

**Board of Commissioners  
Official Minutes**

Thomas County Emergency Services Center  
6:00 p.m.  
November 27, 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 was also present.

Chairman Mays recognized Rev. Robert Jones 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 November 13, 2012 board meeting. 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 Shirley Prevatt, Tax Commissioner. Mrs. Prevatt submitted a list of uncollected taxes, real and personal property, to the board to consider to writing off. Personal property tax totaled \$214,858.82 and real property \$10,254.37. Mrs. Prevatt explained that some of these had been brought to the board in 2002 and 2004 and all action had been tabled. Some of the tax bills go back as far as 1998. Mrs. Prevatt explained their collection procedure in detail.

Chairman Mays asked for a motion to table the matter until the board had more time to review. Commissioner Beverly asked for more detail on the older tax bills.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Beverly who made a motion to table any action on the real and personal tax bills for further review. 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 Beverly who made a motion to write off \$414,500.63 and turn the accounts over to outside collection for the Emergency Medical

Services past due accounts as prescribed by county policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. 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 a motion to write off 2010, 2011 and 2012 tax bills that are the result of property transfers and incorrect personal property returns, \$10,944.54. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Beverly and Brown voting aye.

#### County Manager's Report

Mr. Stephenson requested direction for the purchase of the ambulance in the 2013 budget. The price will be increasing 2013 due to the ambulance regulatory standards and chassis increases. The board instructed staff to get proposals for review prior to the end of the year.

Mr. Stephenson stated that Sheriff Powell and Kevin Lee are requesting concerning the department fleet. They are requesting for the board to consider replacing a vehicle in the 2013 budget.

Mr. Stephenson gave the board a breakdown of the history of the Hotel/Motel Tax and Destination Thomasville, Tourism Board. It was decided to write the Tourism Board to a commission meeting to address any of their concerns.

#### County Attorney Report

The county-owned property on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue was discussed. There was no action taken.

Mr. Warren distributed a draft application and guidelines for the use of county owned property to the board members for review. The board is requesting Johnny Reichert to review and report at the 12/11/2012 board meeting.

The board requested that Mr. Warren develop a policy concerning the disposal of property with unpaid taxes and a method to accept bids on personal property when the value of the property is less than the cost of collection.

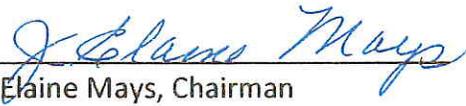
Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Ansley who made a motion to recommend the acceptance the bids from the 7/3/2012 tax sale that are lower than the amount owed and file FIFAs for the balance owed against the owner. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Beverly and Brown voting aye.

Mr. Stephen explained to the board that the revised draft Animal Control contract with the Humane Society. The draft was explained to Edward Williams, the director. Highlights of the revision are 2013 funding would remain a set amount of \$238,500 and

thereafter 71.5% of the amount of Local Option Sales Tax received by the county and obligated to animal control, ten-year contract, 12/31/2022, named as additional insured, on vehicle insurance, and a seat on the board of directors. The contract will be on the December 11, 2012 board agenda.

Chairman Mays reminded the board of the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission board meeting, Thursday November 29 at the Garden Center.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. 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.

  
J. Elaine Mays, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
M. Twink Monahan, County Clerk