

Minutes  
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
225 North Board Street  
February 11, 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, Toyona Brooks, Board Secretary, and Twink Monahan, County Clerk. Media present was Susanne Reynolds, Times Enterprise.

Chairman Gross called the meeting to order.

Chairman Gross called upon Vice-Chairman Hickey to give the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2014 board meeting. 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 Jeannine Haynes and John Harrison of the Georgia Transmission Corporation. Ms. Haynes is their Public Affairs Director. Ms. Haynes stated that the new proposed transmission lines will be replacing aged lines dating back to 1927. The road side lines require a 35 foot right of way and the cross country lines require 100 foot right of ways. The total mileage is 14 ½ miles of transmission line. The lines are on the Ozell Road to Pavo and the Ozell Road to Eason Crossing with a substation at Eason Crossing. Ms. Haynes said that she wanted the board be aware that they will be contacting property owners along the routes. They will also be holding two open house meetings in May to answer questions to receive input on the projects. Those dates and location have not be set.

Commissioner NeSmith was concerned that Thomas County has no input in the direction of the route.

Chairman Gross declared a Public Hearing. The purpose of the hearing is to allow the public the opportunity to provide the board with ideas concerning potential projects. The board discussed the proposed project that would improve the streets and drainage on Brinson Road, Thomas Drive, Lillie Lane (Avalon Estates) and Heald Road.

Chairman Gross asked if there was anyone who would like to speak about the projects. Being none, he closed the Public Hearing.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the resolution stating it is the board's intent to submit a Community Development Block Grant Application in the 2014 regular round competition and designate the Chairman to act as the certifying official for the project. 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.

#### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Thomas County is eligible to apply for Community Development Block Grant Funds from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs: and

WHEREAS, Thomas County has held the required Public Hearing to obtain citizens input into the development of an application; and

WHEREAS, Thomas County has conducted an assessment of eligible program activities; and

WHEREAS, Thomas County has determined that there are community needs that can be addressed by the Community Development Block Grant Program Funds.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Thomas County hereby authorizes the preparation and submittal of a Community Development Block Grant Application for CDBG funding cycle 2014; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Chairman Moses L. Gross authorized by consents to act as the Authorized Certifying Official for this program.

Adopted this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2014.

Chairman Gross recognized Vice-Chairman Hickey who made a motion to approve the 2014 Work Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mays. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Gross, Vice-Chairman Hickey and Commissioners Baker, Ansley, NeSmith, Grady, Brown and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve 2012 EMS account receivable write-offs for \$450,006.60 to turn over to a collection agency. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mays. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Gross, Vice-Chairman Hickey and Commissioners Baker, Ansley, NeSmith, Grady, Brown and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Gross recognized Kay Lamb and Suzan Hayward. Give the Kids the World is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that provides vacations for terminally ill children. On March 29<sup>th</sup> at the Fairgrounds they are having a fund-raiser for the organization. They will be having a variety of bands playing from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., several food vendors and draft beer. They are requesting permission to sell the beer.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner Ansley who made a motion to approve Give Kids the World to make application according to the county policy for a special event to sell beer. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mays. The motion carried by a 7 to 1 vote. Chairman Gross, Vice-Chairman Hickey and Commissioners Baker, Ansley, NeSmith, Brown and Mays voting aye and Commissioner Grady voting in opposition.

#### OPEN SESSION

Chairman Gross recognized Roger Walker, Hwy 319 N., Mr. Walker spoke of his family's history in Thomas County, the importance of departmental policies, county review service offered by Carl Vinson Institute, and comments from the budget hearings.

Mr. Stephenson stated that on February 5 the Department of Human Resources (DHR) was closed due to the weather and icy conditions. Transit was closed that day since the majority of their business is from the DHR contracts. Mr. Stephenson requested that the transit drivers be paid for that day.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioners Mays who made a motion to pay the drivers for the bad weather day that the Transit office was closed. 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.

Meeting Schedule:

|                      |   |                                |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Emergency Services   | Wednesday, February 12 <sup>th</sup> @ 8:00 a.m.    | Conference Room #215           |
| Road                 | Wednesday, February 12 <sup>th</sup> (following ES) | Conference Room #215           |
| Personnel            | Thursday, February 13 <sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.    | Conference Room #215           |
| Purchasing           | Tuesday, February 18 <sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.     | Conference Room #215           |
| Landfill Committee   | Thursday, February 20 <sup>th</sup>                 | City of Thomasville            |
| City/County Workshop | Thursday, February 20 <sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m.   | Flipper Rm., Library           |
| Board Meeting        | Tuesday, February 25 <sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.     | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor/Chambers |
| Planning Session     | Wednesday, February 26 <sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.   | Conference Room #215           |
| Solid Waste          | Thursday, February 27 <sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.    | Conference Room #215           |
| Public Property      | Thursday, March 6 <sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.        | Conference Room #215           |

Public Property Committee Report

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to ratify action taken at the Public Property Committee on 2/6/2014 approving the LMI proposal for \$17,339 to install additional heating in the Historic Courthouse and Annex. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mays. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Gross, Vice-Chairman Hickey and Commissioners Baker, Ansley, NeSmith, Grady, Brown and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the Public Property Committee’s recommendation to award the Design/Build contract for the expansion and addition to the Bobby Hines Jail Justice Center for \$2,000,000, the restricted funding from the 2012 SPLOST funds, to CCH Construction, Thomasville. 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.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner Ansley who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mays. 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