

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
January 14, 2014

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:

Moses Gross, Chairman, Dist. 2	Kenneth E. Hickey, Vice-Chairman, Dist. 3
Merrill E. Baker, Jr., Dist. 1	Mark NeSmith, Dist. 4
Hershel P. Ansley, Dist. 5	Wiley E. Grady, Dist. 6
Phillip V. Brown, Dist. 7	J. Elaine Mays, Dist. 8

Staff present was Michael J. Stephenson, Toyna Brooks, Board Secretary, and Twink Monahan, County Clerk. Media present was Susanne Reynolds, Times Enterprise.

Chairman Mays called the meeting to order.

Chairman Mays recognized Veon Williams who gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Mays recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to approve the minutes of the 12/10/2014 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey 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 and Vice-Chairman. Bruce Warren opened the floor for nominations for chairman.

Bruce Warren recognized Commissioner Brown who nominated Vice-Chairman Gross for Chairman of the 2014 Board. Mr. Warren asked for any other nominations. Commissioner Grady made a motion to close the nominations for Chairman. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion carried by a 7 to 1 vote; Commissioner Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady, Mays and Brown voting aye. Commissioner Baker voting nay. Mr. Bruce Warren confirmed Commissioner Gross' appointment as Chairman for 2014.

Bruce Warren opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Commissioner NeSmith nominated Commissioner Hickey for Vice-Chairman of the 2014 Board. Mr. Warren asked for any other nominations. Commissioner Grady who made a motion to close the nominations for Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baker. Motion carried unanimously; Commissioner Gross, Hickey, Baker, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady, Mays and Brown voting aye. Bruce Warren confirmed Commissioner Hickey's appointment as Vice-Chairman for 2014, by acclamation.

Mr. Warren turned the meeting over to Chairman Gross.

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

Chairman Gross expressed this appreciation to the board for his appointment. Chairman Gross also thanked Commissioner Mays for her years of service as the chairman.

Vice-Chairman Hickey also thanked the board.

Chairman Gross requested Commissioner Mays to distribute the Years of Service Awards to the Thomas County employees who have reached certain notable years.

2013 Years of Service Awards

5 Years

Christopher W. Burnette	Code Enforcement
Clint D. Chastain	Fire Department
Lois B. Crumidy	Transit
Roy Flanders III	Prison
Jason S. Golden	Fire Department
Dianne T. Gregory	Equipment Shop
Jody L. Gullion	EMS
Shannon C. Hortman	Probate Court
Tyler C. Humphrey	Fire Department
Robert D. Mills	Fire
Robert C. Pearce	Building Maintenance
Stephen L. Richardson	Sheriff's Office
James E. Ross	Public Works
Donna Schie	Building Inspections
Jeffrey G. Smith	Sheriff's Office
David A. Storey	Jail
Yulonda D. Williams	E-911

10 Years

Karl E. Abrams	Prison
Matthew G. Burgess	EMS
La-Shaunda L. Elliott	Prison
Sonia Guzman	Tax Commissioners
Donald G. Lawhorne	Building Inspections
Shelia G. Shull	Magistrate Court
Gregory P. Thweatt	Equipment Shop
Michael B. Waddell	E-911
Willie F. Williams	Jail

15 Years

Garey L. Anglin	Public Works
Johnnie L. Clark	Building Maintenance
Ernest W. Givens	Prison
Patricia "Pat" Howard	Prison
Christopher L. Jones	Fire Department
Cecil "Jim" Pearson	Building Maintenance
Herbert B. Ring	Fire
Michael A. Smith	EMS
Michael J. Stephenson	Commissioners Office

20 Years

Brenda A. Daniels	Building Maintenance
Ronald W. James	Sheriff's Office
Steven O. Jones	Sheriff's Office
Albert Manning	Prison
Selma "Sheree" Revels	Commissioners Office
Timothy G. Watkins	Sheriff's Office

25 Years

Homer L. Bynum	Public Works
Richard Q. Singletary	Public Works

35 Years

Laura S. Nichols	Commissioners Office
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Chairman Gross recognized the members of the Thomasville City Council who were present: Mayor Max Beverly, Mayor Pro Tem Greg Hobbs, Council Members David Lewis, and Don Sims. Also recognized was Veon Williams, the former Assistant County Manager for Thomas County.

Chairman Gross presented Commissioner NeSmith with his Certified County Official certificate from the

University of Georgia and the Association County Commissioners of Georgia for completion of the County Commissioners Training Program.

