Board of Commissioners

Official Minutes

Emergency Services Center
1202 Remington Avenue
September 11, 2012

The Thomas County Board of Commissioners met on the above date in regular session at 9:00 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	Phillip V. Brown, Dist. 7

Staff present was Michael Stephenson, County Manager, Malia Phillips-Lee; sitting in for Bruce Warren, County Attorney, and Toyna Allen-Brooks, Secretary. M. Twink Monahan, County Clerk, was absent. Patti Dozier, Times-Enterprise, were also present.

Chairman Mays gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Mays asked for a moment of silence in honor of those lost on September 11, 2001.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the minutes of the 8/28/12 regular board meeting, as corrected. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Beverly and Brown voting aye.

Presentations

Chairman Mays and Michael Stephenson, County Manager presented Deming Management Method Class Number 15 with their Certificates of Completion:

Harriet L. Register – Prison	Robert Sturman – Prison	Roy Flanders – Prison
L. Mark Rowe – Fire	Brett Stewart – Fire	George Hunsberger – Fire
Matthew Freeman – Fire	Jeffrey Osgatharp – Fire	Reggie Frasu – EMS
Jessica Gandy – EMS	Chuck Curles – EMS	Kasey Sharpe – 911
Kathleen Hays – 911	Carlos Ortiz – Public Works	Gerald Willis – Public Works
Thomas Bray – Public Works	Michael Harper – Public Works	Rodney Brinson – Public Works
Pamela Dennis - Transit		

Mr. Stephenson stated of all the past Deming classes this has been the most spirited class. The class wanted to be assured that the county would do all it could do to take all the information they learned into consideration.

Public Hearing

Chairman Mays opened a public hearing to Close Out CDBG Project #10p-y-136-1-5255, and inform citizens of the availability of the final quarterly reports, to review accomplishments, and to receive citizen comments.

Chairman Mays asked were there any comments.

Tony Wooten, Thomas County Public Works stated staff did a great job with Oak Hill Phase 1, 10p-y-136-1-5255. Phase II will not start until after January 1, 2013.

After brief discussion and no further comments, Chairman Mays declared the Public Hearing closed.

Unfinished Business

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to ratify the purchase of a 2001 International 4900 Tanker from DOAS (Department of Administrative Services) in the amount of $3500.00 received 9/6/12. The purchase of three tankers was previously approved at the 7/10/12 Board Meeting but only two were received. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley. The motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Beverly and Brown voting aye.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to ratify the 9/10/2012 purchase of 7,500 gallons of diesel from Plantation Petroleum at $3.2919 per/gal. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley. The motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Beverly and Brown voting aye.

New Business

Chairman Mays recognized John Edwards, Sr., Southern Judicial Circuit Public Defender. Mr. Edwards came before the board to request an increase in Thomas County's portion of the 2012 budget, $ 9,585.00, to cover a 2012 deficit. Mr. Edwards stated as a result of the recurring increases in Health Insurance premiums and retirement percentages by the States of Georgia, they are now facing a deficit of S48,577. Thomas County's portion is 19.73% (9,585.00).

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Nesmith who stated he understood their request, but the citizens of Thomas County asked the Board not increase the general fund and the Board did as they asked. Commissioner NeSmith explained to Mr. Edwards that his request was like an increase in taxes and Thomas County did not have the funds to approve his request.

Commissioner Brown stated Thomas County is facing some of the same problems and do not have the funds at this time to approve their request.

Chairman Mays made the motion to place the motion on the floor to approve Southern Judicial Circuit request to increase their budget for the Thomas County's portion in the amount of $9,585.00 to cover their 2012 deficit. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baker. The motion failed 7-1; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Beverly and Brown voting Nay. Commissioner Baker voted aye.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Beverly who made a motion to continue authorization for payments for the State Court Judge Budget for Honorable Mark Mitchell, the new State Court Judge. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. The motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Beverly and Brown voting aye.

Open Meeting to Citizens

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Baker. Commissioner Baker introduced Reverend Robert Jones. Mr. Jones requested the Board's permission to use a county owed vacant lot located at the corner of Oak and North Webster Street to hold a tent ministry. Mr. Jones stated this tent ministry will not be held until after January 2013.

After brief discussion, the request was referred to the county attorney.

Reports

Mr. Stephenson asked the Board to schedule a work session for budget review. The work session was scheduled for October 22, 2012 at 5:00 pm.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made the motion by recommendation of the Purchasing to accept the bid from Yancey Brothers for the purchase of a Sweep Master Broom, Kabota enginein the amount of $39,766.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley. The motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Beverly and Brown voting aye.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Nesmith who made the motion by recommendation of the Purchasing committee to accept the bid from Spence Auto Dealership, Thomasville Georgia for a 2013 Chevrolet Silverado Pick-up Truck for Public Works in the amount of $27,587.20. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beverly. The motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Beverly and Brown voting aye.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made the motion by recommendation of the Purchasing committee to accept the bid from Dean Steel Buildings for roofing materials

in the amount of $5,148.22. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beverly. The motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Beverly and Brown voting aye.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Beverly who made the motion by recommendation of the Public Property Committee to accept the bid from Pelham Variety for plaster on the outside walls of the new steps in the amount of $14,014.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baker. The motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Beverly and Brown voting aye.

Commissioner Gross stated the Saint Thomas AME Church was willing to give the county any brick or block that could be used as rip-rap to cut their cost for debris removal and the City of Thomasville reduced their tipping fee at the landfill. The church's walls collapsed on September 1. After brief discussion, the board instructed Tony Wooten get with the City of Thomasville to see what the county could do to help out.

Commissioner Ansley stated a Solid Waste Committee Meeting has been scheduled for September 27, 2012 at 8 am at Public works in their conference room.

Commissioner Hickey stated he will be scheduling a Road Committee Meeting.

Sherriff Powell gave an update on the condition of New Hope Road. After brief discussion, New Hope Road was referred to the Road Committee. Tony Wooten was instructed to get estimates to see how much it would cost to fix the road.

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

J. Elaine Mays

J. Elaine Mays, Chairman

ATTEST:

M. Twink Monahan

M. Twink Monahan, County Clerk