

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
February 9, 2021

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:

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, Purchasing Agent Alicia Wiese, Facilities and Maintenance Director Lyndall Knight, Fleet Services Director Jamie Parrott, Public Works Director Tony Bodiford, Emergency Services Director Derrick Ogletree, Sheriff Carlton Powell, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

News/Media present: Chris Hurst, WPAX radio

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

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2021 Board Meeting. 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.

Chairman Brown recognized Amit Soniminde, applicant for a Package Beer & Wine License for Gas and Grill LLC located at 12216 US Hwy 84, Thomasville, GA 31757. Mr. Soniminde, dba Gas and Grill, LLC passed all requirements according to the Thomas County ordinance. Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the application. Commissioner NeSmith seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to re-appoint Dr. Jim Story (county) and Stanley Fiveash (small town) to the Recreation Advisory Board. 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 Lyndall Knight who presented a list of proposed surplus equipment from the Facilities and Maintenance Department consisting of filing cabinets, chairs, tables, miscellaneous furniture, etc. Commissioner NeSmith made a motion to approve the list as submitted as surplus and authorized the sale of said list on GovDeals online auction. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized Tony Bodiford who presented a list of proposed surplus equipment from the Public Works Department consisting of old concrete pipe and flares of various sizes and old wooden bridge forms of various sizes. Commissioner Hickey made a motion to approve the list as submitted as surplus and authorized the sale of said list on GovDeals online auction. Commissioner Vonier seconded the

motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized Derrick Ogletree who presented a list of proposed surplus equipment from the ESD Fire Division consisting of 21 Bunker gear coats and 24 Bunker gear pants. Commissioner NeSmith made a motion to approve the list as submitted as surplus and authorized the sale of said list on GovDeals online auction. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Derrick Ogletree also presented information on a Fireworks Tax Grant that is open for applications from the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council (GFSTC). The maximum grant amount is \$25,000 with a 10% County match. Commissioner Hickey made a motion to authorize the application of the Fireworks Tax Grant. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized County Manager Stephens who reported on a recent meeting with Dusty Kornegay, Board of Trustees Chairman for the Thomas County Public Library. The two agreed that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that addresses funding issues would be helpful. Mr. Stephenson distributed a funding policy that was adopted by the Board of Regents that requires “the total local governmental annual operating support for each library system shall be equal to or greater than that of the preceding fiscal year”. Mr. Stephenson also recommended that the Library move forward with the repair and carpentry of the wheelchair lift (aka elevator) at the Boston Carnegie Library. The Committee agreed.

Mr. Stephenson also asked the County Attorney to do a title search on the Ellaville and Merriville polling facilities. Interest from citizens to purchase and move the structures has been expressed.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to ratify the acceptance of Ross & Associates (Bill Ross) contract for Impact Fee consultation (\$53,350.00). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Grady made a motion to ratify the approval of the selection of Ray Finger as architect for the design of the new Southside Station and approval of the contract as presented from Raymond C. Finger Architects, LLC. 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 Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to approve the bid from Griffin Chevrolet (State Contract) for a 2022 Chevrolet Tahoe LT for \$49,475.40. The recommendation is the result of the “inability to perform” as stipulated, by Ginn Motors, the vendor who was originally selected. 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 a backhoe deemed as surplus with a reserve of \$14,000 for the online auction. 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 approval for removing timber at the new Sheriff's Shooting Range (4 acres) for compensation by Clay Norton. 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.

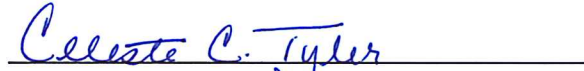
The upcoming committee meetings were announced. The Emergency Services Committee will meet at the Historic Courthouse on February 15, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. The Public Works Committee will meet at the Historic Courthouse on February 17, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Hickey 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 9:30 a.m.



Phillip V. Brown, Chairman

ATTEST:


Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk