

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
April 11, 2023

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:

Zippy Vonier, Chairman, Dist. 8

Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3 (absent)
Wiley Grady, District 6

Donnie Baggett, Vice-Chair, Dist. 5

Moses Gross, District 2
Mark NeSmith, District 4
Phillip V. Brown, District 7

Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Planning Director Ken Gay, Fleet Services Director Jamie Parrott, Capt. Chuck McDonald, Sheriff Carlton Powell, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

News/Media present: Chris Hurst, WPAX Radio and Jill Holloway Thomasville Times Enterprise

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

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2023 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and NeSmith voting aye.

Chairman Vonier recognized County Manager Stephenson who referenced the 2023 Capital Budget and noted that the budget had been reviewed during the March 30, 2023 Finance Committee Meeting.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to approve the 2023 Capital Budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and NeSmith voting aye.

County Manager Stephenson reviewed the recommended amended Capital Asset Policy that would increase the threshold for additions to equipment from \$5,000 to \$10,000. He also stated that our internal auditors have reviewed and approved this change.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the amended 2023 Capital Asset Policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and NeSmith voting aye.

County Manager Stephenson referenced the 2023 Budget Amendment 23-4-1 and noted that the budget amendment had been reviewed during the March 30, 2023 Finance Committee Meeting.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to approve the 2023 Budget Amendment 23-4-1. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved

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

2023 BUDGET AMENDMENT 23-4-1
PROJECT LENGTH BUDGET - SPLOST 2017-CPF (329)
April 11, 2023

Account	Description	Original 2023 Budget	Amended Budget	Difference
Expenses				
329-3300-542400-000	2023/Sheriff/Records Mgt Software	0	284,689	284,689
329-4200-541410-000	County Bridge Rehab	0	650,000	650,000
329-6150-541225-000	County Pond Rehab	450,000	457,510	7,510
329-9010-579000-000	Contingencies	2,255,420	1,313,221	-942,199
	Total			0

Net Increase to Expenses \$0

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to approve recognition of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week April 23rd-29th 2023 through Proclamation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and NeSmith voting aye.

Chairman Vonier recognized County Manager Stephenson who asked for approval of three documents to be used for Animal Services: Foster Care Agent Agreement, Transfer of Animal Ownership, and Microchip Consent. The Foster Care Agreement addresses the temporary need for animals to be housed by our partners. This agreement protects the County and acknowledges that our partners are held to the same standards of care to animals that the county is. The Transfer of Animal Ownership is the permanent transfer of ownership from Thomas County Animal Services to the Rescue Partner who becomes the sole owner. The Microchip consent form informs the owner of their responsibility to keep their contact information updated, acknowledge that the microchip is not a tracking device, and accepts the inherent risk that comes with the insertion procedure.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the use of the Foster Care Agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and NeSmith voting aye.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the use of the Transfer of Ownership document. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and NeSmith voting aye.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve to the use of the Microchip Consent form. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and NeSmith voting aye.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Gross who brought up that he had received three calls of complaints about animal control. He did not specify the origin of the calls but asked for protocol clarification. The calls apparently involved foxes and raccoons. County Manager Stephenson stated that all calls go through E-911, and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) handles wildlife calls. He also reiterated that the protocols were approved by the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Gross stated that “we’re not organized”; he was unable to get in touch with Capt. McDonald, and 911 operators didn’t appear to know what was going on. County Manager Stephenson respectfully disagreed, but stated that he would be glad to follow up on the complaints if given more information.

Open Meeting to the Citizens: Chairman Vonier recognized Candee Henderson of 1453 Egg & Butter Road South, Thomasville, Georgia who spoke on her mission of 100% renewable energy for Thomas County by 2035 and requested the County to turn their fleet over to hybrid vehicles. Chairman Vonier recognized Lucinda Brown of 103 Halcyon Way, Thomasville, Georgia who requested the status of the County hiring a Human Resource Manager who would ensure employees are treated fairly.

Reports: County Manager Stephenson recognized Planning Director Ken Gay who gave an update on the status of Evergreen Brook Apartments. Mr. Gay reported that the developer has sold the property, and the new owner is planning on submitting a new design.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Grady made a motion to ratify the purchase of fuel from Petroleum Products for \$2.8875/gal on March 29, 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and NeSmith voting aye.

Commissioner Grady made a motion to ratify approval to accept low bidder, Innovate Engineering & Surveying for \$75,400 for Engineering Services. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and NeSmith voting aye.

Commissioner Grady made a motion to ratify approval to accept low bidder, the Scruggs Company, for Road Resurfacing as presented with the addition of Widow White Road. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and NeSmith voting aye.

Commissioner Grady made a motion to ratify approval to accept sole bidder, Foley Products for restocking Concrete Drainage Pipe for \$80,882.82 plus \$100 fuel surcharge per load. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and NeSmith voting aye.

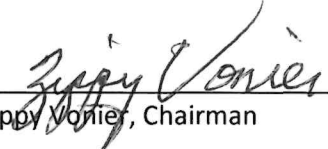
Commissioner Grady made a motion to ratify approval to accept low bidder, Dudley Moore for carpet and LVT flooring for the Georgia State Patrol building (\$29,253.29). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and NeSmith voting aye.

Commissioner Grady made a motion to ratify approval to accept the bid from Thomasville Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram for a 2023 Dodge Ram for \$42,849.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved 7-0-1 with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and NeSmith voting aye. Commissioner Brown abstained due to a professional conflict.

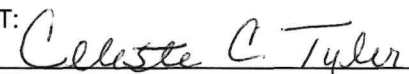
Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Hickey who announced that the Public Works Committee meeting will be held on April 19, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in the Historic Courthouse.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Gross who announced that the Emergency Services Committee meeting will be held on April 17, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in the Historic Courthouse.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and NeSmith voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.



Zippy Vonier, Chairman

ATTEST: 

Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk