

**Board of Commissioners  
Official Minutes**

Thomas County Emergency Services Center  
9:00 a.m.  
November 13, 2012

The Thomas County Board of Commissioners met on the above date in regular session at 9:00 a.m. at the Thomas County Emergency Services Center, 1202 Remington Avenue, Thomasville GA, 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 P. Ansley, Dist. 5
Mary Jo Beverly, Dist. 6	Phillip V. Brown, Dist. 7

Staff present was Michael J. Stephenson, County Manager, Bruce Warren, County Attorney, Toyna Allen-Brooks, secretary, and M. Twink Monahan, County Clerk. Chris Hurst, WPAX Radio and Patti Dozier, Times Enterprise, were also present.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Hickey who gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 22, 2012 workshop and October 23, 2012 board meeting.

Chairman Mays and Michael Stephenson recognized the employees who participated in the Deming Management Method Class #16. Each employee was awarded a certificate of completion.

Trevor Davis	Natasha Davis	Obed Rawlins
Kendall Bradley	Cherish Baillargeon	Pashuna Brown
Branden Smith	Walter Brown	Anthony McCoy
Reece Yarbrough	James Ross	Breaconta Bevard
Clint Chastain	Joe Bass	Ben Jackson
Robert Hunsberger	Michael Tucker	
Douglas Winter	Thomas Johnson	

Chairman Mays recognized Jerry Pionessa, City of Thomasville. Mr. Pionessa displayed maps showing the location of the water tower at Red Hills Business Park. The tower will have an elevation of 146 feet, similar to other towers that were in Thomasville and will have a 30 foot buffer. The design has been submitted to Technical Review. The tower will also be adorned with Red Hill Business Park. Mr. Pionessa said the tower will service growth in the Sanford, Hall and 319 roads. The presentation was for information purposes.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Beverly who made a motion to grant the request made by Bonnie Spann, Chairman and Nancy Tillinghast, of the Thomas County Public Library for \$14,900 from the Library's accrued funds to cover the cost of the 2012 audit. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley. 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 10/26/2012 purchase of 45 ballistic vests from Gulf States Distributors, \$24,255 total with a \$12,500 county match, a grant awarded to the Sheriff's Office. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baker. 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 11/7/12 purchase of a 2013 Mack dump truck, demo, from SPLOST funds, TransPower, \$115,205.50. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Gross. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Beverly and Brown voting aye.

Commissioner NeSmith noted that the county had received an insurance settlement for the 2002 Freightliner dump truck that was totaled.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to ratify the 11/7/2012 purchase of diesel from Petroleum Products for \$3.1308. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Beverly and Brown voting aye.

Chairman Mays recognized Vice-Chairman Gross who made a motion to enter into contract with National Fire Services, Skip Starling for Inspections Preparation, \$6,000, and water certification, \$10,000, total \$16,000. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Beverly and Brown voting aye.

#### Open Session

Chairman Mays recognized Hunter Drew, Ozell Road, Aucilla Plantation. Mr. Drew stated that he lives in an area that under the new maps that would have an ISO rating of 10. He had checked with his insurance agent and was told that his insurance would increase to \$8,000 to \$10,000. He stated that he was concerned not only for himself but for the estimated 250 residents in the area. Mr. Drew stated that he is willing to donate one (1) acre on the Coffee for the proposed sub-station the county has under consideration.

The board agreed that the donation would be considered once Skip Starling finds that the location will serve the proper amount of households and thanked Mr. Drew.

#### County Attorney Report

Bruce Warren stated that he will draft an Outdoor Permit for using county property. The permit will state liability requirement, fees, if any, bonding for cleanup. Commissioner Beverly stated that no county crews should be required to prepare and clean up the property for those requesting to use the property. Mr. Warren stated that parking and sanitation will also be addressed.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Beverly who made a motion to have the county attorney to draft the permit format for board consideration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Beverly and Brown voting aye.

Chairman Mays recognized Jerry Pionessa who was present to discuss the Utility Easement application from the City of Thomasville. The request would be installing city utilities on the county right of ways from the new water tower location to US 319. The board discussed the Georgia State Patrol Office and the Driver Services Office needing water taps.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Beverly who made a motion to grant the easement as designated with the condition that the parking areas, road and encroachment will be restored to the current condition after the installation of the utility line. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Beverly and Brown voting aye. The vote 7-0, Commissioner Baker was absent.

Bruce Warren explained that the lot at 110 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue had problems with the chain of title. Alfonzo Dunbar was interested in having the property and had been maintaining the property for years. In the 7/13/10 meeting the board voted to quit claim the property to Mr. Dunbar. Mr. Warren stated that the state of the title would be an issue for Mr. Dunbar and that the property should be sold at auction or sealed bid. Options were discussed; advertise for sale since the property had already been declared surplus in 1999, donate the lot to the Landbank, rescind the motion.

Commissioner Beverly stated that she would research the history of the previous sale and report back to the board.

#### Purchase Committee

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to approve the Purchasing Committee's recommendation to purchase turnout gear from two (2) vendors; Fisher Scientific \$24,282.30 and Municipal Equipment \$4,063.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beverly. 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 a motion to approve the Purchasing Committee's recommendation to purchase SCBA tanks from Municipal Equipment for \$6,972.10. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley. 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 a motion to approve the Purchasing Committee's recommendation to purchase Class A uniforms from NAFECO for \$1,978. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley. 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 a motion to approve the Purchasing Committee's recommendation to purchase equipment for the new fire trucks and to

complete equipping the existing trucks to ISO standards for \$\$21,705.04 as follows: Municipal Equipment \$11,445; Fisher Scientific \$1,737.75; NAFECO \$4,042.29; Ten 8 \$2,220.00; American Safety and Firehouse \$135.00 and First Communications \$2,125.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley. 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 a motion to approve the Purchasing Committee's recommendation to purchase road signs from Vulcan Signs for \$20,353.56. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley. 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 a motion to approve the Purchasing Committee's recommendation to purchase a Dodge pursuit vehicle from Akins Ford for \$23,157.04. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley. 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 a motion to approve the Purchasing Committee's recommendation to purchase a replacement refrigerator from Direct South for \$2,715 for the Prison. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Beverly and Brown voting aye.

### Personnel Committee

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to approve the personnel committee's recommendation to give all active employees an annual incentive pay totaling \$152,075 including benefits. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley. During discussion Commissioner Baker expressed that he would like to see hourly increases. Vice-Chairman Gross said that he was also for the hourly but the incentive pay was a good compromise. Motion carried; voting in favor were Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, Ansley, Beverly and Brown voting aye. Voting in opposition was Commissioner NeSmith.

Part Time	\$50
Full Time less than 1 year	\$50
Full Time 1-3 years	\$250
Full Time Over 3 years	\$500

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to reappoint Donnie Baggett to his 2<sup>nd</sup> term on the Georgia Pines Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Beverly and Brown voting aye.

Chairman Mays brought attention to the letter from Larry Price, Georgia Department of Veterans Service. They will be moving their office from their current location in Annex II to 406 Smith Avenue. The office will be open on December 3, 2012.

Chairman Mays also said that Superior Court Judge Harry Jay Altman II has appointed Roy M. Lilly, Jr. as Associate Magistrate.

Chairman Mays recognized Vice-Chairman Gross who made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baker and was approved unanimously.

  
J. Elaine Mays, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
M. Twink Monahan, County Clerk