

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers
225 North Board Street
September 24, 2013

The Thomas County Board of Commissioners met on the above date in a regular scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse, Commission Chambers, 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, Derrick Ogletree, GIS Manager, Chris Jones, Fire Chief and M. Twink Monahan, County Clerk. There was no media present.

Chairman Mays called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Grady gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the September 10, 2013 Regular Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baker. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, Ansley, Grady and Brown voting aye. Commissioner NeSmith abstained from voting because he was absent at that meeting due to the death of his mother.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to declare surplus the vehicles and items listed in the agenda package and offer for sale at the 9/24/2013 auction reserving the right to make adjustments. 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 Chief Chris Jones, Thomas County Fire Department. Chief Jones explained to the board that Brooks County would like to contract with Thomas County through an Automatic Aide Agreement. This would cover a five mile radius for the cities of Barwick and Pavo. Mr. Stephenson said that we have always helped but this agreement would take coverage to a different level. If an agreement is reached Thomas County would be one of the first to be dispatched. Presently these areas are a class 10 and this would improve their ratings by having an agreement. Chief Jones stated that he estimates Brooks County paying \$14,500 per year. Vice-Chairman Gross requested that the agreement have an escalation clause to reflect increases in budgets. There was no action taken.

Chairman Mays recognized Roger Walker, Highway 319 North. Mr. Walker gave an opinion of Thomas County salaries and job classifications, distribution of increases and the current job market.

Bruce Warren reported that he had distributed a draft of the internet café ordinance and was open for suggestions. Sheriff Powell suggested that law enforcement should be the agency designated for enforcement rather than code enforcement. Mr. Stephenson said to change the page 10 reference of County Manager to County Manager or designee.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to approve the Personnel Committee's recommendation to increase the base compensation rate for full time county employees by \$1.00 effective September 24, 2013. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Gross.

Chairman Mays called for discussion. Commissioner NeSmith stated that the 2013 budget was approved with no raises and that the \$1.00 gave some areas too much and some not enough. Commissioner Grady stated that it should wait until the first of the year.

Chairman Mays called for the vote by a show of hands.

The motion was approved by a six (6) to two (2) vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Grady, Ansley and Brown. Opposed to the motion were Commissioners Hickey and NeSmith.

Chairman Mays recognized Vice-Chairman Gross who made a motion to approve Budget Amendment 13-9-1. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown.

Chairman Mays call for discussion.

Mr. Stephenson stated an annual amendment collecting all changes the board has made during the current year.

Chairman Mays called for a vote.

The motion was approved by a seven (7) to one (1) vote. Voting in favor of the motion were Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, Grady, Ansley and Brown. Opposed to the motion was Commissioner NeSmith.

Chairman Mays commented on the letter in the agenda package from Tommy Hill which thanked the board for the addition of the new tub/shower combination in the DFCS office.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to enter into closed session to discuss a personnel matter. 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 recognize Commissioner Brown who made a motion to return to open session and reported that there is no action to be taken. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith.

Commissioner Hickey stated that he will be scheduling a Road Committee Meeting within the next couple of weeks. They asked for the status of the sidewalk on Pinetree Blvd. Mr. Stephenson stated

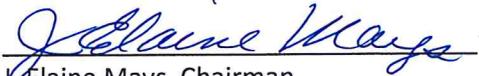
that they are still waiting for the plans from the city. Chairman Mays said that she would call Mayor Beverly.

Commissioner Grady reminded the board of the Public Property Committee meeting, Thursday, September 26 at 8:00 a.m. in the Committee meeting room.

Commissioner NeSmith reminded the board that there is a Purchasing Committee set for 8:00 a.m. on October 1 in the Committee meeting room.

Vice-Chairman Gross set an Emergency Services Meeting for 9:00 a.m. on October 9 in the Committee Meeting room. The agenda will be for discussion of the 911 equipment.

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.


J. Elaine Mays, Chairman

ATTEST:



M. Twink Monahan, County Clerk