

Board of Commissioners

Minutes

Special Called Meeting

10:00 a.m., Thomas County Emergency Services Center

1202 Remington Avenue, Thomasville GA

July 30, 2012

The Thomas County Board of Commissioners met on the above date in special session at 10:00 a.m. at the Emergency Services Center, with the following board members present:

J. Elaine Mays, Chairman, Dist. 8	Moses L. Gross, Vice-Chairman, Dist. 2
Merrill E. Baker, Jr., Dist. 1	Kenneth E. Hickey, Dist. 3
Mark NeSmith, Dist. 4	Hershel Ansley, Dist. 5
Mary Jo Beverly, Dist. 6 (Absent)	Phillip V. Brown, Dist. 7

Staff present was Michael J. Stephenson, County Manager, Bruce Warren, County Attorney, and M. Twink Monahan, County Clerk. Chris Hurst, WPAX Radio, was also present.

Chairman Mays called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Sheriff Carlton Powell gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner NeSmith. Commissioner NeSmith said that the fire districts cannot sustain themselves at the current millage. He asked the board to consider a third option; apply the rollback rates for the General and Emergency Services Funds and opt for the increased millage in the fire districts. Commissioner NeSmith said that the capital expenditures needed in the Public Works Department can be taken from the SPLOST fund instead of property tax.

General Incorporated	6.884 mills
General Unincorporated	5.614 mills
Emergency Services	1.581 mills
Fire District 1	3.00 mills
Fire District 2	3.00 mills
Fire District 3	2.00 mills

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to adopt Option No. 2 as the tentative 2012 millage rates.

	Digest by District	Millage Rate	Net Taxes
Incorporated	685,420,179	7.500	5,140,651
	<i>Less insurance premium rollback</i>	<i>1.189</i>	
Unincorporated	780,532,542	6.311	4,925,940
Emer. Services	1,490,500,561	1.750	2,608,375
Fire District 1	150,662,442	3.000	451,987
Fire District 2	189,772,853	3.000	569,318
Fire District 3	505,333,408	2.000	1,010,667

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baker.

Chairman Mays called for discussion and recognized Sheriff Carlton Powell. Sheriff Powell stated that each fire district should be self-supporting. He also encouraged the board not to use reserves for operating expenses.

Chairman Mays called for the vote. Motion passed by a 4 to 3 vote. Voting in favor were Commissioners Mays, Gross, Brown and Baker. Voting in opposition were Commissioners Hickey, Ansley and NeSmith.

Joint City/County Fire Study

Mr. Stephenson stated that the transition from the contract with the City of Thomasville providing fire services in Fire Districts 1 and 2 has gone well. The city and the county are moving forward with better cooperation and understanding. He explained that the City of Thomasville is contracting for a fire services review and the county needs a study also. Training, rolling stock and water supply are the main items in the study.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the contract with National Fire Services Office to perform a "Fire Services Review" for Thomas County for \$9,600, in conjunction with a review being performed for the City of Thomasville. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Gross. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, and Brown voting aye.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to adjourn at 11:35 a.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gross. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, Ansley, NeSmith, and Brown voting aye.



J. Elaine Mays, Chairman

ATTEST:



M. Twink Monahan, County Clerk