

Board of Commissioners

Official Minutes

Emergency Services Center
1202 Remington Avenue
February 26, 2013 6:00 p.m.

The Thomas County Board of Commissioners met on the above date in regular session at 6:00 p.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 Toyna Allen-Brooks, Secretary. Chris Hurst, WPAX was also present.

Chairman Mays opened the meeting.

Commissioner Ken Hickey gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

In the absence of Twink Monahan, County Clerk, Chairman Mays appointed Michael Stephenson as the Acting County Clerk.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2013 board meeting as corrected. 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.

Presentation

Chairman Mays recognized Don Sims, Thomas County Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Sims asked the Board to approve a resolution authorizing Brooks County as a member of the Joint Development Authority of Colquitt, Mitchell, Grady and Thomas County.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made the motion to approve a resolution for the Joint Development Authority of Colquitt, Mitchell, Grady and Thomas Counties to authorize participation of Brooks County. 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 Melanie Martin, Douglass High School Alumni. Ms. Martin asked the Board for a letter of support for their application, 2013 Youthbuild Grant. Youthbuild is a comprehensive grant for youth community development. It provides education, housing, jobs and leadership development. After brief discussion the Board agreed unanimously to write a letter in support of the 2013 Youthbuild Grant sponsored by the Douglass High School Alumni.

Public Hearing

Chairman Mays opened a public hearing to hear questions and comments for the application of the Georgia Department of Community affairs for Small Cities Community Block Grant of up to \$500,000 to be used in low and moderate-income areas for housing, public facilities and economic development.

Chairman Mays recognized Tony Wooten, Thomas County Public Works. Mr. Wooten stated Lillie Lane (Avalon Estates) along with Thomas Drive and Brinson Road (Pine Run Subdivision) are the areas of interest for the 2013 CDBG (Georgia Department of Community affairs for Small Cities Community Block Grant) application. The Public Hearing was declared closed.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Baker who made a motion to approve the resolution to apply for 2013 CDBG funds from the Georgia DCA for Lillie Lane, Thomas Dr. and Brinson Road. 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.

Unfinished Business

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made the motion to ratify a gas purchase on 2/20/2013, for \$3.2873 per gallon from Petroleum Products. 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 Alicia Hester, Thomas County Tax Commissioner and Capt. Steve Jones, Thomas County Sheriff Department.

Ms. Hester stated Capt. Jones was asked to revise the list of uncollectable taxes and bring back to the board a more detailed list. They were able to collect five (5) of the parcels listed and noted them as paid on that list. The Board asked Ms. Hester to create a new list with the total of taxes due by year before they would remove the taxes and present at the next meeting.

Capt. Jones briefly stated that \$2,868.23 is the total amount of uncollected taxes on real and mobile home taxes that the sheriff's department could not collect due on property that was not livable or could not be located.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Ansley who made the motion to write-off uncollectable taxes in the amount of \$2,868.23. 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 Commissioner Hickey who made the motion to approve the execution of the FTA 5311/AARA/Mobile Dispatch Documents. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley and carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Brown voting aye.

New Business

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made the motion to approve the request for payment of \$11,100 for the 2013 Halcyon Home Contract. 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 the motion to approve \$12,248.56 for Jail Commissary – Cabling for Commissary Kiosh stations. 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 the motion to approve 2014/15 Transit 5311 Application. 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 recognized Commissioner Grady who made the motion to:

1. Rewrite the Recreation Board Resolution of May 1993
2. Rewrite non-voting Ex-Officio Members as follows; Director, Thomasville Public Works: CEO, Thomasville YMCA; Recreation Coordinator
3. Eliminate term limits

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.

Open Meeting to Citizens

Chairman Mays recognized Gayle McFadden, 819 McKinnon Road, Boston, GA. Mrs. McKinnon stated her home owners insurance has nearly doubled because she was told by her insurance agent she was now considered to be in a Fire Protection Class 10.

Mr. Stephenson briefly explained how the insurance companies are now using GPS systems for calculating the distance from your home to the nearest fire station. They can now determine the exact distance. Anyone living beyond five miles of a fire station now is considered a Fire Protection Class 10.

Commissioner Gross stated the county is currently working on plans for placing satellite fire stations in those areas in the county.

Chairman Mays recognized E.C. Mims, 171 McKinnon Rd, and Boston. Mr. McKinnon asked the Board to consider reducing taxes those areas.

Reports

Chairman Mays recognized Mr. Stephenson who gave a brief report on his suggestions for the Animal Control By-Laws;

Animal Control Board 2013 Bylaws

1. Georgia law authorizes the Thomas County Board of Commissioners to establish an Animal Control Board.
2. The Animal Control Board shall decide appeals to dangerous/vicious dog classifications as prescribed by Georgia law and carry out other duties as may be assigned by the Thomas County Board of Commissioners from time to time.

3. The Thomas County Animal Control Board shall be made up of five members with four year staggered terms. Decisions on dangerous/vicious dog classifications will require the approval of three members present and voting.
4. The terms of the three current members shall expire on December 31, 2014.
5. Two additional members shall be appointed by the County Commission and their terms shall expire on December 31, 2016.
6. The Thomas County Animal Control Director and the Humane Society Executive Director shall attend all meetings of the Animal Control Board.

No action was taken.

Bruce Warren, County Attorney suggested to write Randy Holton a letter concerning the sewer grant recipient request. Mr. Warren stated the letter should indicate terms of acceptance of the project and that the Board would be grant recipient if the grant implemented the approved project.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Grady who made the motion by recommendation of staff to award the furniture bids for the Historic courthouse to Office Environments Inc. for Section 1: Files & Storage for \$53,030.46; Section 3: Wood Casegoods, \$144,838.51 and Section 2: Task and Conference Seating to Ponders pending - Request "Power to Act". 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.

Commissioner Gross stated he is working on scheduling an Emergency Services Committee Meeting.

Commissioner Hickey set a Road Committee Meeting for February 28th at 8:00 a.m. to be held at the Public Works Conference Room.

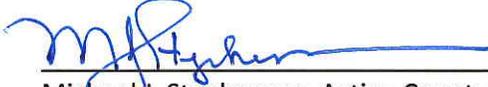
Commissioner Baker stated he will soon be scheduling a Finance Committee Meeting and Commissioner Ansley stated a Solid Waste Committee meeting will be set.

Chairman Mays recognized Vice-Chairman Gross who made a motion to adjourn. 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.



J. Elaine Mays, Chairman

ATTEST:



Michael J. Stephenson, Acting County Clerk