

September 28, 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 5:15 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) Building Official - added
- County Coordinator Item) Road Department District 3.5 - added
- Commissioner Item) Development Commission – moved to first Agenda Item

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

Rodney Bowers, Commissioner-Elect, clarified that he will officially begin serving his commissioner term of office on November 17th.

Commissioner Erickson discussed reorganizing the Development Commission (DC) Board or placing the Board under the direct authority of the Commissioners. Discussion included the following:

- Difficulty having the required quorum present at the DC meetings
- Reducing the DC Board from 12 members to 5 or 7
- Legislative action needed to change the charter and by-laws
- Lack of communication and transparency between the DC Board and the Commissioners
- Allowing the DC Board to screen members before the Commissioners make an appointment
- Past efforts to schedule joint meetings between the DC Board and the Commissioners
- New Development Commission Director
- Busy Bee contract and construction timeline
- DC's efforts to encourage new businesses and assist existing businesses
- Sunshine violations and needed changes
- DC expanding into residential and educational development

The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Doyle Majors, Development Commission Board Chairman
- Rickey Callahan, former Development Commission Board Chairman
- Garrett Valcourt, Development Commission Board Member
- Angie Willsey, private citizen
- Mike Alvis, private citizen
- Judy Powell, Development Commission Board Member

The Board requested that Chairman Doyle Majors schedule a joint meeting between the Development Commission Board and the Commissioners.

Chairman Stafford opened the public hearing for Ordinance 2026-08 which imposes an additional five cents tax (ELMS Nickel) per gallon on fuel purchased in Holmes County. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, read the resolution on to the record. Discussion included the current amount of fuel taxes, the allowed uses of the tax revenue and that the revenue is shared with the municipalities within the county. The Board agreed to revisit imposing the additional gas tax if the Amendment 3 property tax reform referendum fails. The following private citizens discussed this matter:

- Charles Peacock
- Paige Fleming
- Scott Roebuck

Chairman Stafford closed the public hearing. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-08. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that the ordinance could be filed with the State before an agreement is reached with the municipalities.

(Ordinance 2026-08)

Jane Dellwo, Board Administrative Assistant, presented a task order for Metric Engineering to file the 2026-2027 quarterly reports required by the Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM) on disaster recovery projects. She advised that the task order states the expense will not exceed \$5,000. Commissioner Johnson offered a motion approving the task order using 2026-2027 Board Contingencies. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Task Order)

Jane Dellwo, Board Administrative Assistant, presented an agreement with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement adding \$1.25 million to the Holmes County Jail Expansion project. She stated that this would bring the total amount available to \$2.25 million. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the agreement with Commissioner Ellenburg offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

Keith Bennett, Holmes County Building Official, presented a request for approval of a 3% cost of living pay increase for the Building Department employees. He advised that his previously submitted resignation has been withdrawn and the pay increase would be paid with permit revenue funds. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to move funds from the 2026-2027 Building Department Contingencies to fund the requested pay increase. Commissioner Wade Ellenburg offered a second. Commissioners Johnson, Wilmer Stafford, Ellenburg and Chairman Stafford voted yes with Commissioner Erickson voting no. The motion passed.

(Request)

Commissioner Erickson discussed the problems created by consolidating Road Department Districts 3 and 5. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to change the vacant Heavy Equipment Operator position to a District 5 Public Works Supervisor position. As part of his motion, District 3 and District 5 would each have a Public Works Supervisor, Grader Operator, Heavy Equipment Operator and a Road Maintenance Tech position. The unconsolidation will cost approximately \$11,000 which will be funded by 2026-2027 Road Department Contingencies. The change will be effective Thursday, October 8th. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Clerk

Chairman