

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
January 28, 2025

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:

Mark NeSmith, Dist. 4

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

Donnie L. Baggett, Vice-Chair Dist. 5

Moses Gross, Dist. 2
Wiley Grady, Chairman Dist. 6
Zippy Vonier, Dist. 8

Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, County Clerk Celeste Tyler, Finance Director Laura Nichols, Emergency Services Director Derrick Ogletree, Street to Station Instructor Derek Knight, and Fire Chief Chris Jones

Others Present: Bro. Clay Phillips, Rose City Church of Christ
Paul Fryer with Congressman Sanford Bishop's Office
Judge Matt Shiner, Magistrate Court
Amy Carter, Southern Regional Technical College

News/Media present: none

Chairman NeSmith welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Bro. Clay Phillips with the Rose City Church of Christ gave the invocation.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2025 Board Meeting. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the January 28, 2025 agenda. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Emergency Services Director Derrick Ogletree, Fire Chief Chris Jones, and Derek Knight who performed a "pinning ceremony" for the 2024 Street to Station. The following recruits successfully completed their Firefighter I classification:

Shaquille Coleman	Dimitrius Myrick
Yeilin Garcia	John Reed
Juan Hernandez	Jared Robinson
Jarvis Lewis (Class Leader)	Demarious Walker
Garrett Morrell	Nathaniel Wells

Chairman NeSmith recognized Ms. Amy Carter with Southern Regional Technical College as being instrumental in making the Streets to Station program come to fruition.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the request for a special event alcohol permit on February 8, 2025 to serve beer and wine at the 7th annual Thomasville Clay Road Classic held at Pebble Hill. The event is a fundraiser for Pebble Hill. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Rich who made a motion to approve the 2025 Financial Authorization Resolution. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Finance Director Laura Nichols who was present to answer any questions regarding the 2024 Final Budget Amendments. Hearing none, Commissioner Hickey made a motion to approve the 2024 Final Budget Amendments. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT 25-1-2 - 2024 End of Year		
January 28, 2025		
GENERAL FUND (100)		
	Increase/Revenues	Increase/Expenses
Revenues		
LOST	500,000	
JAG Bulletproof Vest Grant	23,230	
Interest	318,000	
GEMA-Reimb Hurricane Debby/Helene	44,861	
FEMA-Reimb Hurricane Debby/Helene	918,400	
Expenses		
Department		
Elections		30,000
Administrative Services		25,000
Facilities Management		80,000
Building Custodial		20,000
Board of Equalization		3,000
Judicial Center Services		25,000
District Attorney		4,000
State Court		24,000
Public Defender		9,400
Sheriff's Office		350,000

Courthouse Security			50,000
Jail			80,000
Sanitation			130,000
Fleet Services			115,000
Hurricane Exp-Debby & Helene			991,917
SUBTOTAL			1,937,317
Rainy Day Account			(132,826)
TOTAL		1,804,491	1,804,491
UNINCORPORATED FUND (200)			
		Increase/Revenues	Increase/Expenses
Revenues			
Interest		32,000	
Expenses			
Emergency Operations-Cross Training Expense			32,000
TOTAL		32,000	32,000
Drug Education Fund (230)			
		Increase/Revenues	Increase/Expenses
Revenues			
Drug Fines		40,000	
Expenses			
DARE Program			40,000
TOTAL		40,000	40,000
EMERGENCY SERVICES FUND (273)			
		Increase/Revenues	Increase/Expenses
Revenues			
FY23 Ground Ambulance Grant		254,000	
Ambulance Fees		70,000	
Interest		40,000	
Expenses			

