

# Board of Commissioners

## Official Minutes

Emergency Services Center  
1202 Remington Avenue  
January 8, 2013 9:00 a.m.

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 P. Ansley, Dist. 5
Wiley E. Grady, Dist. 6	Phillip V. Brown, Dist. 7

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

Chairman Mays opened the meeting welcomed everyone attending.

Commissioner Beverly read 1 Timothy 2:1-2 and gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Mays asked Wiley Grady to come forward as the new board representative for District 6. Outgoing Commissioner Beverly welcomed Commissioner Grady and presented him with the county pin and name plate. Commissioner Grady was seated on the board.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2012 board meeting as corrected. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley and approved unanimously.

Chairman Mays turned the meeting over to Bruce Warren, County Attorney, to serve as temporary Chairman for the purpose of electing the Board Chairman. Bruce Warren opened the floor for nominations.

Bruce Warren recognized Commissioner Hickey who nominated Commissioner Mays for Chairman of the 2013 Board. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion. Commissioner Grady made a motion to close the nominations for Chairman. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Gross. Mr. Bruce Warren confirmed Commissioner Mays' appointment as Chairman for 2013, by acclamation.

Mr. Warren turned the meeting over to Chairman Mays.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to nominate Commissioner Gross for Vice-Chairman of the 2013 Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley. Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to

close the nominations for Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. Chairman Mays confirmed Commissioner Gross' appointment as Vice-Chairman for 2013, by acclamation.

Chairman Mays recognized Vice-Chairman Gross who made a motion to reappoint R. Bruce Warren as county attorney. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baker. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Brown voting aye.

Chairman Mays and Michael Stephenson, County Manager, recognized the nineteen employees of the Deming Management Method Group 17. Each employee was presented a certificate of completion for the course.

Deming Management Method, Group 17

Brandon Hill	Prison	Tim Whitman	Sanitation
Harvey Wilson	Fire	Gary Heald	Public Works
Mike Taylor	Fire	Kerry Brinson	Public Works
Tyler Humphrey	Fire	Richard Singletary	Public Works
Jason Turner	Fire	David Allen	Public Works
Brett Hotchkiss	Fire	Thomas Bodor	Public Works
Jody King	EMS	Jason Warren	Public Works
Brad Barrett	EMS	Sharon Jones	Transit
Terrence Christian	Sanitation	Jacquelyn Slater	Transit
		Danielle Sampson	911

Chairman Mays recognized Alicia V. Hester and congratulated her on winning the election and assuming the duties of tax commissioner. After a discussion with the board members, Ms. Hester agreed that she and Sheriff Powell will review all the personal and real property taxes on the delinquent list to make sure that all effort has been made to collect the taxes.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to postpone any action for 30 days on delinquent taxes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Brown voting aye.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Ansley who made a motion to allow Alicia V. Hester to receive checks for taxes, fees and licenses for Thomas County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Brown voting aye.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to accept the ARRA Grant and to approve the purchase of mobile dispatching equipment, DOT 1/4/2013 approval; RouteMatch Software \$50,268.00 and M & A Technology, Inc. \$24,273; Total \$74,541. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Gross. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays,

Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Brown voting aye.

The board discussed the Animal Control Board, the 2005 existing and 2013 proposed boards. They discussed by-laws and board procedures concerning Dangerous and vicious dogs and owner notification.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to work with the county attorney, animal control director for by-laws and responsibilities for the board members, animal control director concerning vicious and dangerous dogs, and the humane society for animal care. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Brown voting aye.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to appoint Alfred Bryan to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission and to continue advertising for the position on the board being vacated by Howard Floyd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Brown voting aye.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to reappoint Bruce Dillard to the Board of Tax Assessors with the 3-term ending 12/31/15. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Brown voting aye.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to ratify the diesel purchase on 12/19/12 from Plantation Petroleum at \$3.0185 per gallon. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Brown voting aye.

Chairman Mays recognized Vice-Chairman Gross who made a motion to ratify the board poll taken on 12/21/12 to purchase a 2013 ambulance from Custom Truck & Body for \$124,575 with 2013 funds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Brown voting aye.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Baker who made a motion to ratify the 12/31/2012 poll to purchase shelving for storage at the county office on Smith Avenue to provide space for Probate Court, Tax Commissioner, Clerk of Superior Court, and Tax Assessor from Rumbles Office City for \$18,467.04. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Brown voting aye.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Baker who made a motion to modify the Thomas County Health Plans to reflect the changes listed below. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Brown voting aye.

1. Require certification of spouses' health care coverage by all employees with family coverage. In order to be eligible for family coverage at discounted rates, employees will (1) certify if health insurance is offered where their spouses work and that their spouses are covered or (2) their spouses do not have any other health insurance available). Employees and spouses participate in the annual health screening. Dependents will continue to be covered by the county's plan as before. **Effective date is January 1, 2014.**

2. Employees hired on or after **January 9, 2013**, will not be eligible to include spouses on family coverage if those spouses have health insurance offered where they work or elsewhere.

3. Premiums effective January 1, 2013 (no change)

Single - Regular monthly - \$220.00 discounted monthly - \$ 55.00

Family – Regular monthly - \$457.00 discounted monthly - \$250.00

In order to be eligible for coverage at the discounted rate, employees will continue to participate in the annual health screening.

4. New family premiums effective **January 1, 2014: (change in bold)**

**Regular rate monthly - \$900.00** discounted monthly - \$250.00 (no change)

5. No changes in deductibles and out-of-pocket caps at this time. These will be reviewed again in September 2013 to determine if adjustments need to be made.

6. In 2013 study a wellness and case management program for employees with any of the following wellness conditions: nicotine use, obesity, high cholesterol, diabetes, & hypertension. Proposed program would include health improvement seminars targeted to each of the cited conditions and overall wellness in general.

Michael Stephenson reminded the board of the 2013 Work Session on January 29 at the airport.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Baker who made a motion to approve the application and policy for the "Use of County Owned Facilities" to be administered through the Inspections/Planning and Zoning Department with final approval being made by the board. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Gross. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Brown voting aye.

**APPLICATION FOR USE OF COUNTY OWNED FACILITIES**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Property: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed use: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and time of proposed use: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated number of attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

I, the undersigned, hereby request the use of the facility indicated for the purposes indicated and acknowledge that I have read the attached information sheet:

Date Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

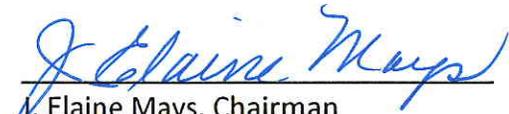
**INFORMATION**

Thomas County has certain facilities that may, from time to time, be leased to the public for their use. The accompanying application should be used to make application to use any County facility. If your proposed use is approved, you will be charged a fee for the use. In addition, your proposed use must meet all applicable zoning, health and safety requirements. As a condition of the use, you will be required to provide proof of liability insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 for the event. The insurance policy must provide that the County is an additional insured. In addition, you will be required to post a bond to cover any clean up or damage in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_, which will be refunded to the extent not used for clean up or repair(s). You will only be required to provide the insurance and bond if the application for use is approved. If a facility or land that is available to be leased for public use is located within a municipality, approval from that municipality must be obtained.

The board discussed with the attorney and with the Tax Commissioner the draft tax sale policy. It was decided that they would work together and return to the board when they were satisfied with the policy.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to award the bid for bathroom partitions, specialty items and hardware, installed, for the Historic Courthouse to Door Products of Tallahassee for \$22,120. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Brown voting aye.

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

  
Elaine Mays, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
M. Twink Monahan, County Clerk