

Holt Fire District Commission Meeting Minutes

PLACE: Holt Fire Station, 483 Hwy 90 W, Holt, FL

DATE and TIME of MEETING: 12 May 2026/1830 hours

ATTENDANCE: Jim Connors, Stephanie Holcombe, Tim Pitzer (via Phone), Chief Scott Chestnut, Darry Childs, Roger Myers

MEMBERS ABSENT:

VISITORS:

EMERGENCY RESPONSES: 272 calls as of 12 May 2026.

COST RECOVERY: Submissions: 8 Funds gained: 931.91

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Meeting minutes from March 2026 were reviewed and approved (No meeting in April) as amended. The financial report was reviewed and approved for the month of April 2026.

STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS – (Open for Monthly Status Update)

a. Vehicles:

QR-31 – Good
CH-31 – Good
Engine 31 – Good
Engine 32 – Good
Engine 33 – Good, awaiting pump test
QR-32 – Good
QR-33 - Good
RES-31 – Good, Exhaust fixed

b. Volunteer Membership: 22 Volunteers – 16 Firefighters, 6 Support Staff.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Fundraising Schedule

1) Donation Letter		\$
2) Rib Sale	Feb. 2026	\$2629
3) Rib Sale	May 2026	\$
4) Rib Sale	10 & 11 Oct. 2025	\$3,745
5) Gun Raffle	31 Oct. 2025	\$2,100
6) Picture Fundraiser	June 2027	\$
7) Haunted house	22, 23, 24, 29, 30 Oct. 2026	\$

b. Chief Chestnut: Truck bay. Need to remove concrete encroaching neighboring property and frame out a door into the structure (OPEN)

c. Chief Chestnut: Grants. (OPEN)

- 1.) The 2026 Assistance to Firefighters Grant will open in June.
- 2.) Working on DoF 50/50 grant

- d. Mr. Connors: Fire station funding. Discussed situation with Nathan Boyles and he will do some research on coming up with money for the new station, will change proposal to reflect. He stated it was smart to go for a new engine. Should know something by 1 July 2026(OPEN)
- e. Chief Chestnut: The Department will be doing an internal performance review and will be working on new SOPs. Planning on doing 2 a week, should be done in 3 months. (OPEN)
- f. Chief Chestnut: Purchasing current property. Purchase of property requires buying two parcels. Current appraisal was \$375,000. Made a purchase offer Scott Kearney dependent on the State changing the color of money we currently have for the new station to purchase the property. Still no decision or counteroffer. Will check with Mr. Kearney for a decision. (OPEN)
- g. Chief Chestnut: Rescue 31. Received the Kussmall truck charging system, awaiting installation. Exhaust has been fixed, paid \$3500 using the credit card (OPEN)
- h. Chief Chestnut: VFIS insurance recommendations (OPEN)
 - a. Connect emergency generator, will be looking for a grant
 - b. SOPs and department policies
 - c. Firefighter physicals: (to be discussed at 13 November 2025 firefighter training meeting)
 - i. 18-29, every 3 years
 - ii. 29-50, every 2 years
 - iii. Over 50, every year
 - d. Hose securement: Looking for hose bed covers. We should have quotes for three engines for the next meeting. Engine 32 will be first. (Working)
- i. Chief Chestnut: Fire station lighting. A motion was made and adopted to spend \$1500 to replace lighting via a self-help project. Offices and exterior lighting is all that need to be replaced (OPEN)
- j. Mr. Connors: Impact fee referendum. Spoke with Paul Lux, supervisor of elections, regarding putting referendum on the ballot to increase impact fees. Referendums must go on a general election ballot, not a primary ballot. Next general election ballot is November 2026. He needs a final copy NLT end of July 2026. Must contain a clearly worded title not to exceed 75 words. Board approved a referendum to increase to \$1 dollar a square foot for residential and \$2 a square foot for commercial property with a caveat to be able to increase the fees above the current percentage as needed. New fees would go into effect in 2027. North Okaloosa Fire District Chief Dennis McMaster offered to share with us the referendum he put together last year. Mr. Connors took a draft to attorney Jon Holloway to write the referendum. Mr. Connors and Shelly Chestnut talked with attorney Jon Holloway. Still working (OPEN)
- k. Mr. Pitzer: Capt. Chestnut will pursue StarLink for business with an option for a VOIP land line. Cost for startup under a business plan is \$2,192. Once Star Link is up and running, the current communications package will be terminated, and the telephone number will be transferred. The board approved \$3,000 for the new Internet service. Update: Looking to keep up with current service and see if MediaCom can lower bill. Will also check for cost with Cox. No Change (Open)
- l. Chief Chestnut: FPL and MOSS had concerns with our department email being a yahoo address. We have looked a .org email through GoDaddy for \$70.84 a year. Will follow up with Capt. Chestnut. A Motion was made and approved to go with GoDaddy for \$216.90 for 10 years to get .org emails and a .org URL. The department will keep the .com site as well (open)

- m. Chief Chestnut: \$200,000 donation from FPL for a new truck has been deposited, an additional \$50,000 is being donated by MOSS. The department would like to purchase and build a specialized response vehicle to meet the needs of FPL solar farm. Justin Barrow and Carl Day briefed the board and provided a detailed estimate to build the vehicle. A motion was made and adopted to build the vehicle for \$180,000 based on the estimate provided. Working (Open)
- n. Mr. Pitzer: A motion was made and adopted to approve contingent on the receipt of the \$50,000 from MOSS the outfitting of the 2 donated F-150” for emergency responses with small CAF systems for a total of \$247,000 of the donated \$250,000. Money has been deposited from MOSS; work will progress on the two F-150’s. Parts are coming in for the F-350, which will be the main focus on getting it complete by April 2026(Open)
- o. Ms. Holcombe: Working on the department’s donation letter looking for inputs and will try to have them mailed out by March 15th. Waiting on information. Letter has been completed; we will put it on the website and shoot for March 2027 to mail out to the community. (Working)

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Mr. Connors: A motion was made and adopted to approve non-recurring transactions for the month of April.
- b. Mr. Connors: Rib sale will be 22 and 23 May 2026, we will be cooking 270 ribs and will plan on charging \$22 a rack unless there is a significant increase to purchase the ribs.
- c. Mr. Connors: Emailed assessments for review, need to have results submitted by June 2026
- d. Mr. Connors: Workers Comp increased \$909 and is due the end of May. Received \$8108 impact fee from the new owners of the racetrack.
- e. Mr. Connors: The draft of resolution 2026-01 Non-ad Valorem Assessment rate increase has been approved by the board and will be turned in by June.
- f. Mr. Connors: A motion was made and adopted to us FPL donation money to outfit the two new F-150’s with \$27,396 worth of tools

NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT AND ADJOURNMENT: The next Holt Fire District commission meeting will be held on 9 June 2026 at 1830 at the Fire Station. The meeting was adjourned at 19:37 hours.

Jim Connors
Chairperson, Holt Fire District Commission

Attachments:

- 1. April Financial Report
- 2. Signed Non-recurring Transaction Letter
- 3. Resolution 2026-01