

Minutes
Commissioners Office, Room 215
116 West Jefferson Street
February 26, 2014

The Thomas County Board of Commissioners met on the above date in a planning session at 9:00 a.m. at the Historic Courthouse Annex, Room 215, 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, County Manager; Tony Wooten, Public Works Director; Johnny Reichert, Planning Director; Derrick Ogletree, IS Manager; Lyndall Knight, Building Maintenance Supervisor, Sheriff Carlton Powell, Ron Kelley and Twink Monahan, County Clerk.. Media present was Patti Dozer, Times-Enterprise and Chris Hurst with WPAX Radio.

Chairman Gross called the meeting to order.

Mr. Stephenson gave the invocation.

Chairman Gross recognized Bill Ross, Ross + associates. Mr. Ross gave a presentation outlining the county's impact fee history and explained the county's options for an overall update. In 2007 the county first adopted impact fees covering system improvements for parks and recreation, fire, sheriff, ems, and 911. The current plan was developed for 2025. Mr. Ross stated that a new amended plan be at least 20 years, to bring the entire plan up to date there would be a new methodology and schedules, 2014 pricing, financing strategy, public hearings, and reviews by the Regional Commission and the Dept. of Community Affairs.

After a question and answer period, Mr. Ross stated that the process would take approximately 8-9 month. When the categories change the funds in the original categories must be spent as originally structured with the new funds spent in the new categories.

Developing a recreational park at the pond located on Woodruff Farm Road. The development and new facilities could use the existing funds but maintenance of a new park does not qualify.

The board agreed for Mr. Ross to submit a proposal for the complete update of the 2007 Impact Fee structure.

The board took a short recess.

Chairman Gross recognized representatives from Georgia Transmission who were asked to explain the proposed routes the new transmission lines and how it affects the landowners. Present was Jeanine Haynes, Herb Payne and Nicholas Ham. They stated that the route will be on all new land. In swampy areas there is a need for a 50' right of way and the road side standard is 30'. The Patten Speedway Road may require 100 to 200'. There are no foreseen relocation of homes.

Chairman Gross recognized Johnny Reichert and Derrick Ogletree to explain the transition from the original 1989 Georgia planning Map to 1996 Land Use maps to digital maps. The conversion of the maps has involved detailed editing and verification by staff. Mr. Reichert stated that parcel splits must have very detailed records kept. Mr. Reichert's staff has been working on historical data in the attribute table that includes the parcel splits. In the future it can be entered in the planning and zoning layer and forwarded for updating the public and interdepartmental websites.

The board recessed for lunch.

Chairman Gross asked Commissioner Grady to give an update from the Public Property Committee.

After lengthy discussion of remodeling the Hill Building, relocating the 911 Offices, co-locating Address & Mapping, Building Inspection/Planning & Zoning and Environmental Health, and relocating the UGA Extension Service the board requested that Mr. Stephenson negotiate with architects to remodel the Hill Building for a conceptual drawing and cost estimate of what will work for these departments.

Funding was also discussed. The additional income received from the sale of the Courthouse Annex II, methane gas sale and the forestland protection funds are going into a capital improvement account for special projects.

Mr. Stephenson went over the pre-audit figures. He told the board they are subject to change in the final audit. Commissioner Baker is going to schedule a Finance Committee meeting.

In the agenda packet, Pat Smith, Animal Control Director, submitted a request to consider increasing the fines for dogs at large. The current fine is \$62.50 and she requested it to be increased to \$125.00. After discussion it was determined that more information was needed.

Providence Plaza sidewalk project was discussed. Mr. Stephenson told the board that he had met with Steve Sykes, Jerry Pionessa yesterday along with Tony Wooten and Ron Kelly to discuss the sidewalk projects and traffic counts. They went and looked at the sidewalks and the sections of Pinetree Boulevard to be included in the traffic count. Ron Kelley presented drawings and pictures of a 10' sidewalk that the City of Thomasville is constructing for their walk/bicycle paths. The city has asked the county to extend the Providence Plaza project to West Jackson Street with them paying for all materials. Mr. Kelley stated that the city will handle the right of way acquisition of the store at the corner. Staff was instructed to get some firm cost figures for the project.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner Mays who made a motion to adjourn at 2:00 p.m. 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