

Minutes  
 Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
 225 North Board Street  
 May 10, 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:

<b>Mark NeSmith, Chairman, Dist. 4</b> Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1 Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3 (absent) Phillip V. Brown, District 7	<b>Wiley E. Grady, Vice-Chair, Dist. 6</b> Moses Gross, District 2 Donnie L. Baggett, District 5 Zippy T. Vonier, District 8
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Staff present was County Attorney Bruce Warren, Finance Director Laura Nichols, Planning Director Ken Gay, Public Works Director Tony Bodiford, Capt. Steve Jones, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

News/Media present: Chris Hurst, WPAX

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

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2022 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith introduced the 2022 Budget Amendment 22-5-1, which includes changes to the Unincorporated Fund, Emergency Services Fund, and the 2017 SPLOST. Commissioner Grady made a motion to amend the 2022 budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

**2022 BUDGET AMENDMENT 22-5-1**  
 UNINCORPORATED FUND (200)  
 MAY 10, 2022

Account	Description	Original 2022 Budget	Amended Budget	Difference
<b>Revenues</b>				
200-39-9060	Carryover of Funds	698,603	1,072,423	373,820
	<b>Total</b>			<b>373,820</b>
Net Increase to Revenues				<u>\$373,820</u>

Account	Description	Original 2022 Budget	Amended Budget	Difference
<b>Expenses</b>				
200-3575-54-2200	Emergency Operations-Vehicles	0	373,820	373,820
	<b>Total</b>			<b>373,820</b>
Net Increase to Expenses				<u>\$373,820</u>

EMERGENCY SERVICES FUND (273)  
MAY 10, 2022

Account Revenues	Description	Original 2022 Budget	Amended Budget	Difference
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273-39-9060	Carryover of Funds	0	284,773	284,773
	<b>Total</b>			<b>284,773</b>

Net Increase to Revenues \$284,773

Account Expenses	Description	Original 2022 Budget	Amended Budget	Difference
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273-3600-54-2200	EMS-Vehicles	0	391,156	391,156
273-9010-61-1005	Rainy Day Account	106,383	0	-106,383
	<b>Total</b>			<b>284,773</b>

Net Increase to Expenses \$284,773

**2022 BUDGET AMENDMENT 22-5-1**  
Project To Date Budget – SPLOST 2017-CPF (329)  
May 10, 2022

Account Expenses	Description	Original 2022 Budget	Amended Budget	Difference
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329-3300-54-2506	800 MHZ Radios-All Departments	1,600,000	1,545,110	-54,890
329-3300-54-2508	Broadband Internet	2,000,000	1,000,000	-1,000,000
329-3300-54-2512	Public Safety-Bldgs,Veh & Equip	500,000	637,777	137,777
329-3800-54-2405	911 Systems & Equipment	500,000	609,900	109,900
329-4100-54-2514	Public Works Equipment	520,000	1,045,000	525,000
329-6150-54-1225	County Pond Rehab	0	450,000	450,000
329-9010-57-9000	Contingencies	3,289,212	3,121,425	-167,787
	<b>Total</b>			<b>0</b>

Net Increase to Expenses \$0

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to re-appoint Emergency Services Director Derrick Ogletree to the Region 8 Emergency Medical Services Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

**Open Meeting to the Citizens:** Chairman NeSmith recognized Lucinda Brown of 103 Halcyon Way, Thomasville, GA who expressed concern over complaints from two black women, a current and former Thomas County employee who allege racial bias and requested an investigation by the Board of Commissioners. She stated that the women were not treated like their white counterparts and worked in a hostile work environment. She also questioned the lack of empathy shown by the County Manager.

**Reports:** Chairman NeSmith recognized Planning Director Ken Gay who gave an update on Evergreen Brook Apartments. The assessment from the City of Thomasville Utilities and the Thomas County Fire

Department and Public Works is near completion, and he anticipates a technical review to be held in a couple of weeks.

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Attorney Warren who reported that the county-owned land where the Merrillville voting precinct existed has a very poor legal description and recommends obtaining a quitclaim deed. Otherwise, a survey would be necessary and expensive. The process for selling the land would be to declare the land surplus, run advertisements in the paper, and accept sealed bids.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Gross who made a motion to declare the Merrillville land as surplus. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the purchase of diesel fuel from Petroleum Products for \$4.7881/gal on May 3, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the bid approval for the Pond Rehab project by Thrift Land Clearing for \$304,750.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the bid approval for Engineering Services for Wade Chastain and Centennial Roads by Watkins Engineering for \$65,945.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Gross commented that he had some questions for Public Works regarding the replacement of a property owner's fence, but would address that at the next Public Works Committee meeting next week.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the bid approval for Concrete Drainage Pipe by Foley Products for stock pile. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the bid approval for Ready Mix Portland Cement Concrete by Scruggs Concrete Company. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

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

#### AUCTION SURPLUS LIST

Unit # 17 – 404	Product ID# 1TC915EVKGT050106	Model # -z915 F 54"
Unit # 17 – 405	Product ID# ITC930MFCHT051073	Model # - z930 M 54"

The upcoming committee meetings were announced. The Emergency Services Committee will meet on May 16, 2022 at the Historic Courthouse at 8:30 a.m., and the Public Works Committee will meet on May 18, 2022 at the Historic Courthouse at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Gross who made a motion to go into closed Executive Session regarding a personnel issue. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. (9:19 a.m.)

The Board of Commissioners returned to the regular meeting at 10.20 a.m. No action was taken.

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, Gross, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

  
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Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:   
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Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk