Miller discussed the process that will be implemented for employees who have pre-existing medical conditions should the County's insurance carrier change. The Board agreed by consensus to allow Ms. Miller to present the quotes and recommendations at the August 19th Regular Session.

(Quote)

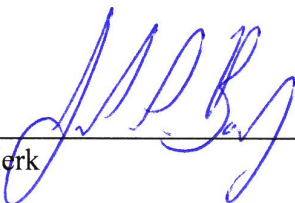
Nate Nolin, County Attorney, requested directions from the Board on filing appeals to the Department of Revenue (DOR) on the 2026-2027 budgets submitted by the Holmes County Property Appraiser and the Holmes County Tax Collector. He advised that the Board must move forward with the present budget requests during the appeals process. Attorney Nolin stated that should DOR approve the budget requests, the Board then must appeal to the Governor. Discussion included the statutory requirements for the Board to cover each office's expenditures and the potential cost for filing an appeal. Attorney Nolin advised that it is doubtful the appeal would be successful. The Board agreed by consensus to not file an appeal on the Holmes County Property Appraiser and the Holmes County Tax Collector's 2026-2027 budgets.

Commissioner Erickson discussed the over \$1 million shortfall on the 2026-2027 budget. John Tate, Holmes County Sheriff, discussed the difficulty of cutting the budget for the various departments under his authority, supplementing his budget with grants and returning money to the Board each year. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to use the following funds to balance the 2026-2027 budget:

- \$250,000 expected sale proceeds from the District 5 dirt pit on Long Round Bay Road
- \$848,000 from FEMA Validated Funds
- Eliminate the \$108,000 computer software request from the Tax Collector
- Any unanticipated revenue would pay back FEMA Validated Funds

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second for discussion. Angie Purvee, Finance Director, cautioned against using non-recurring funds to balance the budget. Commissioners Ellenburg, Wilmer Stafford and Chairman Stafford voted no. The motion failed.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.


Clerk


Chairman