

# Board of Commissioners

## Official Minutes

Commissioner Conference Room (Room 215)

116 West Jefferson Street, Thomasville, GA

July 15, 2013

The Thomas County Board of Commissioners met on the above date in a work session at 8:00 a.m. in Room 215, Conference Room, with the following board members present:

J. Elaine Mays, Chairman, Dist. 8	Moses L. Gross, Vice-Chairman, Dist. 2 (absent)
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 and Twink Monahan, County Clerk. There was no media present.

Sheriff Carlton Powell was also present.

Al Bryan of Meigs was also present.

Chairman Mays opened the workshop.

Commissioner NeSmith gave the invocation.

Michael Stephenson said that according to the Tax Assessors office the digest is up slightly, so that basically it is the same as last year.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if any of the eight (8) positions from 2009 that were eliminated had been reinstated. Mr. Stephenson stated that the only basic change that has been made since the 2009 budget cuts are capital purchases. There are 340 positions in the county. The number will be verified.

Mr. Stephenson stated that if the county applies the rollback rate there will not have to be any public hearings. However, the shortfall in the 2013 budget will have to be funded by the reserve funds. If the board decides to set the millage rate so that the increase costs will be covered without using any funds from the reserved then there will need to be three (3) public hearings. The following is a tentative schedule:

Set the tentative millage	July 23, 2013	Tuesday, 6 p.m. Board meeting
Advertise 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing	July 25, 2013	Thursday (5-Year History and press release)
1 <sup>st</sup> Public Hearing	August 6, 2013	at 10:00 a.m. in chambers
2 <sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing	August 6, 2013	at 6:00 p.m. in chambers
3 <sup>rd</sup> Public Hearing	August 14, 2013	at 10:00 a.m. in chambers
Special Called Meeting	August 14, 2013	at 10:00 a.m. in chambers to set 2013 Millage

Mr. Stephenson reviewed the financial critical events and action taken by the board since 2008. Also the 2014 Projected Budget which shows the increase in the insurance factor and proposed salary increased with benefits.

### 2012 Millage Rates – Actual

	Digest by District	Millage Rate	Net Taxes
Incorporated	685,420,179	6.884	4,718,433
	<i>Less insurance premium rollback</i>	<i>1.189</i>	

<b>Unincorporated</b>	780,532,542	5.695	4,381,910
<b>Emer. Services</b>	1,490,500,561	1.581	2,356,481
<b>Fire District 1</b>	150,662,442	3.000	451,987
<b>Fire District 2</b>	189,772,853	3.000	569,318
<b>Fire District 3</b>	505,333,408	2.000	1,010,667

**2013 Millage Rates - Projected**

	<b>Digest by District</b>	<b>Millage Rate</b>	<b>Net Taxes</b>
<b>Incorporated</b>	685,420,179	_____	_____
	<i>Less insurance premium rollback</i>	<i>1.189</i>	
<b>Unincorporated</b>	780,532,542	_____	_____
<b>Emer. Services</b>	1,490,500,561	_____	_____
<b>Fire District 1</b>	150,662,442	_____	_____
<b>Fire District 2</b>	189,772,853	_____	_____
<b>Fire District 3</b>	505,333,408	_____	_____

Mr. Stephenson also summarized his recommendations to the board:

1. Increase "Health Care Cost Factor" from \$7,000 to \$10,000 per budgeted full time position
2. Increase employee wages with an "Adjustment to Base Compensation" of \$1.00 per hour for all regular full-time employees
3. Fund capital improvements in all funds for buildings, vehicles and equipment in an amount to be determined by the Board
4. Set minimum fund balances in all funds
5. Balance the budget in all funds with a property tax increase or draw down from reserves or a combination of both as determined by the Board

There was discussion concerning the revenues and expenditures in each fund, the audited reserves in each major fund. Health care expenses was discussed at length. The current pension plan was also discussed.

**2014 Projected Budget**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Revenues</b>	<b>Difference</b>
General	20,774,885	18,452,898	2,321,987
Emergency Services	3,870,457	3,750,339	120,118
E-911	1,544,364	1,544,364	0
Fire District 1 & 2	1,107,751	1,025,305	82,446
Fire District 3	1,118,708	1,048,167	70,541
Transit	1,062,644	1,062,644	0

Millage Rate Value (Based on 2012 Digest)

*General	1 Mill =	1,350,000
Emergency Services	1 Mill =	1,490,500
Fire District 1 & 2	1 Mill =	340,435
Fire District 3	1 Mill =	505,408

\*Exact amount will vary due to application of Insurance Premium rollback.

12/31/12 Reserves (Audited)

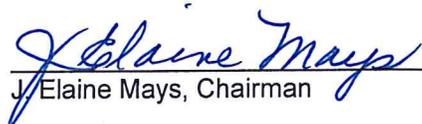
General	6,267,531
Emergency Services	2,724,242
Fire District 1 & 2	61,387
Fire District 3	144,365

Fund	Insurance Factor Increase	Salary/Benefits Increase
General Fund	735,000	535,084
E-911	72,000	58,818
Fire District 1 & 2	55,020	63,047
Fire District 3	41,010	40,106
Emergency Services	138,000	156,725
Transit	57,000	43,843

Mr. Stephenson told the board that Taylor Benefits would be at the Wednesday, July 17 Personnel Meeting to discuss cost saving measures for the board to consider. Suggestions for savings were prescription co-pay increases, deductible increases, employee premium increases and out-of-pocket increases.

The consideration of the employee raises was also discussed at length. COLA raises or award by evaluation or a combination of the two methods were discussed and the pros and cons of both methods. There was no decision made. The actual costs of the increases cannot be determined until the method is decided.

The workshop was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

  
 J. Elaine Mays, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
 M. Twink Monahan, County Clerk