

Minutes  
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
225 North Board Street  
April 12, 2022

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:

**Mark NeSmith, Chairman, Dist. 4**  
Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1 (absent)  
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3 (absent)  
Phillip V. Brown, District 7

**Wiley E. Grady, Vice-Chair, Dist. 6**  
Moses Gross, District 2 (absent)  
Donnie L. Baggett, District 5  
Zippy T. Vonier, District 8

Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren Project Superintendent Jay Knight, Planning Director Ken Gay, Capt. Steve Jones, Sheriff Carlton Powell, Asst. Fire Chief Bob Duthoy, Building and Maintenance Director Lyndall Knight, Building and Maintenance Tech. Terry Jackson, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

Others Present: Commander Greg Thweat, VFW Post 4995 and Joy Knop (Live Like Levi Scholarship/ May Festival)

News/Media present: Chris Hurst, WPAX and Pat Donahue, Thomasville Times Enterprise

Chairman NeSmith called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2022 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vonier. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

**Open Meeting to the Citizens:** Chairman NeSmith recognized Candee Henderson of 1453 Egg and Butter Rd. South, Thomasville, GA. She referenced a book, [Drawdown Georgia](#) which outlines the goal to reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the footprint in Georgia from 125 megatons to 79 megatons by 2030—an initiative to the goal of 100% renewable energy by 2035.

**Public Hearing:** Chairman NeSmith declared a Public Hearing to consider the request by Michael Suber to close Suber Road from U.S. Highway 319 to Colquitt County Line.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Mr. Suber who stated that the road is in Thomas and Colquitt counties, and Colquitt County has agreed to close their portion. The road has been maintained by the Suber's for years. With no opposition, Chairman NeSmith closed the Public Hearing.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the closure of Suber Road. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commander Greg Thweat from VFW Post 4995. Every year the VFW presents an award to someone in Public Service who protects life and property and exemplifies personal courage. This year's recipient is Firefighter Edward T. Barrow. Asst. Chief Bob Duthoy received the award on his behalf. Commander Thweat also presented two challenge coins – the Firefighter's Prayer and First In- Last Out.

In Unfinished Business Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the Motorola Warranty Extension Agreement for 5 years Maintenance, Support, and Rapid SOS

for the total system upgrade for E-911. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Mrs. Joy Knop who requested a special event alcohol permit for the Legend Music Festival on May 21, 2022. The event will be held at the Deep South Fair Grounds with proceeds going to the Live Like Levi Scholarship Fund.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the request for the special event alcohol permit as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

**Reports:**

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Stephenson who announced the hiring of Mary Griffin as the new payroll clerk/accounting tech. Mary will start on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

County Manager Stephenson also stated that the discussion for the E-911 software (Mobile Data Software) continues being hashed out. He recommends suspending the expenditure for this year and in 2023 bring interested parties together and send out RFPs.

The County Manager recognized Planning Director Ken Gay who gave an update on the Evergreen Brook Apartments project. Ken has a meeting with the designer on 4/13/2022, and the developer is working on obtaining several necessary permits. He also reported that the new apartments on Colonial Dr. are not quite ready for the rough inspection. Also, Mr. Monte Ott, a re-zoning applicant, has not submitted a final design to the Planning Department. County Attorney Warren commented that in regards to the fencing issue, Mr. Ott would need to come back to the Board to amend the original motion.

County Attorney Warren informed the Commissioners of two Opioid class action lawsuits that the County is participating in.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the purchase of diesel fuel from Petroleum Products for \$3.7285/gal on April 12, 2022 and the purchase of fuel from Petroleum Products for \$3.3179/gal on April 6, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the purchase of a Pierce Responder Pumper on March 28, 2022 for \$341,276.00 from Ten-8 Fire Equipment, Inc. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the purchase of four used dump trucks from Colquitt County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to declare the following vehicles surplus and to authorize the sale of the vehicles on GovDeals online auction. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vonier. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

## AUCTION SURPLUS LIST

150	Public Works	1993	International	1HTSHPPR6RH568804
152	Public Works	2003	Freightliner w/Ox Body	1FVHBXBSX3HK87085
158	Public Works	2004	Peterbilt 330 w/Ox Body	2NPNLZ9X54M834204
173	Public Works	1987	International	1HTLKTVR3JH519047

Commissioner Baggett made a motion to approve the purchase of new chiller coils from Lang Mechanical for \$72,226.00 for the Historic Courthouse. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

The upcoming committee meetings were announced. The Commissioners will meet for a Work Session on April 13, 2022 at the Historic Courthouse at 3:00 p.m., and the Emergency Services Committee will meet on April 19, 2022 at the Historic Courthouse at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.



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Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
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Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk