

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
November 8, 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, Chairman, Dist. 3	Phillip V. Brown, Vice-Dist. 7
Merrill E. Baker, Jr., Dist. 1	Moses Gross, Vice-Chairman, Dist. 2
Mark NeSmith, Dist. 4	Hershel P. Ansley, Dist. 5
Wiley E. Grady, Dist. 6	J. Elaine Mays, Dist. 8

Staff present was Michael J. Stephenson, County Manager, Bruce Warren, County Attorney, Twink Monahan, County Clerk, and Toyna Brooks, Board Secretary. Media present was Patti Dozier, Times-Enterprise.

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

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Mays who made a motion to approve minutes from the October 11 and October 25, 2016 board meetings as corrected. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Grady, Gross, Ansley, NeSmith and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Hickey declared a Public Hearing to receive public comments on appeal 16-11-1, Tony Odom Appeal of administrative decision not to allow a dog kennel in R-3 Residential Property, 263 Crowley Spur Road (Map 44, Parcel 60 A) 6 acres. Chairman Hickey stated that each side, the citizens in favor and those opposed to the appeal, have a total of 10 minutes to present their reasons.

Chairman Hickey recognized Bill Eddings, Inspections and Zoning Director. Mr. Eddings stated that Mr. Odom requested an application to construct a dog kennel at 263 Crowley Spur Road. This property is zoned R3 which does not allow for a 20 dog kennel. The R3 zoning allows up to 4 animals. A 20 dog kennel is classified as a commercial business.

Chairman Hickey recognized Tony Odom, the appellant. Mr. Odom explained that it is his plan to construct a 20 dog kennel so that he can train the dogs. There will be a separate septic tank, air-conditioned kennels, slab foundation.

Chairman Hickey recognized Pete Thomas, Jr. who spoke in favor of the kennel. Mr. Thomas said that Tony Odom is a good neighbor and sees no problem arising from the kennels. Mr. Mike King also spoke in favor of the kennel. Mr. King said that he is the closest neighbor living on the surrounding properties.

Mr. Odom stated in answer to board members questions that the kennel is sound proof, the dogs are run 4 times per day and the building is 52' x 24'.

Chairman Hickey recognized O B White. Mr. White stated that he has 39 years in the business in Thomas

County and he is going to help construction Mr. Odom's kennel. The kennel proposed is a first class operation.

Commissioner Grady asked what if the situation changes and there is a new owner. Mr. Warren, County Attorney, stated that the owners are bound to conditions set by the board.

Chairman Hickey recognized Sarah Jackson. Ms. Jackson owns property across the dirt road from the site. The land has no home on it now but it has the highest land elevation in the area and is an excellent building site for the future. It is peaceful and quiet and allowing a kennel of this size is setting a precedent for others. Ms. Jackson stated for these reasons she is against allowing for a business to be built on this property.

Chairman Hickey recognized Karen Jackson. The property Sara Jackson is speaking of is the homestead for the Gibson Family. Mr. Karen Jackson stated that her grandfather has turned down several offers to buyers who wish to change the acreage to Commercial on the US 319 side of the property. Any change for the R3 zoning will have increased traffic, noise and visual intrusion.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Bill Eddings if the variance is granted would the landowner have to go through your office with the building plan. Mr. Eddings stated that he would have to present plans and follow the usual procedure. There is a state license that he would need in order to operate a kennel.

The board heard various procedure opinions and differences.

Chairman Hickey closed the public hearing.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner NeSmith stated that Mr. Odom has gone through due process and made a motion to grant his appeal, 16-11-1 allowing a 20 dog kennel in a R3 district and proceed with the construction according to the local county ordinance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley. Motion carried by a 7 to 1 vote; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, and Grady voting aye. Commissioner Mays voted nay.

Chairman Hickey recognized Dr. Ervin Davis. Dr. Davis presented a program for life style intervention that work with childhood obesity and seeking sponsors for the program. This organization is a cross section of Americans in a worldwide organization. There is a free concert to the public on December 3 at Brookwood School, Hines-Watt Hall.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Mays who made a motion to award the engineering contract for the 2016 CDBG-Foxcroft, to Goodwyn, Mills, Cawood. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

Mr. Robert Ramsey of Goodwyn, Mills, Cawood and thanked the board for the award. He also said that he has an engineer scheduled to be on-site tomorrow.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the extension of the moratorium on solar installations for six (6) months until 5/10/2017. The motion was seconded by

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

Tony Wooten, Public Works Director, gave the board an update concerning the Airport Road Bridge. The bridge had to be closed due to an automobile accident damaging the bridge railings. Further stating the bridge was scheduled for replacement when funds were available. Commissioner NeSmith said that SPLOST, General Funds or Airport Funds could be used for the project. Southern Concrete submitted 3 options for the bridge. 1) \$227,000 BFI to determine piling length and Thomas County responsible for the cost of pile over-runs, furnish bridge deck, guardrail, striping, engineering, environmental permits, paving and any fees. Start time within 2 weeks 2) \$197,940 same as 1) except use test piling 3) Triple box culverts, county would base, pave and grass. Start time 2-3 months. Staff recommended Option 2).

Chairman Hickey recognized Vice-Chairman Brown who made a motion to declare an emergency situation and expedite getting the road to the airport opened contracting with Southern Concrete. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mays. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

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

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to declare the list of equipment, vehicles, and miscellaneous items in the agenda packet surplus, salvage and recyclable. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mays. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Gross who made a motion to approve submittal of the 2018 DOT Transit application. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Brown. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Hickey recognized Lauren Basford from the Thomasville Thomas County Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Basford commended the board concerning the Citizens' Academy program that is offered annually. Commissioner commended the Chamber for the changes in the Chamber Awards Banquet.

County Manager Michael Stephenson pointed out that included in the materials today is a budget summary and the budget public hearings are scheduled to start on November 14 at 9:00. Recent years have shown that the hearing will only be for one day though two more days have been set aside if needed. The recommendation show no property tax increase for 2017. The capital requests from the departments are listed in the summary. There will also be an Unincorporated Services Fund set up in the county's chart of accounts.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Mays who made a motion to approve the Purchasing Committee's recommendation to purchase road side herbicides from Meherrin Ag for \$10,900. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Mays who made a motion to approve the Purchasing Committee's recommendation to purchase rock as needed from A Mining. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Mays who made a motion to approve the Purchasing Committee's recommendation to award TransAmerica Insurance for the Health Insurance Programs stop-loss carrier. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve Lang Mechanical LLC to make repairs and adjustments to the boiler at the Judicial Center. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mays. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

Upcoming meetings and events were announced. Road Committee – 11/16, Personnel Committee 12/15, Veterans' Parade 11/8, Equipment Demonstration 11/10 at 8:45.

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


Kenneth E. Hickey, Chairman

ATTEST:


M. Twink Monahan, Clerk