

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
February 10, 2015

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, Christopher Dodd, as county attorney sitting in for Bruce Warren, and Twink Monahan, County Clerk. Media present was Chris Hurst, WPAX and Patti Dozier, Times-Enterprise.

Chairman Gross called the meeting to order.

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

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to approve the minutes of the 01/27/2015 Board Meeting and the 02/04/2015 City-County Workshop. 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 approve a resolution in opposition of House Bill 170 that reduces the allocation of sales tax funding to local governments. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Joint Study Committee on Critical Transportation Infrastructure Funding has issued a report which identifies the need for the State of Georgia to raise additional revenue to address transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 170 has now been introduced which recommends the State invest over \$1 billion annually in transportation related projects, with over \$500 million of the \$1 billion coming from local sales taxes from cities, counties and school systems; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, local governments in Georgia collected \$516 million in local sales taxes (LOST, SPLOST, ELOST, ESPLOST, HOST, MARTA and Atlanta's MOST) from the sales of motor fuel; and

WHEREAS, if motor fuel is removed or exempted from local sales taxes, it is estimated that the local governments in Thomas County could lose approximately \$2,613,811 million annually or the equivalent of over 2.5 mills of property tax; and

WHEREAS, including proceeds to the Thomas County Board of Commissioners; the municipalities of Thomasville, Barwick, Boston, Coolidge, Meigs, Ochlocknee, and Pavo; and the Thomasville and Thomas County School Districts; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the total amount of SPLOST funds spent statewide on transportation was \$746 million; and

WHEREAS, Georgia's local governments have made and continue to make substantial investments toward transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Thomas County and the Council of The City of Thomasville urge both our local delegation and the entire Georgia General Assembly to strongly oppose any recommendation or measure to reduce the allocation of sales tax funding to local governments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONIONERS OF THOMAS COUNTY AND THE COUNCIL OF THOMASVILLE HEREBY jointly urge the Georgia General Assembly and our local delegation to oppose strongly any bill, provision or measure to reallocate local sales tax funding from local governments to the State of Georgia. Furthermore, that the State of Georgia not approve any provision of a transportation bill that authorizes double taxation of municipal residents.

SO DONE, this the 10th day of February, 2015.

Chairman Gross called for discussion. The Commissioners discussed the effects that a reduction of revenue would have on future sales tax projects; the option of increasing local taxes to make up for the shortfall would be equivalent to 2.5 mills of property tax; its effect on the local school systems, and its unfairness to rural governments. The Commissioners also spoke with the members of the news media.

Chairman Gross call for a vote. 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 adopt the Capital Improvements Element Annual Update Resolution and forward the resolution to the Regional Commission to be sent to the Department of Community Affairs.

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 fiscal year 2015 Annual Update to the adopted Capital Improvements Element; and

WHEREAS, the 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 Board of Commissioners of Thomas County does hereby adopt the Capital Improvements Element Annual Update, as per the requirements of the Development Impact Fee Compliance Requirements. Adopted this 10th day of February, 2015.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to approve the Purchasing Committee's recommendation and award the aggregate rock contract to the lowest bidder, Award to A-Mining Group, LLC for an estimated cost of \$47,650, pricing valid until July 30, 2015 and allowing Thomas County to pick up and haul when county trucks are available. 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 Purchasing Committee's recommendation to award the annual purchase of road spraying chemicals to the low bid by item vendor and staff adjusting quantities to remain within budget; Southern States at \$19,270, Coastal Plains at \$394, Crop Production at \$4,550 and Mitchell County Farm Supply at \$4,678 for a total of \$28,892. 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 Purchasing Committee's recommendation to purchase three (3) roof ladders, installed, for Thomas Plaza/Hancock

Center Fabrication Solutions, Inc., Albany, for \$12,850. 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 NeSmith who made a motion to approve the Purchasing Committee's recommendation to purchase license plate recognition software from Synergistic Software Inc./Vigilant for \$20,893. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. 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 Purchasing Committee's recommendation to purchase body cameras from Taser International, 27 sets, for \$15,036. 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.

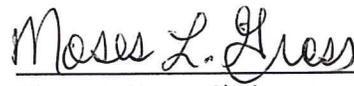
Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the Public Property Committee's recommendation to proceed with sealing and striping the parking lot at the Thomas Plaza/Hancock Center with the new parking layout for approximately \$20,000. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Hickey. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Gross, Vice-Chairman Hickey and Commissioners Baker, Ansley, NeSmith, Grady, Brown and Mays voting aye.

Commissioner Grady reported that staff from the Department of Corrections looked at the work to be done in the Drug Squad and Investigations offices.

Meetings scheduled: Work Shop 2/11/2015; Road Committee 2/26/2015

Commissioner Brown asked for an update on the widening of South Pinetree Blvd. Mr. Stephenson stated that Tony Wooten will have an update at the Road Committee on 2/26/2015.

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