

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
December 13, 2022

The Thomas County Board of Commissioners met on the above date in a regular scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.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 (absent)

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, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Planning Director Ken Gay, Public Works Director Tony Bodiford, E-911 director Whitney Hopkins, Transit Director Cory McGee, Tax Commissioner Alicia Hester, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

News/Media present: Jill Holloway, Thomasville Times Enterprise; Chris Hurst, WPAX radio

Chairman NeSmith called the meeting to order, and Corey McGee gave the invocation.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 22, 2022 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Open Meeting to the Citizens: Chairman NeSmith recognized Mr. Chandler Giddes of 18938 GA Hwy 3, Thomasville, Georgia and Executive Director of the Thomasville – Thomas County Humane Society. Mr. Giddes expressed hope, although dwindling, that the County and the Humane Society can reach an agreement to remain in partnership. He stated that the Humane Society has far exceeded the contractual agreement, elevated animal services, been a positive impact on the community, and believes its value is well shown and documented. Chairman NeSmith recognized Mr. Colin Dougherty of 104 East Past-time Drive, Thomasville, Georgia a volunteer with the Thomasville-Thomas County Humane Society. Mr. Dougherty expressed the value of continuing the three- decade old relationship with the County. He also stated the importance of animal euthanasia avoidance.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the 2023 Budget Resolution for all funds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vonier. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

**Thomas County
2023 Budget Resolution
All Funds**

Whereas, the Thomas County Board of Commissioners is required by Georgia law to approve balanced budgets for all funds; and

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on Monday, November 14, 2022, as required by Georgia law to receive public comment on the proposed budget; and

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners has carefully considered the interests of the citizens of Thomas County, the requirements of public services provided thereunto and the extent of financial resources available to county government.

Now therefore be it resolved that the following budgets are adopted and approved effective on January 1, 2023:

General Fund			
	Revenues	\$	27,167,500
	Expenses	\$	27,167,500
Unincorporated Services			
	Revenues	\$	1,310,403
	Expenses	\$	1,310,403
Drug Education Fund			
	Revenues	\$	30,000
	Expenses	\$	30,000
Sheriff's Drug Forfeiture Fund			
	Revenues	\$	60,000
	Expenses	\$	60,000
Sheriff's Federal Drug Forfeiture Fund			
	Revenues	\$	40,000
	Expenses	\$	40,000
Enhanced 911 Fund			
	Revenues	\$	1,832,653
	Expenses	\$	1,832,653
Fire District 1, 2 & 3 Fund			
	Revenues	\$	2,915,600
	Expenses	\$	2,915,600
Emergency Services Fund			
	Revenues	\$	7,356,074
	Expenses	\$	7,356,074
Health Benefits Fund			
	Revenues	\$	5,015,000
	Expenses	\$	5,015,000
Airport Fund			
	Revenues	\$	10,000
	Expenses	\$	10,000
Law Library Fund			
	Revenues	\$	40,000
	Expenses	\$	40,000
County-wide 2017 SPLOST Fund (Project Length)			

Revenues	\$	42,000,000
Expenses	\$	42,000,000
Thomas County 2017 SPLOST-CPF (Project Length)		
Revenues	\$	32,205,000
Expenses	\$	32,205,000
Thomas County Area Transit		
Revenues	\$	1,339,412
Expenses	\$	1,339,412
Impact Fees Fund		
Revenues	\$	50,000
Expenses	\$	50,000
Hotel/Motel Tax Fund		
Revenues	\$	340,000
Expenses	\$	340,000
Recreation Fund		
Revenues	\$	663,123
Expenses	\$	663,123
ARPA - Grant Fund		
Revenues	\$	8,600,000
Expenses	\$	8,600,000

Approved this the thirteenth day of December 2022.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the 2023 Board of Commissioners' Meeting Schedule. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

2023 Board of Commissioners' Meeting Schedule

January	10	24
February	14	28
March	14	28
April	11	25
May	9	23
June	13	27
July	11	25
August	8	22
September	12	26
October	10	24
November	14	28
December	12	

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to approve the 2023 Holiday Schedule. Commissioner Rich asked to amend the motion to include Juneteenth as a County holiday. Failure to get a second to the amended motion, Chairman NeSmith proceeded with the original motion made by Commissioner Vonier. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-1 with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey and Vonier voting aye. Commissioner Rich voted nay.

2023 Holiday Schedule

Holiday	Date Observed
New Year's Day	Monday, January 2nd
Martin Luther King, Jr.	Monday, January 16 th
Memorial Day	Monday, May 29 th
Independence Day	Tuesday, July 4 th
Labor Day	Monday, September 4 th
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 23 rd
Christmas Holidays	Monday, December 25 th & Tuesday, December 26 th
*Mandatory Leave	Friday, November 24 th

Chairman NeSmith recognized Tax Commissioner Alicia Hester who requested approval to remove insolvent records for mobile homes, real property, and personal property from the tax digest. The records presented represent years 2000 thru 2021. Chairman NeSmith commented that citizens have complained about devaluation of their own property when in close proximity to the property deemed as an eyesore. Planning Director Ken Gay added that the revision of the ordinance in 2023 will include the removal of said mobile homes.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the request to remove insolvent records for mobile homes, real property, and personal property from the tax digest as presented by the Tax Commissioner. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Stephenson who introduced the annual Southern Judicial Circuit Public Defender Contract. Commissioner Grady made a motion to approve the 2023 Public Defender Contract. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Board Appointments:

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Rich who made a motion to appoint Terry Ross to the Elections and Registration Board. This will be his first term, and the term will expire on 12/2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gross. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to re-appoint Len Powell to the Thomas County Assessor Board. His new term will expire on 12/2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gross. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Reports:

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Stephenson who reminded the Commissioners that capital improvement requests for equipment and vehicles will be made in January 2023.

County Manager Stephenson recognized Planning Director Ken Gay who gave an update on Evergreen Apartments. The developer has requested to be on the January agenda; therefore, Ken is expecting to receive plans within the next few weeks. Other updates include: Phase 1 of the Grand Park Apartments is near completion, preliminary plans for Home2 Suites by Hilton have been received, a pet store is going in on Liberty Street, and plans for a Raceway station on the by-pass and GA Hwy 3 have been received.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the bid award to Willacoochee Industrial Fabrics for Woven Geotextiles. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the bid award to Martin Marietta for Aggregate Rock. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the bid award to Delta Landscape for Hydroseeding Materials. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the bid award to multiple vendors, as presented, for Public Works Warehouse Supplies. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

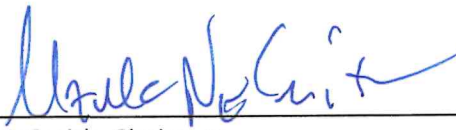
Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the bid award to multiple vendors, as presented, for Office Supplies. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the bid award to multiple vendors, as presented, for Janitorial Supplies. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who announced a Fleet Services Committee Meeting on December 19, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. on the third floor of the Historic Courthouse.

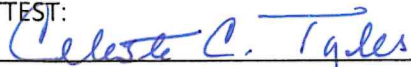
Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who announced that the Public Works Committee meeting originally scheduled for December 21st has been cancelled.

With no further business, Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Rich who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.



Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:



Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk