

Minutes  
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
225 North Board Street  
May 12, 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:

**Phillip V. Brown, Chairman, Dist. 7**  
Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1  
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3 (absent)  
Donnie L. Baggett, Dist. 5

**Wiley E. Grady, Vice-Chair, Dist. 6**  
Moses Gross, Dist. 2 (absent)  
Mark NeSmith, Dist. 4  
Zippy T. Vonier, Dist. 8 (absent)

Staff present: County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Sheriff Carlton Powell, Emergency Services Director Derrick Ogletree, EMS Director Tim Coram, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

News/Media present: none

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order, and Commissioner Rich gave the invocation.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2020 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye.

Under New Business Chairman Brown presented the Zero Tolerance Drug and Alcohol Policy for Thomas County Area Transit.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to adopt the 2020 Zero Tolerance Drug and Alcohol Policy for Thomas County Area Transit. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized County Manager Stephenson who gave an update on the Scott Senior Center. He presented a draft copy of an Advisory Team that will help with the navigation of moving forward with the absence of Southwest Georgia Council on Aging (SOWEGA). Izzie Saddler, Executive Director of SOWEGA acknowledged in a recent conversation with the County Manager that the \$32,000 in the Scott Senior Center bank account are local funds.

County Manger Stephenson also stated that a Finance Committee meeting has been set for May 28, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. He hopes to have preliminary numbers on what to expect from FEMA as reimbursement for COVID-19 expenses.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Grady who reported on the ratification of the Emergency Lighting/Decals for the Sheriff's Office from Dana Safety for \$11,392.04 at the May 7, 2020 Public Property Committee meeting.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Baggett who gave accolades to the Ranges at Oakfield after a tour on May 7, 2020. He and Director of Public Works, Tony Bodiford drove throughout the area of the new facility while shooting was taking place to assess the noise. He happily reported that the noise was minimal and even non-existent in some areas and is hopeful that little complaints will be reported once the shooting range opens.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Rich who made a motion to ratify the diesel gas purchase from Petroleum Products for \$.9290/gal on May 11, 2020. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye. Commissioner Rich also reported on the ratification of the Pistol Range Steel Reaction Targets from Mr. Target for \$19,700.00 at the May 5, 2020 Purchasing Committee meeting.

Commissioner NeSmith reminded everyone of the May 18, 2020 Emergency Services meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Chairman Brown recognized Sheriff Powell who reported that everything is going well. His staff is healthy, and the jails are in good shape. They are continuing to take precautions as standard protocol.

A discussion was held on whether or not local government should present a formal response for “re-opening” churches, etc. It was recommended by County Attorney Warren and County Manager Stephenson that re-stating orders that are already out there is not necessary. Church leadership can continue to decide if social distancing is possible and make decisions for their church accordingly.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye.

  
Phillip V. Brown, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk