

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
December 9, 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 Stephenson, County Manager, Bruce Warren, County Attorney, and Twink Monahan, County Clerk. Media present was Patti Dozier, Times-Enterprise and Chris Hurst with WPAX. Sheriff Powell was also attending the meeting.

Chairman Gross called the meeting to order.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner Hickey who gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2014 regular board meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Gross, Vice-Chairman Hickey, and Commissioners Baker, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady, Brown, and Mays voting aye.

Commissioner Gross declared a Public Hearing to consider a Resolution transmitting a draft amended Capital Improvements Element, relating to the County's impact fee program, to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission for the regional and State review pursuant to the Georgia Planning Act of 1989. Chairman Gross recognized Bill Ross of Ross + Associates to explain the amendment. Chairman Gross asked for persons wishing to be heard on the draft amendment and being none the public hearing was closed.

The board decided to address the resolution to transmit the amendment at the January 13, 2015 meeting.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner Mays and Donnie Baggett, Director of Thomas County Transit. Commissioner Mays explained that Thomas County Transit and Mr. Baggett were recognized at the Georgia Transit Conference last week by the Georgia Department of Transportation. The Thomas County Areas Transit System received the Frank J. Hill Outstanding Service Award. Georgia Department of Transportation presents the award each year to highlight rural transportation systems that have worked in communities to enhance transportation services to bridge gaps between people, places, and meaningful connections.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to ratify the 12/5/2014 purchase of gas from Petroleum Products at \$1.8769 per gallon and diesel from Petroleum Products at \$2.0931 per gallon. 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 State Court Judge Mark Mitchell and Katrina Hodges of Providence Community Corrections (PCC). Judge Mitchell explained that since first contracting for misdemeanor probation services the companies have been bought out twice. The state is requiring that contracts be updated to show the current owner. The contracts have been reviewed by judge and the probation fees are all paid by the probationers with no direct costs to the county. Judge Mitchell stated that the courts have been doing business with PCC for a number of years now and they are doing an excellent job. A separate contract is needed for each court system; Superior, State and Magistrate.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the contracts to provide probation services with Providence Community Corrections for the Superior, State and Magistrate Courts. 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 recognized Commissioner Mays. Commissioner Mays explained that the Title VI Plan is a requirement for all transit services. Donnie Baggett explained that the plan is a federal mandate which addresses discrimination and that it is like the plan that Public Works had to adopt. Brad Sheffield, the transit consultant, has prepared the plan for the county.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner Mays who made a motion to adopt the Title VI Plan for Thomas County Area Transit Service as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Federal Transit Laws, 49 CFR Part 21 Unlawful Discrimination, Nondiscrimination in Federally-Assisted Programs of the Department of Transportation and the written guidance under FTA Circular 4702.1B, dated October 2012. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Gross, Vice-Chairman Hickey and Commissioners Baker, Ansley, NeSmith, Grady, Brown and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Gross recognized Capt. Tim Coram, Co-Director of the EMS. Capt. Coram explained as part of the finance policy the EMS receivables are reviewed annually. The write-offs presented are from 2004 through 2009 totaling \$43,219.22. 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 recognize Commissioner Brown who made a motion to approve the resolution to approve the 2015 Budget for all funds. 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.

Thomas County 2015 Budget Resolution All Funds

Whereas, the Thomas County Board of Commissioners is required by Georgia law to approve balanced budgets for all funds; and

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on Monday, November 17, 2014, as required by Georgia law to receive public comment on the proposed budget; and

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners has carefully considered the interests of the citizens of Thomas County, the requirements of public services provided thereunto and the extent of financial resources available to county government.

Now therefore be it resolved that the following budgets are adopted and approved effective on January 1, 2015:

General Fund		
Revenues	\$	23,215,089
Expenses	\$	23,215,089
Drug Education Fund		
Revenues	\$	51,000
Expenses	\$	51,000
Sheriff's Drug Forfeiture Fund		
Revenues	\$	60,000
Expenses	\$	60,000
Sheriff's Federal Drug Forfeiture Fund		
Revenues	\$	30,000
Expenses	\$	30,000
Enhanced 911 Fund		
Revenues	\$	1,469,598
Expenses	\$	1,469,598
Central Fire District Fund		
Revenues	\$	1,149,438
Expenses	\$	1,149,438
Thomas County Fire Rescue Fund		
Revenues	\$	1,171,000
Expenses	\$	1,171,000
Emergency Services Fund		
Revenues	\$	4,271,190
Expenses	\$	4,271,190
Commercial Collection Fund		
Revenues	\$	60,300
Expenses	\$	60,300
Health Benefits Fund		
Revenues	\$	4,843,100
Expenses	\$	4,843,100
Airport Fund		
Revenues	\$	10,000
Expenses	\$	10,000
Law Library Fund		
Revenues	\$	40,000
Expenses	\$	40,000
County-wide 2012 SPLOST Fund (Project Length)		
Revenues	\$	42,000,000
Expenses	\$	42,000,000
Thomas County 2012 SPLOST-CPF (Project Length)		
Revenues	\$	22,000,000
Expenses	\$	22,000,000
Thomas County 2006 SPLOST-CPF (Project Length)		
Revenues	\$	28,110,976
Expenses	\$	28,110,976
Thomas County Area Transit		
Revenues	\$	1,119,075
Expenses	\$	1,119,075
Impact Fees Fund		
Revenues	\$	221,300
Expenses	\$	221,300

Hotel/Motel Tax Fund			
	Revenues	\$	120,900
	Expenses	\$	120,900
Capital Improvement Fund			
	Revenues	\$	100,000
	Expenses	\$	100,000

Approved this the ninth day of December 2014.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to approve the 2015 Board Meeting and County Holiday Schedule. 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.

