

September 1, 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 changes were made to the posted agenda:

- County Coordinator Item) Tri-County Airport – added
- Commissioner Item) Wrights Creek Road Speed Limit – added
- Commissioner Item) District Cut Crews – deleted
- Commissioner Item) Meeting with DOT – added
- Agenda Item) Ag Center Update – added
- Agenda Item) Opioid Settlement Agreement – added
- County Attorney Item) Complaint - 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 August 13, 2026 Special Session, the August 19, 2026 Budget Workshop and the August 19, 2026 Regular Session. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Johnathan Cobb, 2321 Pinkston Drive, requested assistance with repairs to his private drive so that emergency services can safely reach his home. Discussion included that Mr. Cobb's access to his property runs through private property owned by Percy Preston Fish, Jr., and that Mr. Cobb has been unable to locate the easement paperwork to his property. The Board advised that the County cannot go onto private property or spend tax money to repair private property.

Rodney Bowers, a private citizen, requested clarification on the requirement for new subdivision developments to pave roads to the homes and install underground utilities. John Feeney, Contracted Planner, stated that the new code will require any developments over three homes to have a single access road and interior roads. He advised that roads dedicated to the County must meet Roadway Improvement Standards. The developer of the property next to Mr. Bowers will fall under the old code that does not require an access road and can have driveways directly to the main highway. Commissioner Erickson advised that underground utilities are not a requirement, but rather an incentive offered by some developers.

Anthony Register, a private citizen, expressed his appreciation of the work done by the Holmes County Sheriff Department's road crew as well as the Board's decision to combine the Road Department's District 3 and 5. Mr. Register thanked Project Director David Corbin for extending his resignation until the new commissioners begin in November.

Tim McClain, a Longs Lane resident, requested road maintenance on Longs Lane in District 3 to cut back the bushes that have overgrown into the road. Commissioner Johnson advised that his foreman would take care of the request.

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, requested that the Board impose a purchase order cutoff date of September 16th for all departments. She advised that emergency purchase orders approved by Project Director David Corbin would still be issued. Commissioner Johnson offered a motion to grant the purchase cutoff date request. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Kalyn Waters, Extension Service Director, advised that the roof continues to leak at the new Ag Center building. She stated that Johnson Roofing believed they found the source of the leak.

John Tate, Holmes County Sheriff, presented the 2026-2027 Northwest Florida Opioid Agreement for funds received by the County from the opioid lawsuit settlement. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the agreement with Commissioner Johnson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

David Corbin, Project Director, requested reappointment of Roy Brooks to Seat 3 of the Tri-County Airport Authority Board. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion granting the request with Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Chris Lauen, Development Commission Director, advised that the Busy Bee owners stated that the Ellisville site must be completed first before starting construction of the Bonifay Busy Bee. They estimated that construction would begin in approximately 14 months. Discussion included the existence of a contract that requires the Busy Bee to open by 2027 and the effect the delay will have on the job creation grant requirement. Garrett Valcourt, Development Commission Board, will search for the contract and report back to the Board.

Chris Lauen, Development Commission Director, requested reappointment of Judy Powell and Johnny Sutton to the Development Commission Board. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to grant the request. Commissioner Erickson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

James Sowinski, Liberty Partners, expressed Liberty Partner's appreciation for the work Project Director David Corbin has done on their behalf.

Rod Adams, Melvin Engineering, stated that the Bonifay Gritney Road paving project has been completed with the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) to conduct a ride through tomorrow. Mr. Adams stated that the Project Gateway infrastructure project should be completed by the end of the year.

John Feeney, Alday Howell Engineers, presented the contractor's concern about placing rumble striping on the edge of County Road 185 as part of the road improvement project. The contractor has offered to place raised reflector markers on the edge of the road at no additional cost to the County. Another option is to reduce the speed limit on the road which could result in monetary credit from DOT on the project. The Board agreed by consensus to have the raised reflector markers placed on the edge of the road.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, stated that the County had been served with a complaint from the Florida Action Committee stating that the County's sex registration requirements are too stringent. Mr. Nolin advised that the County would be joining with the surrounding counties served with the same complaint to respond to the federal lawsuit.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised of a potential encroachment that resulted in some timber being removed from the County's right of way on County Road 160. The Board directed Mr. Nolin and Project Director David Corbin to work with the individuals to count the stumps and figure reparations.

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford requested that Rod Adams, Melvin Engineering, generate a ten-year maintenance plan for Joe Manning Road. He stated that this road is adjacent to the Pilot Travel Center with semi-trucks using the road frequently. Mr. Adams agreed to create the maintenance plan.

Commissioner Ellenburg discussed the law enforcement activities at Lake Cassidy for the past eight months. John Tate, Holmes County Sheriff, advised that law enforcement has been present at the lake, but it has been relatively quiet. Commissioner Ellenburg presented a proposal for Lake Cassidy access effective January 1, 2027. He proposed to have 500 in-state decals available at \$100 each and 20 out-of-state decals available at \$500.00 each. Commissioner Ellenburg stated that should the out-of-state permits fail to be purchased by May 15th, they will revert to in-state decals. Discussion of this proposal included the need for a keyless solar-powered gate and putting the decal revenue towards improvement projects. The Board expressed their appreciation to the volunteers that open and close the entrance gates to Lake Cassidy daily. The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Dylan Skinner
- Hamp Yates
- Tina Rushing

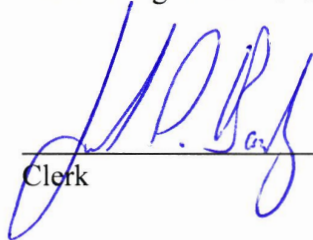
- Nathan Morrow
- John Feeney, Contracted Planner

Commissioner Ellenberg offered a motion to impose these rates beginning January 1, 2027 and for the revenue to be used to purchase a solar-powered gate. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Ellenberg advised that he and Project Director David Corbin met with DOT about the intersection of County Road 185 in Highway 81. DOT has offered to place bigger stop signs with flashing lights at the intersection in an effort to make it safer.

Chairman Stafford discussed changing the speed limit on Wrights Creek Road. Discussion included that the speed limit is 55 unless posted differently. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to reduce the speed limit on Wright's Creek Road to 35 mph. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second in the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.


Clerk


Chairman