

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
September 13, 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
Phillip V. Brown, District 7

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

Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Planning Director Ken Gay, Public Works Director Tony Bodiford, Fleet Services Director Jamie Parrott, E-911 Director Whitney Hopkins, Emergency Services Director Derrick Ogletree, Interim Facilities and Maintenance Director Johnnie Clark, Sheriff Carlton Powell, Charity Manwaring, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

News/Media present: Chris Hurst, WPAX Radio

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

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2022 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith welcomed the crowd and expressed appreciation for the Thomas County Employees that were in attendance to receive Years of Service Awards. The 2021 recipients are listed in this document as an attachment.

Open Meeting to the Citizens: Chairman NeSmith recognized Candee Henderson of 1453 Egg and Butter Road South, Thomasville, Georgia who spoke on her quest to have Thomas County commit to 100% renewable energy by 2035. She gave a comparison to Apollo 13 where “Failure is not an Option”.

Chairman Nesmith recognized Lucinda Brown of 103 Halcyon Way, Thomasville, Georgia who continued her request for Thomas County Board of Commissioners to hire a Human Resource Manager who would ensure employees are treated fairly and coached when needed. Chairman NeSmith briefly responded by adding that currently the Board of Commissioners has no intentions of hiring a Human Resources Manager. He continued by stating the County Manager is doing a great job operating under the guidelines and is doing what he is directed to do by the Commissioners. He asked for future comments on the matter to be directed to the Board of Commissioners and not the County Manager.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Al Bryan, City Manager of Meigs, who gave an update on Meigs’ Back to School program, recent financial audit, and Community Partnerships with Valdosta State University (3-yr Strategic Plan) and Windstream (broadband initiative). He also gave accolades to County Manager Stephenson and his staff for offering assistance when needed and always being available-- sometimes in a “minutes” notice. City of Meigs Mayor Cheryl Walters was in attendance and also recognized.

Commissioner Gross interjected that he was not in agreeance with Chairman NeSmith’s comments to Ms. Brown and did not want him speaking for him.

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Stephenson who referenced the proposed healthcare provider agreement for inmate medical care with Genesys Health Alliance. County Attorney Warren commented that he was satisfied with the agreement.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the inmate medical care contract with Genesys Health Alliance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith acknowledged the updated Prisoner Housing Agreement that was submitted by the Sheriff's Office. The update includes an increase in fees from a daily rate of \$22.00 to a recommended daily rate of \$50.00 for "in county" municipalities. An itemization of costs and fees and an "out of county" housing per diem of \$55.00 was included with the agreement. The fees have been the same since 1994.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the recommendations made by the Sheriff's Office for the inmate housing agreement as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vonier. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Reports:

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Stephenson who recognized Planning Director Ken Gay. Ken gave an update on the Evergreen Brook Apartments project. No changes or submissions have been received in the Planning and Zoning Department with this project.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the purchase of diesel fuel for \$4.0709/gal on August 30, 2022 and regular fuel for \$3.1081/gal on August 30, 2022 from Petroleum Products. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the approval for the installation of a water tap up to \$28,961.00 for the Southside Station from the City of Thomasville. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the approval to purchase 8 Patrol Units (Charger pursuit vehicles) from Thomasville Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram (Stallings Motors) and 8 "upfits" from Dana Safety Supply totaling \$404,072.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved 6-0-1 with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye. Commissioner Brown abstained from the vote citing a work conflict.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the approval to amend the ARPA Tentative Budget (American Rescue Plan Act) as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commission Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the approval of recipients of Non-Profit ARPA grant awards as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to ratify the approval of declared surplus (ESD Fire Division) and authorized it to be sold 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, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who announced that the Emergency Services Committee will meet on September 19, 2022 in the Commissioners' Chambers at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Gross who reported that he had received no phone calls or follow up from the unsigned ROW landowners of Centennial Road. He recommends moving the road to the inactive list.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.



Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:



Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk

Attachment: 2021 Years of Service Awards for Thomas County

2021 Years of Service Awards

5 Years

Waymon Stapp	Facilities Management
Jeremy Crosby	Sheriff's Office
Raynaldo Sturrup	Sheriff's Office
Benjamin Cooper	Drug Squad
Joshua Noethe	Emergency Services
Jon Allen	Emergency Services
Jacqueline Curry	Transit
Joseph Rollins	Building Inspection

20 Years

Diana Richards	Information Services
Jennifer Tucker	Clerk of Court
Joseph Bass	Public Works
Gary Heald	Public Works
Bobbie Hickey	Public Works

25 Years

10 Years

Cameron Clarke	Sheriff's Office	Willie (Buddy) Rhoden	Sheriff 's Office
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Amon (Tyler) Johnson

Donnie Yancey	Sheriff's Office
Charles Lamon	Drug Squad
Jake Parnell	Emergency Services
Thomas Bodor	Public Works
Michael Harper	Public Works
Timothy Whitman	Sanitation
Pamela Dennis	Transit
Charlie Tucker	Transit

Sheriff's Office

30 Years

Tony Bodiford	Public Works
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35 Years

David Godwin	Sheriff's Office
Derrick Ogletree	Emergency Services

15 Years

Corey Williams	Facilities Management
Yugonda Stewart	Clerk of Court
Cristy Wright	Magistrate Court
Leila Spires	Sheriff's Office
Scotty Richards	Courthouse Security
John Paulson, III	Emergency Services
Lisa Griffis	Emergency Services
Patrick Slaughter	E-911
Andre James	Fleet Services
Verna Arrington	Transit
Breonta Bevard	Transit
Sharon Jones	Transit
Deloris Thomas	Transit
Cindy Wynn	Extension