

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
November 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:

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| 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 Stephenson, County Manager, Bruce Warren, County Attorney, Twink Monahan, County Clerk and Toyna Allen-Brooks Secretary. Media present were Patti Dozier, Times-Enterprise and Chris Hurst with WPAX Radio.

Chairman Gross called the meeting to order.

Chairman Gross recognized Michael Stephenson who gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2014 board meeting and the October 28, 2014 Closed Session minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Gross, Vice-Chairman Hickey, and Commissioners Baker, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady, Brown, and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Gross recognized Lyndall Knight, retired Command Sergeant Major, and Thomas County's Building Maintenance Supervisor. Chairman Gross read the following proclamation in honor of the veterans and their service and presented it to Mr. Knight who is currently the Commander of Foreign Wars 4995 and the Service Officer of the 8th District that serves 16 South Georgia Counties.

Proclamation

WHEREAS, **Veterans Day** is a time for special remembrance of the men and women who have served to protect our freedom and to those who made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives to safeguard our freedom; and

WHEREAS, **Veterans Day** is a time for our hearts and thoughts to turn to those who were disabled while serving their country as their sacrifices and hardships endure; and

WHEREAS, through war and peace, valiant Americans have answered the call to duty with honor and dignity; and

WHEREAS, public safety personnel, firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical responders, and support personnel have answered this call and deserve the highest measure of respect and gratitude for their selflessness and courage as they risk their lives each and every day to ensure our security and freedom from danger.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, the Thomas County Commissioners do hereby honor and pay tribute to all veterans and public safety personnel for their valor and dedicated service to all citizens of our nation and our community.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, by the Chairman, on behalf of the Thomas County Board of Commissioners, do hereby declare this 11th day of November, 2014, as a day to recognize the many contributions made by our veterans and public safety personnel and to pay special tribute to these brave men and women for their dedicated service to preserve the lives, rights, and security of all citizens.

Chairman Gross recognized Marshall Berman. Mr. Berman, President, Veterans Boosters, presented Chris Hurst of WPAX Radio a plaque designating him as Veteran Booster of the Year 2014 in recognition of his outstanding contributions, dedication and tireless efforts on behalf of the local veterans.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the purchase of the Motorola VESTA Pallas 4.0 Software upgrade for \$336,580 with 10-year support and to seek bank financing for 3 annual payments. 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.

It was stated that the software will be install before the move to the proposed 911 Center.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve Concept A with modifications of the Thomas County Shooting Complex as proposed by the Department of Natural Resources. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mays.

Discussion: Chairman Gross recognized E.C. Mims, Mark Ridolfi and David Godwin. Mr. Mims, President, Thomasville Shooting Club, and Mark Ridolfi a member of the club asked about the future of their private club that is using the current firing range. After discussion, Mr. Stephenson said that he would arrange a visit to the shooting club in Monticello, GA that is a DNR design. The county staff and the Sheriff have made two visits to the range. Mr. Stephenson said in this area there is great interest in 4-H shooting and other shooting activities that a range of this design would serve Thomas County and surroundings counties as shown in a marketing survey performed by the DNR.

David Godwin, training officer with the Sheriff's Office, stated that the deputies and the correctional officers qualify at the existing range. Commissioner Grady asked for input since this was an upgrade from the existing range. Sheriff Powell said that this is a wonderful opportunity and they will be very supportive.

Chairman Gross call for the vote. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Gross, Vice-Chairman Hickey and Commissioners Baker, Ansley, NeSmith, Grady, Brown and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Gross recognized Capt. Steve Jones with the Sheriff's Office. Capt. Jones expressed his concern about the newsletter that was sent to employees regarding health insurance. He stated that several deputies would be effected if their spouses no longer had coverage. He asked that the board reconsider the matter.

Committee Reports

Personnel – No report

Public Property – Commissioner Grady reported that a vendor will have a trailer set up in the 911 parking lot with their 911 console furniture for the board members to look over, 9:30 on 11/12/2014

Sanitation – Commissioner Ansley reported that the 202@ 188 Solid Waste site will be complete within 2 weeks.

Road – Commissioner Hickey reported there would be a meeting at 8:30 a.m., 11/13/2014.

Commissioner Mays reminded the board of the budget meetings set for 11/17 and 11/18 (if needed)

Mr. Stephenson stated that the Veterans ceremony will be at 11:00 following today's meeting.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner Mays who made a motion to enter into closed session to discuss a legal matter with the county attorney provided in O.C.G.A. §50-14-2(1) and O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(4). The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Hickey. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Gross, Vice-Chairman Hickey and Commissioners Baker, Ansley, NeSmith, Grady, Brown and Mays voting aye.

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

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



Moses L. Gross, Chairman



M. Twink Monahan, County Clerk