2015 Board Meeting Schedule

January	13	27
February	10	24
March	10	24
April	14	28
May	12	26
June	9	23
July	14	28
August	11	25
September	8	22
October	13	27
November	10	24
December	8	

2015 County Holidays

January 1, Thursday	New Year's Day
January 19, Monday	Martin Luther King Day
May 25, Monday	Memorial Day
July 3, Friday	Fourth of July Observed
September 7, Monday	Labor Day
November 26, 27, Thursday/Friday	Thanksgiving Holidays
December 24, 25, Thursday/Friday	Christmas Holidays

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner Ansley who made a motion to reappointment Wayne Dodson and Heidi Drawdy to the Animal Control Board for 4-year terms ending 12/31/18. 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 Vice-Chairman Hickey who made a motion to reappoint Scott Rich to the Tax Assessor board for a 3-year term ending 12/31/17 and appoint Eddie Brown Sr. to fill the unexpired term ending 12/31/2015 of Bruce Dillard who resigned effective 12/31/2014. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley. 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 reappoint Marjorie Jones to the Board of Elections and Registration for a 3 year term ending 12/31/17. The motion was seconded by Vice-

Chairman Hickey. Motion carried with Vice-Chairman Hickey and Commissioners Ansley, NeSmith, Grady, and Mays voting AYE; Chairman Gross, and Commissioners Baker, and Brown voting NAY.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to reappoint Donnie Baggett to the Georgia Pines Community Service Board for a 2 year term ending 1/31/17. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to reappoint Commissioner Mays, Donnie Baggett and Al Bryan to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission for a 1 year term ending 12/31/15. 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.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner Baker who made a motion to reappoint Tommy Hill to the Southwest Georgia Workforce Investment Board for a 3 year term ending 12/31/17. 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 Charles Williams the Executive Director of Southwest Georgia Workforce. Mr. Williams thanked the board for the reappointment of Mr. Hill who is the current chairman of the board. With the new Workforce Innovation Act signed in July and the transition due to changes in the law Mr. Williams said that the board is eager to learn the effects on the local programs. Mr. Williams also thanked Commissioner Gross for his active participation and support on the Chief Elected Official Board.

Chairman Gross recognized Alton Paul Burns. Mr. Burns expressed his opposition to the Sabal Trail natural gas pipeline that is proposed. The 36 inch pipeline will be 460 miles long starting in North Central Alabama to South Georgia to Orlando. Mr. Burns outlined his concerns and dangers of explosions of the pipelines. He also asked the county commission to support solar energy in Thomas County.

Chairman Gross opened the meeting to anyone wishing to address the board who is not listed on the agenda.

Chairman Gross recognized Al Bryan. Mr. Bryan thanked the board for their confidence in him by reappointing him to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission. Mr. Bryan explained the programs and grants that have been awarded in Thomas County. The Students at Risk program has identified that 80% of the students in Thomas County are in poverty level conditions. This is why the Students at Risk program is so valuable to the area by providing effective alternative education programs.

Chairman Gross recognized John Quarterman from Valdosta. Mr. Quarterman explained that he is also not in favor of the Sabal Trail pipeline. He state he also has a You Tube account where he airs all the videos he has recorded. The name of the Blog where he has information concerning the pipeline can be found on Lowndes Area Knowledge Exchange.

Bruce Warren updated the board on the Red Hills paving contract with the City of Thomasville. Mr. Warren reported that ACCG does not have a provision in our policy for the Thomasville Payroll Development Authority to be named as a loss payee. The contract being presented is a standard private contractor model. Mr. Warren was instructed to tell the city's attorney that the county would not get extra insurance for this job. The county has performed many road jobs for the city without this stipulation. Mr. Warren also reported that the Colvin junkyard case has been appealed to Superior Court.

Mr. Hutchings, Clerk of Superior Court, has received the appeal but not all the required documents to put it on the calendar. Also reported was that Mr. Jack Miller has purchase property to move his business from the M & M Road. The move is scheduled to be complete by April 2015.

The board also requested that Georgia Transmission give an update on the power line replacement project in January.

Commissioner Grady has moved the next Public Property Committee Meeting to January 16th. Commissioner NeSmith reported that the Purchasing Committee Meeting for January has been cancelled since there have been no department requests received.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Purchasing Committee held on 12/2/2014 to contract with Inmate Calling Solutions, LLC, d/b/a ICSolutions for the inmate telephone service at the Prison, 1 year renewable contract. 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 NeSmith who made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Purchasing Committee held on 12/2/2014 to purchase 2 new WIL0 4.7 hp, submersible sewer grinder pumps, installed, from AAG Electric Motors & Pumps Inc. for \$19,450.12. 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 NeSmith who made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Purchasing Committee held on 12/2/2014 to award the 2015 annual tool bid to three vendors, low bid by item to Tom Horne Supply, Holley, Inc. and Whitehead Hardware. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mays.

Commissioner Ansley stated that the Highway 202 & 188 collection site will be complete within a few weeks.

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