

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
October 8, 2013

The Thomas County Board of Commissioners met on the above date in a regular scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.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, Tony Wooten, Public Works Director, Twink Monahan, County Clerk and Bruce Warren, County Attorney. Media present Patti Dozier, Times Enterprise and Chris Hurst, WPAX

Chairman Mays called the meeting to order.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Baker who gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the September 24, 2013 regular Board Meeting and closed session minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, Ansley, NeSmith, Grady and Brown voting aye.

Chairman Mays recognized Pam Lister, Executive Director of Keep Thomas County Beautiful. Ms. Lister presented the FY 12/13 annual activities and the results of the results of the events. She also introduced Chet Ballard, professor of Sociology at Valdosta State University (VSU) and Maria Trink, a VSU student. They reported the results of the roadside litter survey that was mailed out in Thomas County.

Chairman Mays recognized Al Bryan. Mr. Bryan serves on the committee for the Historic Dixie Highway Scenic Byway. He explained that the designation will have no constraints placed on property owners. Mr. Bryan noted that this is the only highway South of Macon in the project.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve approved the resolution for the designation of Old Georgia Hwy 3 in the Historic Dixie Highway Scenic Byway program. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Mays, Vice-Chairman Gross and Commissioners Baker, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Brown voting aye.

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE HISTORIC DIXIE HIGHWAY SCENIC BYWAY

WHEREAS, the City of Pelham along with the Scenic Byway Advisory Committee have identified a route that begins at the Albany Welcome Center (Bridge house), travels Broad Street (Oglethorpe Temporarily due to Broad St. bridge replacement) to Radium Springs Road to Old State Route 3 to North Scott Street in Camilla, where it turns east onto Broad St to MacArthur Dr. where it commences South

and becomes Old Georgia 3 until it reaches Pelham. In Pelham the route becomes Glausier St. NE to Curry St NE to East Railroad St. until leaving Pelham where it becomes Dixie Highway to Meigs. In Meigs, the route becomes Church St. to East Railroad St and then to West Railroad St. briefly before becoming GA 3 to Ochlocknee. In Ochlocknee, GA 3 becomes Main St. Main Street in Ochlocknee then turns back into GA 3 until it becomes Old Albany Rd. in Thomasville. It then becomes North Blvd. briefly before becoming North Broad St. where it enters Downtown Thomasville and turns West onto Jackson St. The byway ends at the intersection of Jackson St and the US Hwy 319 Bypass near the Thomasville city Limits. The route contains significant scenic, natural, historic, cultural, archaeological, and recreational qualities;

WHEREAS, the City of Pelham along with the Scenic Byway Advisory Committee are seeking to gain "Georgia Scenic Byway" designation for the route from the Georgia Department of Transportation;

WHEREAS, the Thomas County has been advised on details of the Georgia Scenic Byways Program, the proposed byway, and the benefits of designation;

WHEREAS, designation of this route will support the objectives of this body to protect, promote, enhance, and interpret the outstanding intrinsic qualities of the Cities of Albany, Baconton, Camilla, Pelham, Meigs, Ochlocknee, Thomasville; the Counties of Dougherty, Mitchell and Thomas; and the Southwest Georgia Region; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Scenic Byways Program is a tool to encourage tourism and responsible development, bringing positive economic benefits and opportunities to this community;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Thomas County, having met and considered the matter in open session on October 8, 2013, hereby fully endorses the Designation Application, for the proposed Historic Dixie Highway Scenic Byway.

FURTHER, the Board of Commissioners of Thomas County, in its endorsement of this application, acknowledges the efforts of the City of Pelham and the Scenic Byway Advisory Committee in undertaking this project and will support the completion of the designation process.

Dated this 8th day of October, 2013.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to ratify the diesel purchase on 10/2/2013 from Petroleum Products for #2.9983 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 Commissioner Baker who made a motion to approve the FY2014 Transit contract with the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission. 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.

Chairman Mays recognized Randy Smith of Ochlocknee. Mr. Smith petitioned the board to reconsider the process used to contract for auctioneers.

Chairman Mays recognized Al Bryan of Meigs. Mr. Bryan asked about zero based budgets. Mr. Brian was also told that the 2014 Budget Hearings are set for November 18th, 19th, and 20th. If the board decides on a budget early, it is possible that they might not meet on the 19th and/or the 20th.

Chairman Mays recognized Jerry Pionessa, City Engineer. Mr. Pionessa stated that the right of way for the South Pinetree Blvd. Sidewalk project is narrower than first thought and that additional right-of-way will be needed. Providence Plaza area will need an additional five (5) feet for utilities. Mr. Pionessa stated that the county would be responsible for obtaining the right-of-way.

Fees for use of county right-of-ways were discussed. Commissioner Hickey stated that the sidewalk and fees will be on the agenda for the Road Committee meeting on October 31st.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to approve the Purchasing Committee's recommendation to award the annual sign purchase from Custom Products, lowest best bid, for \$13,655.49. (After the meeting an obvious mathematical error was found that changed the amount to \$14,784.21, Custom remained the Lowest Best Bid) 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 Grady who made a motion to approve the Public Property Committee's recommendation to demolish the county house located at 144 County Farm Road. 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 Grady who made a motion to approve the Public Property Committee's recommendation to repair the Warden's house and replace the roof for \$15,000. 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 Grady who made a motion to approve the Public Property Committee's recommendation to replace the carpet in the hallway at the Judicial Center replacing with tile and repair the roof by contracting with Ideal installing gutter for a total budget of \$35,000. 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 a motion to appoint Terry Hurst to fill the unexpired term left by Mark NeSmith on the Recreation Board. 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.

Commissioner Grady stated that there will be a standing Public Property Committee each month on the first Thursday at 8:30 a.m. The next meeting is set for November 7th.

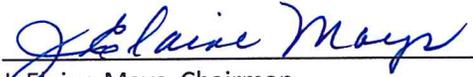
Commissioner Ansley set a Solid Waste Committee for November 6th at 8:30 a.m.

Commissioner Gross stated that Wednesday October 16th at 9:00 a.m. there will be an Emergency Services Committee meeting.

Commissioner Baker stated that on Tuesday October 15th at 9:00 a.m. there will be a Finance Committee Meeting.

Commissioner Grady reminded everyone of the County's surplus auction on October 24th at 200 Mississippi Avenue.

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


Elaine Mays, Chairman

ATTEST:


M. Twink Monahan, County Clerk