

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
November 14, 2016, 9:00 a.m.
225 North Board Street

The Thomas County Board of Commissioners met on the above date in a Public Hearing to review and receive comments from the public for the 2017 Budget 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-Chairman, 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, Laura Nichols, Finance Manager, and Twink Monahan, County Clerk. Media present was Patti Dozier, Times-Enterprise and Chris Hurst, WPAX/WLOR.

Also present was Commissioner-Elect Zippy Vonier.

Chairman Hickey gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Chairman Hickey declared a public hearing.

City of Thomasville – Nate Tyler, Landfill Report

Chairman Hickey recognized Nate Tyler, Sanitation Department, City of Thomasville. Mr. Tyler referred to questions submitted in a letter dated 10/27/2016 from Mr. Stephenson concerning the Landfill financial reports. Mr. Tyler answered additional questions from the board and submitted a handout with the capital items in the 2017 proposed budget.

Mr. Tyler also asked that the board support the efforts of the City to assist the City of Thomasville in securing contracts from surrounding municipalities and counties for the regional landfill. These contracts would give the landfill surety of income.

Sheriff's Office – Sheriff Powell, Charity Manwaring, Captain Ron James

Sheriff Powell requested a \$1 an hour increase for all deputies that rotate shifts. He said the difference for this request would be \$56,784. The deputies rotate every 4 months and work 12 hour shifts. He explained that this is not just when they are on the night shift, therefore not considered a shift differential pay. The salary comparisons for surrounding counties is still in line with Thomas County.

Sheriff Powell stated that his department has a fleet of 43 vehicles. He would prefer to rotate 8 vehicles per year.

Jail - He requested extra consideration for 2 additional jailers to make up 7 member teams.

Vice – The manager’s recommendation for training bases on the most recent years where less than 1,000 was being spent. The board agreed if more is needed it will be granted.

Emergency Medical Service – Co-Directors Tim Coram, Martin Smith and James Mann

The Commissioners discussed the grant, the grant match and a new ambulance. The cutoff date to apply for the grant is 11/18/2016. The commissioners decided to increase the EMS budget by \$140,000 for a new ambulance.

Public Defender – Wade Krueger, Pattie Sutton

Mr. Kruger explained that the governor increased their personnel budget by \$10,432 for a 3% COLA, retirement and health insurance. The board acknowledged the mandated budget increase.

District Attorney’s Office – David Miller

The Commissioners agreed to increase the pay schedule adjustment by \$28,035. This will be the 3rd year increase that was a 3-year plan to align salaries since the salary freezes in 2008.

UGA Agriculture Extension Service – Cindy Wynn, Andrew Sawyer

Ms. Wynn, Ext. Service Coordinator, requested that the part-time position held by Robin Nelson be changed to full-time. The county created this position in 2010 for the 4-H Program, there is no state participation. Ms. Nelson currently restricted to 30 hours per week, \$12,000 annually, the request is 40 hours increasing the annual pay to \$17,160 plus county benefits. After discussing the options the board made the following decision to hire a 2nd part time employee and split the 4-H duties between the 2 positions leaving them both at 30 hours per week.

Fire Department

The Inmate Fire Team was discussed. The amount of new positions was reduced to 12 instead of 15. The station would be manned Monday through Friday.

Paul Jones, the land owner at the Mitchell Road and Madre Pond Road has proposed to build a one-bay fire station on his property. This would be classified as a sub-station, the first in Thomas County. The county would need to provide a unit to that station. This area is currently an ISO Class 10. This action would change the ISO ratings to a 4/9 or 5/6. This improves ratings to 18 Thomas County homes and 120 in Brooks County. The staff at Four Oaks will be trained as firefighters to man the station. Chief Jones stated that Brooks County Volunteers can also man the sub-station. The water source will be from DNR wells and lakes. Jay Kimbell and Vann Middleton, both representing the landowner Paul Jones, were present to answer any questions. A 20-year lease was discussed and the county attorney would review.

At 11:45 Chairman Hickey closed the Public Hearing and declared a recess until 1:15 for lunch.

Chairman Hickey reconvened the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Review of the Requests outside of the Manager's Recommendation

Sheriff's Office – remains at the manager's recommendation

Emergency Medical Service

Ambulance

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Gross who made a motion to approve adding \$140,000 to the budget for a new ambulance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mays. Motion carried with a 6 to 2 vote; Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye. Chairman Hickey and Commissioner NeSmith voting nay.

Pay increase for part time EMT and Paramedics – declined

Public Defenders' Office

Personnel Increase

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the state mandated increase of \$10,432 to cover 3% COLA, retirement and health insurance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gross. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

District Attorney's Office

Personnel Increase

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Gross who made a motion to approve the pay schedule adjustment by \$28,035. 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.

UGA Extension Service

Change a part time position to full time

Chairman Hickey who made a motion to modify the request and approve the additional part time position of 30 hours for \$12,000 annually. 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.

Fire Department

Page 3 of 4

11.14.2016 Budget Hearing

Four Oaks Sub-Station

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Gross who made a motion to create a separate line item in the Fire District 3 Budget and budget for an estimated \$2,500 for Utilities and Maintenance of the Four Oaks Sub-Station. 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.

Prison

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Baker who made a motion to fund the Prison for 12 months and build a new prison. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. Motion failed with a 3 to 5 vote; Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, and Gross voting aye. Chairman Hickey and Commissioners NeSmith Ansley, Grady and Mays voting nay. Prison to close.

Review of Changes to the Manager’s Recommendation

General Fund

Public Defender	\$ 10,432
District Attorney	\$ 28,035
UGA Extension Service	\$ 12,000
Prison	\$ -0-

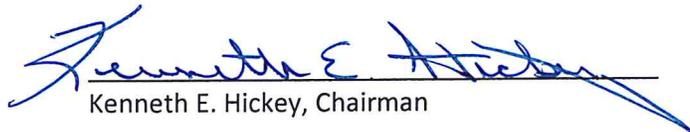
Emergency Services Fund

EMS	\$140,000
-----	-----------

Fire District 3

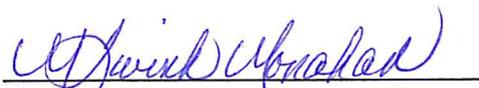
Four Oaks Sub Station	\$ 2,500
-----------------------	----------

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to adjourn. 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.



Kenneth E. Hickey, Chairman

ATTEST:



M. Twink Monahan, Clerk