Department		
EMS		(81,000)
Emergency Rescue		250,000
ES Administration		195,000
TOTAL	364,000	364,000
FIRE DISTRICT 1, 2 & 3 (274)		
	Increase/Revenues	Increase/Expenses
Revenues		
TAVT Tax	20,000	
Interest	122,276	
Donations	12,000	
Expenses		
Fire District 1, 2 & 3		230,000
Rainy Day Account		(75,724)
TOTAL	154,276	154,276
TRANSIT (545)		
	Increase/Revenues	Increase/Expenses
Expenses		
Department		
Transit - 5311		(10,000)
Transit - Non 5311		10,000
TOTAL	0	0
Airport Fund (785)		
	Increase/Revenues	Increase/Expenses
Revenues		
Other Airport Income	34,000	
Expenses		
Airport-Site Improvements & Maintenance		34,000
TOTAL	34,000	34,000

Open Meeting to Citizens: Chairman Nesmith recognized Nathaniel Tyler of 125 Leslie Street, Thomasville, Georgia who was in representation of the NAACP. He asked for three things for the Commissioners to take under consideration: 1) contractual agreement of the Drug Squad, 2) Live Streaming of the Board of Commissioners' meetings, and 3) hiring a Human Services Director. Chairman NeSmith recognized Magistrate Court Judge Matt Shiner who introduced himself to the Board. He also expressed that he is looking forward to a good working relationship with the Commissioners.

Commissioner Rich recognized the new City Manager of Coolidge, Lonnie Adamson III and thanked him for his attendance.

Reports: Chairman NeSmith thanked County Attorney Warren for putting together the 2025 FLOST Intergovernmental Agreement.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier who announced the next Purchasing meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 4th at 4:00 p.m.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who announced the next Public Property meeting will be held on Thursday, February 6th at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the allocation of three roads: Hansell Chastain Rd., Horseshoe Circle, and Lower Cairo Rd. to the 2025 LMIG resurfacing list. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Hickey made a motion approve Budget Amendment 25-1-1 which reflects the 2025 LMIG project (Hansell Chastain Rd., Horseshoe Circle, Lower Cairo Rd., and Contingencies) be funded by the 2017 SPLOST Capital Projects Fund. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

**2025 BUDGET AMENDMENT 25-1-1
2017-SPLOST CPF (329)
January 28, 2025**

Account	Description	Original 2025 Budget	Amended Budget	Difference
Revenues				
329-34-3300	LMIG-DOT	5,436,520	6,360,520	924,000
	Total			924,000
Net Increase to Revenues				<u>\$924,000</u>

Account	Description	Original 2025 Budget	Amended Budget	Difference
Expenses				
329-4194-541405-000	Hansell Chastain Road	0	347,700	347,700
329-4195-541405-000	Horseshoe Circle	0	185,250	185,250
329-4196-541405-000	Lower Cairo Road	0	755,250	755,250
329-9010-579000-000	Contingencies	1,041,381	677,181	-364,200
	Total	1,041,381	1,965,381	924,000
Net Increase to Expenses				<u>\$924,000</u>

2025 BUDGET AMENDMENT 25-1-1
2023-SPLOST CPF (331)
January 28, 2025

Account	Description	Original 2025 Budget	Amended Budget	Difference
Revenues				
331-34-3300	LMIG-DOT	924,000	0	-924,000
	Total			-924,000
Net Increase to Revenues				<u>-\$924,000</u>

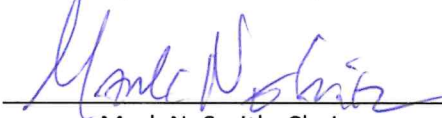
Account	Description	Original 2025 Budget	Amended Budget	Difference
Expenses				
331-9010-579000-000	Contingencies	6,265,000	5,341,000	-924,000
	Total	6,265,000	5,341,000	-924,000
Net Increase to Expenses				<u>-\$924,000</u>

Commissioner Hickey made a motion to ratify the requirement for a \$10,000 Maintenance Warranty Bond on Pecan Farms Phase II for permanent grassing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Hickey made a motion to ratify the declaration of surplus as presented and authorize the sale on GovDeals.com auction site. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.


Commissioner Hickey made a motion to approve the invoices to GMC Monitoring (\$211,195.53) and Crowder Gulf (\$370,721.13) for Hurricane Helene debris monitoring and removal. Both are reimbursable by FEMA. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vonier. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.



 Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:



 Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk