

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers 3rd Floor
225 North Broad St
July 22, 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, District 4, Chairman	Donnie Baggett, Vice-Chair, District 5
Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, District 1	Moses Gross, District 2
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3	Wiley Grady, District 6
Phillip V. Brown, District 7	Zippy Vonier, District 8

Staff Present: County Manager Michael Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Sheriff Tim Watkins, Public Works Director Jay Knight, Purchasing Agent/Deputy Clerk Nisha Thurman.

Others Present: Taylor Benefits Representative Brittany Ryals, Paul Fryer representative from Congressman Sanford Bishop's office (229-449-2740).

News/Media Present: None

Chairman NeSmith called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Pastor Clay Phillips of Rose City Church of Christ gave the invocation.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier, who made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2025, meeting. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, Grady, Vonier, Gross, and Rich voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Brown, who made a motion to approve the agenda for the July 22, 2025, meeting; Commissioner Baggett seconded. The motion passed unanimously with all Commissioners voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Brittany Ryals of Taylor Benefits, who presented updates to the Prescription Drug Program and shared positive employee feedback. She stated that board approval was required before scheduling a meeting with SHARx.

Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to approve the service contract and proceed with the program. Commissioner Hickey made the motion; Commissioner Baggett seconded. The motion passed unanimously with all Commissioners voting aye.

Commissioner Hickey recognized Paul Fryer, a representative from Congressman Sanford Bishop's office, who expressed his appreciation for being present and offered assistance to the board.

County Manager Michael Stephenson reported that County Clerk Tracy Dukes was absent due to illness.

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Commissioner Grady requested a motion to ratify the purchase of two sheriff's vehicles from Cass Burch at \$38,877 each. Commissioner Baggett made the motion; Commissioner Rich seconded. The motion passed with Commissioner Brown abstaining and all other Commissioners voted aye.

Commissioner Grady reminded the Board of the Emergency Services Meeting scheduled for July 24, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner Vonier requested a motion to ratify the purchase of diesel fuel from Petroleum Products at \$2.3874 per gallon on June 26, 2025. Commissioner Baggett made the motion; Commissioner Grady seconded. The motion passed unanimously with all Commissioners voting aye.

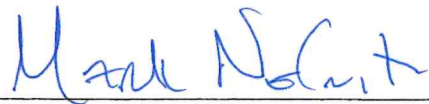
Commissioner Baggett announced that the Public Property Meeting scheduled for August 7, 2025, has been moved to August 6, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at the Jail Justice Center.

Commissioner Hickey announced the Public Works Meeting on July 23, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Grady seconded. The motion passed unanimously with all Commissioners voting aye.

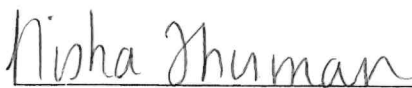
The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Note: The County Clerk was absent. Minutes were recorded by Purchasing Agent/Deputy Clerk Nisha Thurman and later transcribed by County Clerk Tracy Dukes.



Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:



Nisha Thurman, Deputy County Clerk