Chairman Gross recognized Don Sims, the newly elected City Council Member. Mr. Sims introduced Shelley Zorn, Executive Director of Economic Development and Lauren Basford, Executive Director of the Thomasville-Thomas County Chamber of Commerce. They addressed the board and said they were looking forward to working the County.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to approve ratify the purchase of diesel from Petroleum Products on 12/17/13 for \$3.0940 per gallon. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley. The motion carried unanimously; Chairman Gross, Vice-Chairman Hickey, and Commissioners Baker, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady, Brown, and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to approve ratify the purchase of gas from Petroleum Products on 1/2/14 for \$2.7750 per gallon. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. The motion carried unanimously; Chairman Gross, Vice-Chairman Hickey, and Commissioners Baker, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady, Brown, and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to approve the City of Pavo's request for street and drainage assistance applying the balance of their 2013 allotment and using the 2014 allotment; McDonald Street at Main Street with an estimate of \$4,214.92 and Pear Street at County Line Street with an estimate of \$3,606.44. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion carried unanimously; Chairman Gross, Vice-Chairman Hickey and Commissioners Baker, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady, Brown and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Gross recognized Vice-Chairman Hickey who made a motion to appoint Commissioner Elaine Mays as the board's representative to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission. The motion was seconded by Chairman Gross. The motion carried unanimously; Chairman Gross, Vice-Chairman Hickey and Commissioners Baker, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady, Brown and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to appoint Al Bryan as the additional member to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Hickey. The motion carried unanimously; Chairman Gross, Vice-Chairman Hickey and Commissioners Baker, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady, Brown and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Gross made a motion to approve Donnie Baggett as the non-public member to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. The motion carried unanimously; Chairman Gross, Vice-Chairman Hickey and Commissioners Baker, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady, Brown and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to appoint Amy White Rockwell to the Thomasville-Thomas County Animal Control Board filling the unexpired term open due to the death of Georgie W. Herndon expiring 12/31/16. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mays. The motion carried unanimously; Chairman Gross, Vice-Chairman Hickey and Commissioners Baker, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady, Brown and Mays voting aye.

The board discussed the approved permit for a stop and go traffic signal that the Georgia Department of Transportation is going to install at the intersection of State Route 35/US 319/North Thomasville Bypass at State Route Connector/Moultrie Road.

Chairman Gross recognized Vice-Chairman Hickey who made a motion to approve a resolution to adopt the Capitol Improvement Element 2013 Annual Update; financial report and Short Term Work Program and submit to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission and the Department of Community Affairs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mays. The motion carried unanimously; Chairman Gross, Vice-Chairman Hickey and Commissioners Baker, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady, Brown and Mays voting aye.

Georgia, Thomas County

Adoption Resolution
Capital Improvements Element Annual Update
Thomas County, Georgia

WHEREAS, Thomas County adopted a Capital Improvements Element as an amendment to the *Thomas County Comprehensive Plan*; and

WHEREAS, Thomas County has prepared a 2013 Annual Update to the adopted Capital Improvements Element (including financial data for fiscal year 2012); and

WHEREAS, the 2013 Capital Improvements Element Annual Update was prepared, submitted and reviewed in accordance with the "Development Impact Fee Compliance Requirements" and the "Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning" adopted by the Board of Community Affairs pursuant to the Georgia Planning Act of 1989;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Thomas County Board of Commissioners does hereby adopt the Capital Improvements Element Annual Update, as per the requirements of the Development Impact Fee Compliance Requirements.

Adopted this 14th day of January, 2014.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioners Mays who made a motion to approve the FY2014 Southwest Georgia Regional Commission/Department of Human Resources Operating Contract. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baker. The motion carried unanimously; Chairman Gross, Vice-Chairman Hickey and Commissioners Baker, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady, Brown and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the amendments to the Thomas County Employee Benefit Plan and the Thomas County Elected and Appointed Official Benefit Plan to comply with PPACA (the affordable healthcare act). The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Hickey. The motion carried unanimously; Chairman Gross, Vice-Chairman Hickey and Commissioners Baker, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady, Brown and Mays voting aye.

THOMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN
Plan Amendment: 2014-03

Effective: 01/01/2014

The above Employer hereby amends their Employee Benefit Plan Document as follows:

Change:

According to the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordability Act (PPACA), members are no longer subject to pre-existing condition exclusions. All pre-existing conditions are waived as of 01/01/2014.

All other terms and conditions of this plan not affected by this Amendment remain unchanged.

Copies of the plan Document and all supporting instruments are maintained on file by the Plan Administrator and by the Claims Benefits Service Manager.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, This Plan Document Amendment to the Employee Benefit Plan is executed on behalf of the Plan Sponsor by its duly authorized officer.

This Amendment will be communicated to all Plan Members by the Employer as required by the Department of Labor.

THOMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS BENEFIT PLAN
Plan Amendment: 2014-03
Effective: 01/01/2014

The above Employer hereby amends their Employee Benefit Plan Document as follows:

Change:

According to the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordability Act (PPACA), members are no longer subject to pre-existing condition exclusions. All pre-existing conditions are waived as of 01/01/2014.

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This Amendment will be communicated to all Plan Members by the Employer as required by the Department of Labor.

Chairman Gross opened the meeting to citizens to address the board. Chairman Gross recognized Roger Walker, US 319 North, Thomasville. Mr. Walker congratulated Chairman Gross and Vice-Chairman Hickey on their elections. He also acknowledged Commissioner Mays for her service. Mr. Walker spoke about the 2015 budget and how the county will be able to operate without raising taxes.

Reports

Mr. Stephenson stated that he is working on the Planning Session agenda scheduled on the January 29th. He asked for topics to be discussed.

The City / County Workshop is scheduled for January 21st at the Library at Noon.

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

Chairman Gross recognize Commissioner Brown who made a motion to return to open session and report that there is no action to be taken. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. The motion carried unanimously; Chairman Gross, Vice-Chairman Hickey and Commissioners Baker, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady, Brown and Mays voting aye.

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



Moses L. Gross, Chairman

ATTEST:



M. Twink Monahan, County Clerk