

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
November 10, 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 (absent)
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3
Donnie L. Baggett, Dist. 5

Wiley E. Grady, Vice-Chair, Dist. 6
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, Planning Director Ken Gay, Zoning Administrator Donna Holbert, Public Works Director Tony Bodiford, , and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

News/Media present: Chris Hurst, WPAX

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

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2020 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vonier. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized Zoning Administrator Donna Holbert who introduced Re-zoning Application 20-11-1. The Public Hearing for this application will be held on November 24, 2020. The applicant is requesting a zone change on property located on Old Boston Road (Map 46H, Parcel 115 (1.66 acres more or less). The request from Jinright, Ryan, and Lynn, agent for property owner, Eugene Witherspoon is to change the zoning from CG (Commercial General) to RM-11 (Residential, Multi Family) to allow for the construction of approximately 18 apartments. Commissioner NeSmith asked Public Works Director Tony Bodiford to conduct a traffic count at the intersection of Smith Avenue and Pinetree Boulevard before the Public Hearing. Planning Director Ken Gay stated that his Department has not received any negative feedback regarding this project. Donna Holbert will e-mail the Commissioners the Rezoning Application Packet as soon as the Department has finalized their recommendation.

Under Reports Chairman Brown recognized County Manager Stephenson who stated that the maintenance and repairs for small town libraries is under review. The County Clerk will look specifically for any Intergovernmental Agreement between Thomas County and the city of Boston. The Budget Hearing and Work Session will be held on November 17, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Hickey asked for consideration to be given for a vehicle purchase for Sheriff Powell. County Manager Stephenson also reported that the General Fund Balance for 2020 is currently 9.5 million compared to 7.2 million in 2019. Commissioners that are eligible for Medicare should schedule an appointment with TBR (Taylor Benefit Resources) through Jessie Winkelmann.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Grady who announced the Youth Day event being held at the Ranges at Oakfield this Saturday. Well-known trick shooters will be present for exhibitions, and it will certainly be a memorable day at the Range. The entire event is being paid for through private donations,

and he encouraged everyone to come out for the family-friendly event. Commissioner Grady also shared a letter from Dr. Philip Watt regarding private sponsorships.

Commissioner Grady made a motion to ratify the transfer of \$109,390.00 from the Library Fund Balance to the replenishment of the Library Maintenance Fund for FY 2020-2021 by recommendation from the Public Property Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Grady made a motion to ratify the Library's request to submit a grant application in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 with the local match being \$100,000.00 to the Georgia Public Library Service for FY 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the diesel fuel purchase from Petroleum Products for \$1.2841/gal. on November 6, 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the purchase of the galvanized metal fence from low bidder, White's Fence for \$23,929.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

The upcoming committee meetings were announced. The Emergency Services Committee will meet at the Historic Courthouse on November 16, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. The Public Works Committee will meet at the Historic Courthouse on November 18, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. The Purchasing Committee will meet at the Historic Courthouse on December 1, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

Commissioner Gross recommended that the new video of the Southside Fire Station be shown at the November 16, 2020 Emergency Services meeting. Commissioner NeSmith concurred.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.


Phillip V. Brown, Chairman

ATTEST:


Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk