

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
September 13, 2016, 9:00 a.m.
225 North Board Street

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:

Kenneth E. Hickey, Vice-Chairman, Dist. 3	Moses Gross, Vice-Chairman, Dist. 2
Merrill E. Baker, Jr., Dist. 1	Mark NeSmith, Dist. 4 (absent)
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, Bruce Warren, County Attorney, Twink Monahan, County Clerk. Media present was Chris Hurst, WPAX and Patti Dozier, Times-Enterprise.

Commissioner Brown gave in invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 26, 2015 Public Hearing for the Thomas County Shooting Range. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve minutes from the August 23, 2016 board meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Hickey recognized State Representative Darlene Taylor and Chief Assessor Daniel Stokes. Mr. Stokes updated the board concerning the Forest Land Protection Act (FLPA) and the current status regarding the 2008 Index Value and that the Fair Market Value was not anticipated to go down.

In 2009 the Legislature created a covenant known as FLPA to protect the forest lands of our state. This program provided for the reimbursement to the taxing authority a portion of the tax dollars lost. This reimbursement was calculated on the 2008 FMV indexed annually. It was assumed that the true FMV would quickly outpace the 2008 Indexed value. As it occurred the true FMV (as maintained per DOR regulations by the County Assessor's Office) dropped below the 2008 Index value. In some cases this drop was quite significant. The intent was to make the counties whole on the monies lost to the FLPA program. In reality some counties were actually receiving more in reimbursements that had been lost. The DOR decided to change the formulae that had been previously used to calculate the reimbursement without giving the Taxing Authorities warning. This action caused an uproar from the affected counties and an apparent return to the constitutionally approved formulae, at least for the 2016 tax year.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Mays who made a motion to authorize the chairman to sign the ACCG Safety Discount verification forms for workers' compensation and property and casualty policies to receive a 7 ½% premium discount. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Brown. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Hickey recognized Chief Chris Jones, Fire Department. Chief Jones stated that the department had been awarded 2 grants. The All Hazards grant, Assistance to Firefighters, is for the Regional Swift Water rescue training with Thomas County Hosts. It consists of 4 teams. The grant is for 30,000 with no local match. Also was the EMA annual grant that the county gets for \$13,000 that has a 10% match. This grant is applied to the Assistant EMA Director's salary.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Mays who made a motion accept the grant from the All Hazards Council, Assistance to Firefighters, for \$30,000 with no local match and authorized the chairman to sign the necessary documents. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gross. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Mays who made a motion accept the grant from GEMA/EMPT, for \$13,000 with a local 10% match and authorized the chairman to sign the necessary documents. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gross. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

Chief Jones was congratulated for the coordinated efforts made by all agencies during the recent storm, Hermine.

Chief Jones reported that several counties, including Thomas County, assisted in the Brooks County fire at Langmore Lumber Company.

The Thomasville Magazine featured a Thomas County Firefighter, Evalynisha Wilson in the Fall issue. The Fall issue featured women from 22 to 40.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve to approve CCH Change Order #5, which exceeds the project by \$1,040.77. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mays. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Mays who made a motion to approve the Purchasing Committee's recommendation to purchase a 2016 McLendon LB52-33CS with outriggers from Freightliner/Savannah for \$35,885, and declare Unit 242, 1988 Wallace Lowboy, surplus. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baker. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

At the September 27, 2016 board meeting the surplus unit was corrected to be Unit 236 1982 Rome Lowboy.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Mays who made a motion to approve the Purchasing Committee's recommendation to purchase concrete pipe from County Materials at the bid prices as needed for stock. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baker. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

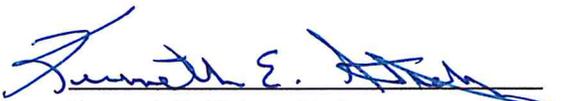
Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Mays who made a motion to accept the bid from Peek Pavement Marking LLC for traffic striping on the Pummy, Griffin, Old Beeline, Lawhorne and Gatlin Creek Roads for \$48,420. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baker. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Mays who made a motion to ratify the purchase of gas on 9/1/2016 from Petroleum Products for \$1.5934 per gallon. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Brown. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Hickey recognized Shelley Zorn, Develop Thomasville Thomas County Director, and Lauren Basford, Thomasville-Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, in attendance.

It was announced that Governor Deal's letter was received and Thomas County was awarded a \$500,000 CDBG for the Foxcroft Project, paving and drainage. The board asked that Tony Wooten let them know when the process will start.

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



Kenneth E. Hickey, Chairman



M. Twink Monahan, Clerk