

**Minutes**  
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
225 North Board Street  
March 22, 2022

The Thomas County Board of Commissioners met on the above date in a regular scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse, Commission Chambers, with the following board members present:

**Mark NeSmith, Chairman, Dist. 4**  
Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1  
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3  
Phillip V. Brown, District 7

**Wiley E. Grady, Vice-Chair, Dist. 6**  
Moses Gross, District 2  
Donnie L. Baggett, District 5  
Zippy T. Vonier, District 8

Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, Attorney Joseph Cargile, Planning Director Ken Gay, Zoning Administrator Donna Holbert, Emergency Services Director Derrick Ogletree, Fleet Services Director Jamie Parrott, Sheriff Carlton Powell, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

News/Media present: Chris Hurst, WPAX

Chairman NeSmith called the meeting to order, and Commissioner Brown gave the invocation.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2022 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Ken Gay who updated the Board on the status of Re-zoning Application #22-2-1 (Monte Ott, property owner). The Thomas County Zoning Department presented a plan to Mr. Ott with the following conditions: 1. Install an eight ft. fence along the entire perimeter of the property. The fencing shall be eight feet in height and constructed of wood and/or masonry with 100% opacity. Shrubs shall be installed and maintained on the exterior of the fence. The shrubs shall be types such as Loropetalum, Ligustrum, Holly, and etc. on six foot spacing. 2. There shall be no ingress/egress onto Rena Ridge. 3. Parking lot, fence, and landscape plans/details shall be submitted to the Planning Department for approval and recording before installation. Mr. Ott agreed to the conditions.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve Application #22-2-1 with the conditions as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Fleet Services Director Jamie Parrott who requested the following vehicles to be deemed Surplus and authorization to be placed on the online auction, GovDeals.

Unit# 144 2005 Ford Expedition 1FMPU15575LA93548  
Unit# 104 1995 Ford F150 1FTEF15Y1SNB27760  
Unit# 213 1999 F250 1FDNW20L2XEA73471 Needs an engine  
Unit# 10-98 2010 Dodge Charger 2B3AA4CT3AH203249 Needs transmission  
Unit# 14-276 2013 Dodge Charger 2C3CDXATXDH721967 Needs engine

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the request to deem the vehicles as surplus and to authorize the Fleet Services Department to place the vehicles on GovDeals.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

**Open Meeting to the Citizens:** Chairman NeSmith recognized Mr. Monte Ott of 16127 Hwy 84 East, Thomasville, GA 31757. Mr. Ott addressed the fencing condition for Rezoning Application #22-2-1. He requested consideration of a metal fence versus a wood fence for aesthetic and curb appeal reasons. The Board is open to this request; however, the neighbors would have to be informed and given an opportunity to respond. Planning Director Ken Gay will send a notice to John Holt, attorney representing War Eagle Capital, LLC and let him know what came up in the Public Comments.

**Reports:**

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Stephenson who asked for an extension on the Moratorium for Residential Rezoning until May 31, 2022. The Board also set the date for a Work Session regarding the Moratorium for April 13, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to extend the Residential Rezoning Moratorium until May 31, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the purchase of diesel fuel from Petroleum Products for \$3.3350/gal on March 16, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to proceed with a Public Hearing for the road closure of Suber Road. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

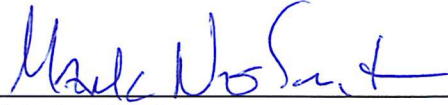
Commissioner Hickey made a motion to ratify the Request for Proposals (RFP) for engineering for Wade Chastain Rd. and Centennial Rd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Hickey made a motion to ratify the approval to purchase stock concrete pipe. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who commended the Emergency Services staff for working diligently on the preparation for the upcoming ISO audit. The Committee recommends moving forward with the vehicle purchases in order to get prices locked in. Commissioner Grady made the motion to approve the purchase of 1 new engine, 1 new tanker/pumper, 2 used pumpers and 2 ambulances. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. In discussion, Commissioner Vonier expressed a different point of view when assessing the current vehicle inventory divided by the 16 fire stations. Commissioner Gross also shared his concerns with purchasing used vehicles. The motion passed 6-2-0 with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Rich voting aye and Commissioners Gross and Vonier voting nay.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and

Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.



Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:



Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk