

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
January 14, 2020

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:

Wiley Grady, Chairman, Dist. 6

Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3
Donnie L. Baggett, Dist. 5

Phillip V. Brown, Vice-Chair, Dist. 7

Moses Gross, Dist. 2
Mark NeSmith, Dist. 4
Zippy T. Vonier, Dist. 8

Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Purchasing Agent Alicia Wiese and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

News/Media present: Patti Dozier, Thomasville Times Enterprise and Chris Hurst WPAX

Chairman Grady called the meeting to order, and Dr. Bennie E. Calloway III of New Jerusalem MB Church gave the invocation.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2019 Board Meeting. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Rich, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Baggett, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady expressed his appreciation for the Board's support over the past two years that he has served as Chairman. He described it as a pleasant experience and feels the Board of Commissioners were able to accomplish so much because they respect each other and work well together even when they do not agree. He then turned the meeting over to County Attorney Warren who asked for nominations for Chairman of the Board. Commissioner Hickey made the nomination to elect Phillip Brown. With no other nominations forthcoming, County Attorney Warren ceased the nominating period. Commissioner Hickey made the motion to elect Phillip Brown as Chairman. Commissioner NeSmith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Rich, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Baggett, Brown, and Vonier voting aye. County Attorney Warren asked for nominations for Vice Chairman of the Board. Commissioner Baggett made the nomination to elect Wiley Grady. With no other nominations forthcoming, County Attorney Warren ceased the nominating period. Commissioner Baggett made the motion to elect Wiley Grady as Vice Chairman. Commissioner NeSmith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown, Commissioners Rich, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Baggett, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown thanked the Board for trusting him and assured them he will do his best. He also thanked Dr. Benny Calloway III. of New Jerusalem MB Church, his wife Carolyn, church family, friends, neighbors, and businesses who are supporting him.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to appoint Bruce Warren as the County Attorney. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown, Commissioners Rich, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Baggett, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to ratify the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Payroll Development Authority and Check-Mate Manufacturing. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown, Commissioners Rich, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Baggett, Grady and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized County Manager Stephenson who presented the lease agreement between the Thomas County Board of Commissioners and Gerald Pryor for the property located at 1402 E. Jackson Street, Thomasville, Georgia. He reiterated that the new location for the Elections and Registration is a result of the changes that were State mandated in 2019. The number of voting machines will triple, and the number of poll workers will double. The new site, which is approximately 7000 square feet, will accommodate these changes and was recommended by the Public Property Committee.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to ratify the lease agreement between the Thomas County Board of Commissioners and Gerald Pryor for the property at 1402 E. Jackson Street, Thomasville, Georgia. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown, Commissioners Rich, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Baggett, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized County Attorney Warren who stated that the deed for the 319 South/Springhill Rd. property (formerly Williams-Parker property) has been filed.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Gross who made a motion to ratify the deed for the 319 South/Springhill Rd. property. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown, Commissioners Rich, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Baggett, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the annual Circuit Public Defender Contract for 2020. Commissioner NeSmith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown, Commissioners Rich, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Baggett, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to set the 2020 Qualifying Fees. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown, Commissioners Rich, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Baggett, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Rich who made a motion to approve the write-offs for the 2018 Emergency Medical Services totaling \$63,684.12. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown, Commissioners Rich, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Baggett, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to appoint Commissioner Donnie Baggett, Elaine Mays, and Al Bryan to the Southwest GA Regional Commission. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown, Commissioners Rich, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Baggett, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to reappoint Terry Hurst and Commissioner Wiley Grady to the Recreation Advisory Board for a three- year term ending 12/31/2022. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown, Commissioners Rich, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Baggett, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to reappoint Kaye Davis to the Planning & Land Use Standards Commission for a four-year term ending 12/31/2023. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Rich, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Baggett, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown declared an Open Meeting to the Citizens. He began by recognizing Elaine Mays of 341 Mystic Pines of Thomasville, Georgia who commended the County for substantially lowering the Emergency Services write-offs for 2018.

Chairman Brown recognized Dr. Chip Bragg of 10350 Springhill Rd., Thomasville, Georgia who, on behalf of the residents in the area, expressed concern over the plans of building an Emergency Services facility in the area. He also stated that the impromptu meeting with the County Manager, Emergency Services Directors and Commissioners was beneficial.

Chairman Brown recognized Lucinda Brown of 103 Halcyon Way, Thomasville, Georgia who stated that she would like the County to reject the proposal for changing the polling locations. She specifically addressed the schools that would no longer be used. She expressed her concern over the elderly and disadvantaged citizens who would simply not vote. The change would equate to voter suppression.

Chairman Brown recognized Morris Arrington of 208 Woods Gate Lane, Thomasville, Georgia who stated that as a 40 year educator he was perplexed and disappointed with the proposal for changing the polling locations. He also expressed that schools are the safest places for voting precincts. He hopes the Commissioners will continue to seek input.

Chairman Brown recognized Gloria Glass of 225 Pig Sauls Rd., Boston, Georgia who stated she had read House Bill 316 and interpreted it differently. She doesn't see the need for all the changes to the polling locations. She also declared she has a problem with the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners serving on every County committee.

Chairman Brown recognized Linda Solana of 158 Stone Bridge Drive, Thomasville, Georgia who stated that she is the newly elected Chairman of the Elections and Registration Board. She informed the Commissioners that she will be meeting with the School Superintendent this week to discuss possible solutions.

Chairman Brown recognized County Manager Stephenson who gave an update on the Springhill property. His staff is working on a footprint of the facility and a design with the possibility of siding. The plan will be presented to the Public Property Committee in February and a Community Meeting to follow in March. The site plan would also show two entrances – one on Springhill Road and one on 319 South. The new site would cover a large part of the county south of Pine Tree Boulevard. This location would also improve response time to these areas.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the purchase of fuel from Petroleum Products for \$1.7620/gal approved on 12/11/19 and the purchase of diesel from Petroleum Products for \$2.0554/gal, approved on 12/18/19. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The

motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Rich, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Baggett, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the following vehicle purchases from Stallings Motors totaling \$229,279.00. Commissioner NeSmith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Rich, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Baggett, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Quantity	Department	Description	Price
1	Public Works	¾ ton pickup	\$47,168
1	Public Works	½ ton pickup	\$31,206
1	Facilities Management	½ ton pickup	\$23,414
1	Building Inspections	½ ton pick Quad Cab	\$21,957
1	Fire Department	¾ ton pickup	\$30,970
1	Sheriff's Department	2020 Dodge Ram SSV	\$29,968
2	Tax Assessor	½ ton pickups	\$44,596

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the bid for Fiber Optic installation for \$55,350.00. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Rich, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Baggett, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to accept all bid awards for the Ranges at Oakfield as follows. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Rich, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Baggett, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

<u>Job</u>	<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Bid</u>
Downspouts/Gutters	J&J Seamless	\$ 8,100
Digital Target System	Kongsberg Target System	\$106,125
Precast Concrete Benches	Vaughn Concrete Products	\$ 22,600
Video Camera System Installation	S & L Integrated Systems	\$ 38,323.84
	Grand Total	\$175,148.84

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the purchase of three ¾ ton trucks for Emergency Services totaling \$93,000 from Stallings Motors. Commissioner NeSmith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Rich, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Baggett, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

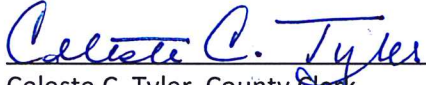
Chairman Brown recognized Cynthia Ebben of 10369 Springhill Rd. Thomasville, Georgia. She asked the Commissioners to consider a different location for the proposed Springhill Rd. Emergency Services facility.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.



Phillip V. Brown, Chairman

ATTEST:



Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk