October 6, 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 6:31 p.m.

The first agenda item was Agenda Additions and Deletions. The following changes were made to the posted agenda:

- Liberty Partners Item) Holmes County Jail Expansion Design Contract – added
- Agenda Item) Arthropod FDACS Contract - deleted
- Commissioner Item) Garbage Franchise Contracts – moved to second Agenda Item
- Commissioner Item) Property Appraiser and Tax Collector Storage Unit – added

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

Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the following meetings:

- September 15, 2026 Special Session
- September 15, 2026 Regular Session
- September 28, 2026 Final Budget Hearing
- September 28, 2026 Special Session

Commissioner Johnson offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, presented a proposed Affidavit of Acknowledgement for Exemption of Second Residential Structure at 1154 Coates Road for Harold and Rhonda Stewart, the property owners, and Betty Griner-Shuler, the affiant, to execute. Mr. Feeney stated that the affidavit acknowledges that the Board is granting the exemption for a second residential structure to be placed on Parcel ID Number 0736.00-000-000-013.000 for an immediate family member. He advised the updated Land Development Regulations (LDR) will make provisions for immediate family members. Mr. Feeney recommended approval of the exemption. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion approving the exemption with Commissioner Johnson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Affidavit)

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, presented Ordinance 26-06 for a public hearing. He stated that the ordinance changes the future land use designation for Parcel No. 1002.00-000-000-08.330 from Rural Residential to Low Density Residential to allow for a second residence. Mr. Feeney stated that the Planning Commission unanimously approved Ordinance 26-06 and he recommended approval. Discussion included that the public hearing required for the ordinance was not placed on the agenda but was advertised in the local newspaper. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that an agenda is not required by law and recommended moving forward with

the public hearing. Mike Alvis, Performance Realty, stated that he represented the property owner and that all the adjacent property owners were notified of the public hearing. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion to adopt Ordinance 26-06 with Commissioner Ellenburg offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Ordinance 26-06)

Garett Valcourt, a private citizen, discussed how a public hearing should be listed on the agenda.

Richard Willsey, a private citizen, requested clarity of agenda items, spoke against imposing the additional fuel tax recently approved by the Board and the Board giving pay increases to County employees when balancing the budget was so challenging.

Garett Valcourt, a private citizen, discussed how some County employees did not receive a cost-of-living pay increase.

Jimmy Mixon, Northwest Sanitation, stated that two of Northwest Sanitation's garbage trucks are down for repairs. He currently has one functioning garbage truck and that is the reason his customers are not receiving their customary garbage pickup. The Board advised that the matter will be discussed later in the meeting as an agenda item.

The following citizens protested the levying of the ELMS Nickel, an additional five cent fuel tax:

- Terry Mears
- Garett Valcourt
- Tracy McAdams

Discussion included that the ELMS Nickel is not imposed on diesel, giving pay increases to County employees while imposing more taxes and local citizens going to other counties to purchase fuel. The Board agreed to revisit charging the additional fuel tax if the Amendment 3 property tax reform referendum fails to pass.

Commissioner Erickson discussed the complaints he has received about Northwest Sanitation failing to pick up garbage and the possibility of using Waste Management as a sole source garbage service provider for the County. Jimmy Mixon, Northwest Sanitation, discussed his wish to continue Northwest Sanitation's garbage service and his efforts to repair two garbage trucks. Discussion included that a new local garbage service is illegally using trailers to haul garbage and how the Northwest Sanitation customers who have paid in advance should be managed. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, advised that the ordinance regulating the County's garbage services would have to be amended to allow for temporary use of dump trailers. Garett Valcourt, a private citizen, clarified the Board's authority over the garbage franchises. Kevin Conner, Household Disposal Service, offered to provide the parts needed to repair the Northwest Sanitation garbage trucks. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion to allow Northwest Sanitation to use tarped dump trailers until January 2027 to give time for the company to complete the repairs and catch up on the service. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Stafford called for a five-minute recess.

Upon reconvening, Project Director David Corbin presented the 2026-2027 Interlocal Agreement for Medical Examiner Services. He advised that the fees in the agreement have been budgeted. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the agreement with Commissioner Johnson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Agreement)

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, presented a proposed contract for Clemons, Rutherford & Associates, Inc. to provide design services for the $2.25 million Holmes County Jail Expansion project. He advised that negotiations with the firm resulted in a $165,000 reduction in design fees. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, reviewed and recommended approval of the contract. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the contract with Commissioner Johnson offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

(Contract)

Tim Parson, Liberty Partners, advised that Governor DeSantis has issued a State of Emergency for 25 Florida counties due to the impending landfall of Hurricane Isaias.

Rod Adams, Melvin Engineering, presented Change Order #1 for the Old Mill Road improvement project. He advised that $4,750 was added to the grant amount to install a needed culvert. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a motion approving the change order. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Change Order #1)

Rod Adams, Melvin Engineering, presented the close-out documentation and the final pay request for the Bonifay-Gritney Road paving project. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion for the Chairman to sign the documentation. Commissioner Ellenburg offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Close-out Documentation & Final Pay Request)

Chairman Stafford requested $8,500 to purchase rock for Pine Straw Alley/Monroe Paul Road. He stated that the road connects to the paved Flowing Well Road and $5,000 of rock has already been purchased. Chairman Stafford requested the use of LOGT funds to purchase additional rock to be placed on Pine Straw Alley/Monroe Paul Road to County Road 177. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the request with Commissioner Ellenburg offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Ellenburg discussed amending the County Policy to require department heads to coordinate travel with Project Director David Corbin. Nate Nolin, County Attorney, stated that the County's insurance company verified that there is risk in allowing private citizens to travel in County vehicles. Discussion included that travel must be for work purposes only. Garett Valcourt, Development Commission Board Member, advised

that the Development Commission Director routinely transports private citizens to encourage business growth. The Board agreed by consensus to have County Attorney Nate Nolin amend the current travel policy to address these issues.

Chairman Stafford stated that the 2026-2027 final budget eliminated payment on the storage unit for the Holmes County Property Appraiser and Tax Collector. He stated that one more month is needed to remove the items from the storage unit. Commissioner Johnson offered a motion to pay one month for the storage unit to allow time to remove all items. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Clerk

Chairman