

Minutes  
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
225 North Board Street  
April 25, 2017

The Thomas County Board of Commissioners met on the above date in a regular scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse, Commission Chambers, with the following board members present:

Kenneth E. Hickey, Chairman, Dist. 3	Phillip V. Brown, Vice-Chair, Dist. 7
Merrill E. Baker, Jr., Dist. 1	Moses Gross, Dist. 2
Mark NeSmith, Dist. 4	Hershel P. Ansley, Dist. 5
Wiley E. Grady, Dist. 6	Zippy T. Vonier, Dist. 8

Staff present was Michael J. Stephenson, County Manager, Thelma Maxwell, Assistant Clerk and Twink Monahan, County Clerk. Media present was Patti Dozier, Times Enterprise and Chris Hurst, WPAX/WTUF Radio. Other staff present was Sheriff Powell, Bruce Warren, James Mann,, Tim Coram, Donna Holbert, Bill Eddings, Tony Wooten, Jay Knight and Jamie Parrott.

Chairman Hickey called the meeting to order.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Brown who gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the minutes of the 4/11/2017 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baker, Gross, Ansley, NeSmith, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Hickey declared a Public Hearing for the Humane Society, the Capital Improvements Element of the Comprehensive Plan; Heard's Pond Subdivision; and rezoning application 17-4-1.

#### Humane Society

Chairman Hickey recognized Dr. Beckey Malphus and Chandler Giddes from the Thomas County Humane Society/Animal Control. Their presentation explained the Return to Field (RTF) program. They are requesting to use the manned collection site on 122 for a 12 month trial for the RTF program. A structure would be put on site for the community cats (feral) to live and feed. Initially the cats are trapped, neutered and returned to the site. Over time all cats in in colony would not reproduce, therefore the over population would diminish.

#### Capital Improvement

Chairman Hickey recognized Bill Ross, Ross & Associates. Mr. Ross presented the draft impact fee report and the next 5 years of projected activities. Chairman Hickey asked if there were any comments concerning the report. There were none.

#### Heard's Pond Subdivision

Chairman Hickey recognized Aaron Coch, attorney for the homeowners' association, and Keith Webb, the president of the association.

At the last meeting of the homeowners association the members voted 36 yea, 1 nay to request the county have ownership of the streets and that the right of ways would be turned over to the county. The list of all non-compliant items with the streets had been met except for the removal of trees. The homeowners would remove the trees if assured by the board the streets would be taken into the county system. Randy Livingston, Keith Webb, and Waymon Sapp were all in favor. Mr. Sapp asked questions about the tree removal.

Mr. Warren stated the county can accept the streets upon Tony Wooten's approval of meeting all the conditions previously sent to the property owners and attorney. Mr. Coch stated that he will draft the necessary paperwork to complete the transfer if approved.

#### Rezoning Application 17-4-1

Chairman Hickey asked Mr. Bill Eddings to present Rezoning Application 17-4-1, Anton (Tony) Huber III, agent for the property owner, Sunshine Properties of Thomasville, LLC, requests a zoning change for property located on East Pinetree Boulevard and Old Boston Road (2.895 acres,, more or less on Map 46H,, Parcels 106, 107 and 108) from CG (Commercial General) to RM-11 (Multi-Family Residential) so as to allow for the construction of 31 apartments for senior citizens ages 55 and up. Mr. Eddings stated that the PLUS Commission and staff recommended the rezoning.

There was no one to speak in favor or opposition of the request to rezone.

The public hearing was closed.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve 12 month trial period for the Humane Society for place the 'catios' for the colony cats at the 188 @ Stewart Road collection site. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to approve the resolution to transmit the draft Capital Improvements Element of the comprehensive plan to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission for approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to accept the streets in Heard's Pond into the county's road system after final approval from the Public Works Director that all conditions have been met. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve rezoning application 17-4-1, Anton (Tony) Huber III, agent for the property owner, Sunshine Properties of Thomasville, LLC, requests a zoning change for property located on East Pinetree Boulevard and Old Boston Road (2.895 acres,, more or less on Map 46H,, Parcels 106, 107 and 108) from CG (Commercial General) to RM-11 (Multi-Family Residential) so as to allow for the construction of 31 apartments for senior citizens ages 55 and up. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Brown. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve setting the application fee for solar facilities at \$1,000 as recommended by the PLUS Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vonier. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to approve lifting the moratorium, expiring on May 8, 2017, on solar facility permitting effective 4/26/2017. The motion was seconded by Chairman Hickey. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Hickey recognized Jamie Parrot present for the first time as the new Interim Fleet Manager.

Bruce Warren reported that after review of the work to be done on the railroad crossings by the county crews, he found no issues with the request. Jay Knight was present and reported that the crossing at the Midway Church Road cost the county \$3,800 to finish. There are five total; Hansel Road, McMillan Road, Roup Road and Pinetree Blvd. The railroad will be doing all the work on Pinetree.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to approve for Thomas County to fix the remaining railroad crossings and finish by May 31. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baker. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Vonier voting aye.

Mr. Warren also reviewed the 2017 SPLOST CALENDAR and will e-mail it to the board tomorrow.

Mr. Warren also discussed the variance procedure outlined in the county ordinance. The board has the authority to grant a variance. In the past the board has not allowed for a permit to be issued without road frontage. A variance on an easement does not meet the Thomas County standards. Variance requests will be considered on a case to case basis. Mr. Eddings will contact Mr. Rodney Bennett who is seeking a variance and explain the procedure that is laid out in the county's ordinance.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to award the 90-day pricing for aggregate rock to A-Mining Group as approved by the Purchasing Committee. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Brown. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Vonier voting aye.

	Description	*Price Per Ton Rock	Price Per Ton Freight	Total Per Ton Price
<b>A Mining Group</b>	Limerock Base	\$7.00	\$10.50	\$17.50
	Limerock 57	\$15.00	\$10.50	\$25.50
	Surge Rock / 2" – 4"	\$22.00	\$11.50	\$33.50

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the diesel purchase on 4/12/2017 to Petroleum Products at \$1.7381 per gallon. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Brown. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Vonier voting aye.

Upcoming committee meetings were announced: Public Property 5/4, Purchasing 5/2, Finance 5/11, Solid Waste 5/10, Emergency Services 5/15 and Road 5/17.

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

  
Kenneth E. Hickey, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
M. Twink Monahan, County Clerk