

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Broad St
August 26, 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 Mike Stephenson, County Clerk Tracy Dukes, Purchasing Agent/Deputy Clerk Nisha Thurman, Tax Commissioner Alicia Hester, Chief Appraiser Daniel Stokes, Public Works Director Jay Knight, Sheriff Tim Watkins.

News/Media Present: None

Chairman NeSmith called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Commissioner Jeremy Rich offered the invocation.

Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2025, work session. Commissioner Rich made the motion; Commissioner Grady seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2025, Board of Commissioners Meeting. Commissioner Baggett made the motion; Commissioner Vonier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to approve the agenda for the August 26, 2025, Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Hickey made the motion; Commissioner Baggett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to set September 1, 2025, as the effective date to turn over transit services from TCATS to SWGRC with RMS as the transit service provider. Commissioner Baggett made the motion; Commissioner Grady seconded. The motion passed with a 6 to 2 vote. Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, Vonier, and Grady voting aye; Commissioners Rich and Gross voting nay.

New Business:

Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to approve the 2017 SPLOST budget amendment (25-8-1). Commissioner Baggett made the motion; Commissioner Rich seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**2025 BUDGET AMENDMENT 25-8-1
2017-SPLOST CPF (329)
August 26 2025**

Account	Description	Original 2025 Budget	Amended Budget	Difference
Revenues				
329-31-3200	SPLOST	28,400,000	28,900,000	500,000
329-34-3300	LMIG-DOT	6,360,520	7,494,410	1,133,890
329-36-1000	Interest	540,000	677,200	137,200
	Total			1,771,090
Net Increase to Revenues				<u>\$1,771,090</u>

Account	Description	Original 2025 Budget	Amended Budget	Difference
Expenses				
329-3800-542420-000	2024/E911/(SUA) System Upgrade	225,000	0	-225,000
329-3915-541300-000	Animal Service Shelter	2,100,000	2,250,000	150,000
329-4100-542200-335	2025/PW/(2) 1/2 Ton Trucks	80,000	85,000	5,000
329-4100-541480-000	2025/PW/Colonial Square Project	1,377,000	1,974,110	597,110
329-4201-541405-000	Hendry Cemetery Road	0	53,000	53,000
329-4202-541405-000	Eddings Road	0	98,000	98,000
329-4203-541405-000	Cindy Drive	0	112,500	112,500
329-4204-541405-000	Inman Lane	0	60,750	60,750
329-4205-541405-000	Marcia Lane	0	47,250	47,250
329-4206-541405-000	Linwood Lane	0	47,500	47,500
329-4207-541405-000	Millpond Road	0	99,000	99,000
329-4208-541405-000	Clyde Griffin Road	0	182,137	182,137
329-9010-541405-000	Other Road Projects	311,664	349,000	37,336
329-9010-579000-000	Contingencies	651,497	1,158,004	506,507
	Total	4,745,161	6,516,251	1,771,090
Net Increase to Expenses				<u>\$1,771,090</u>

Open Meeting to Citizens:

Ms. Shirley Jackson of 727 Crowley Road, Thomasville GA had concerns whether the public was notified that transit was being turned over to Southwest Georgia Regional Commission with RMS as the transit provider. The County Manager advised that state guidelines were followed.

Reports:

County Manager: Mike Stephenson updated the Board of Commissioners regarding setting the millage rate. A request has been sent to the Georgia Department of Revenue regarding a pending rollup rate. He suggested setting the tentative millage rate at the next Board of Commissioners meeting, September 9, 2025.

County Attorney: Bruce Warren reported that the agreement between the City of Thomasville and Thomas County for a 50' Drainage Easement at Remington Avenue contained no issues. Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to approve the Drainage Easement agreement. Commissioner Grady made the motion; Commissioner Hickey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

August 26, 2025

Committee:

Purchasing: Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the purchase of Diesel Fuel from Petroleum Products for \$2.3340 per gallon on August 14, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Vonier reminded the Board that the next Purchasing meeting will be on September 2, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner Baggett reminded the Board that the next Public Property meeting will be on September 4, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.

Commissioner Hickey reminded the Board that the next Public Works meeting will be on September 10, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to enter into a closed session at 6:18 p.m. for discussion of a legal matter in accordance with O.C.G.A. §50-14-2(1). Commissioner Brown made the motion; Commissioner Hickey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Baggett to adjourn the closed session at 6:45 p.m. Commissioner Vonier seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

The Board entered back into regular session at 6:47 p.m.

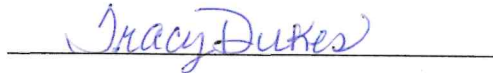
Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to pursue legal action against Community Outreach Training Center, Inc. for misappropriating excess funds collected for administrative fees, exceeding the 20% limit stipulated in the ARPA grant contract. Commissioner Hickey made the motion; Commissioner Baggett seconded. The motion was passed with a 6 to 2 vote. Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, Vonier, Gross voting aye; Commissioners Rich and Gross voting nay.

Commissioner Grady made a motion to adjourn at 6:48 p.m.; Commissioner Baggett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.



Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:



Tracy Dukes, County Clerk

August 26, 2025

Page 3 of 3