

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
February 25, 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, Chairman 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, Dist. 6
Zippy T. Vonier, Dist. 8

Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Public Works Director Jay Knight, Sheriff Tim Watkins, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler

News/Media present: none

Chairman NeSmith called the meeting to order, and Dr. Jimmy Clanton gave the invocation.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 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 agenda for the February 25, 2025 Board Meeting. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith acknowledged the request for a single day alcohol catering permit made by Hubs and Hops, LLC for the 3rd Annual Pebble Hill Polo Classic on March 8, 2025.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the request for a single day alcohol catering permit made by Hubs and Hops, LLC for the 3rd Annual Pebble Hill Polo Classic on March 8, 2025. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion was approved by Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith tabled the Magistrate monthly stipend request until the next meeting.

Open Meeting to Citizens: none

Committee Reports

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Stephenson who distributed an informational handout on the March 18, 2025 Flexible Local Option Sales Tax (FLOST) referendum. County Manager

Stephenson noted that he will be presenting this information tomorrow to two organizations that have requested it: Thomasville Realty and the Republican Party. Early voting began yesterday.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to ratify the acceptance of the First Responder Grant (\$15,000) for the Sheriff's Office – enclosed trailer, barricades, and cones. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Grady made a motion to ratify the authorization to apply for the Georgia Fire Standards and Training Council Fireworks Tax Grant (\$9,222.00 with 10% match) for fire rated flashlight replacements. 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 Commissioner Vonier who announced that the Purchasing Meeting will be held on March 4, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to ratify the authorization to go out to bid for resurfacing Hansell Chastain, Horseshoe Circle, and Lower Cairo Road. The resurfacing will be funded by the 2025 LMIG grant for \$924,136.69 with a 30% match requirement from Thomas County. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. Chairman NeSmith added that Governor Kemp spoke at the 2025 Capital Connections Conference and was very positive about the continuation of the LMIG program and the possibility of increasing the amount of the grants.

Commissioner Hickey made a motion to declare the items presented by the Facilities and Maintenance Department as surplus and authorize the sell of said items on GovDeals online auction. Commissioner Grady 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 announced that the Public Property Meeting will be held on March 6th at 8:30 a.m. at the Historic Courthouse.

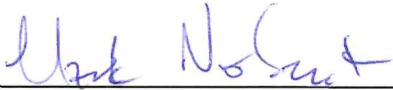
Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Rich who stated that he had attended the Legislative Breakfast as well and will be attending the Land Bank Authority meeting next week.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to go into closed session to discuss a legal matter O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1). Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. (6:16 p.m.)

The Board of Commissioners returned to the Regular Board Meeting at 6:37 p.m. No action was taken.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Rich who commented that he had attended the street renaming ceremony in Honor of General Lloyd J. Austin, III, the 28th Secretary of Defense and the boardroom dedication at the Thomas County Library in memory of Rev. Dr. I. L. Mullins.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.



Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:



Celeste Tyler, County Clerk