

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Broad St
October 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, 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 Absent

Staff Present: County Manager Mike Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Sheriff Tim Watkins, E911 Director Whitney Hopkins, Public Works Director, Jay Knight, Benefits Jessie Winkleman, County Clerk Tracy Dukes

Others Present: Brittany Ryals and John Taylor, Taylor Benefits, Group 30 Deming Orientation Class.

News/Media Present: Leo Torres, Thomasville Times Enterprise

Chairman NeSmith called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Rich offered the invocation.

Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to approve the October 14, 2025, minutes. Commissioner Grady made the motion; Commissioner Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to approve the October 28, 2025, agenda. Commissioner Brown made the motion; Commissioner Hickey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Nesmith recognized County Manager Mike Stephenson who introduced the Group 30 Deming Orientation class. After introduction, Mr. Stephenson handed out certificates to the group. He passed out a survey that the class submitted, and the survey shows consistent with past surveys, although there are some scores and ratings that need work. Chairman NeSmith thanked the participants in the group as well as Mr. Stephenson for the work he puts into these classes.

Chairman Nesmith called for a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Health Plan Renewal with recommended \$100,000 specific deductible. Commissioner Baggett made the motion; Commissioner Grady seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to approve revised Budget Amendment 25-10-1 Capital Improvement Fund (\$44,375) / Archery Station. Commissioner Hickey made the motion; Commissioner Baggett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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2025 BUDGET AMENDMENT 25-10-1
Capital Improvement Fund (350)
October 28, 2025

Account	Description	Original 2025 Budget	Amended Budget	Budget Difference
Expenses				
350-6120-541217-000	Archery Station	-	44,375	44,375
350-9010-612005-000	Contingencies	84,055	39,680	-44,375
	Total	84,055	84,055	0
Net Increase to Expenses				\$0

Open meeting to citizens:

Chairman NeSmith recognized Ms. Virginia Potter, 154 Hansell Chastain Road, Thomasville, GA 31757. She asked why her property taxes are going up and why. She stated the school taxes have gone up and she isn't seeing where the money is going. County Manager Mike Stephenson explained the County has nothing to do with school taxes and she should contact the School Board.

Reports:

County Manager: Mike Stephenson stated he is working on the budget and there will be a Finance Committee Meeting for a 2026 Budget Review on Thursday, November 11, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. He also stated the Budget Hearing will be on November 17, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

County Attorney: Bruce Warren stated a request from JoAnne Maltese, Hubs and Hops, for a special event alcohol permit for the 9th Annual Kevin's Game Fair (Quail Bash) has been submitted to the County Clerk. The event will take place November 7, 2025, at Chinquapin Plantation, 1045 Kauka Lane, Thomasville GA. The event will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with approximately 300 in attendance. The plantation has its own security. Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to approve the special event permit. Commissioner Baggett made the motion; Commissioner Hickey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Bruce provided an update on the special permit process. He contacted the Department of Revenue, which told him that event coordinators only need state approval for alcohol permits. However, JoAnne Maltese from Hubs and Hops received different information—that both local and state approvals are required. Bruce will develop a clear procedure for handling special event permits and update the Board once it's finalized.

Committees:

Purchasing

Chairman NeSmith made a motion to ratify the fuel bid from Petroleum Products for Diesel Fuel for \$2.256 per gallon, on October 22, 2025. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Works

Commissioner Hickey made a motion to approve the 2026 LMIG Allocation recommendation. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2026 LMIG ALLOCATION RECOMMENDATION	
October 16, 2025	
LMIG \$	\$1,046,715
30% Match	\$315,015
Allocation \$	\$1,360,730
Recommended projects:	
Turn lane on Half Road going into Jordan Oaks Phase I	\$ 350,000
Resurfacing:	
Cassidy	\$ 122,100
Cassidy Extension	\$ 49,950
Palmer (bet US 19 & Meigs city limits)	\$ 32,000
Forrest Manor	\$ 83,250
Twin Acres	\$ 86,950
Ozell (bet SR 122 & McKinnon)	\$681,000
	\$1,410,350

Commissioner Hickey made a motion to ratify going to bid for the resurfacing of approved roads in the 2025 supplemental LMIG (no match required). Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Resurfacing – approved roads in the 2025 Supplemental LMIG – no match required

CINDY DRIVE	\$112,500
INMAN LANE	\$60,750
MARCIA LANE	\$47,250
LINWOOD LANE	\$47,500
MILLPOND	\$99,000
CLYDE GRIFFIN	\$182,137

Commissioner Hickey made a motion to ratify the request to close Metcalfe Road for one day for the Spring Fling (August West (850)-274-1321), rerouting traffic to Haines Street. Commissioner Gross seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hickey made a motion to ratify the request from City of Ochlocknee to add Stewart Road (from City limits to Hwy 188) to next resurfacing bid (City of Ochlocknee will be responsible

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for their own contract and payment directly to contractor). Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hickey made a motion to ratify the declaration of Public Works Surplus (roll-off containers) and authorize to sell on GovDeals online auction. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Authorization Resolution
Sale of Surplus Property**

Public Worker is hereby authorized to sale the following listed Thomas County property on the GovDeals website:

AUCTION SURPLUS LIST

Roll Off Containers

#669 2004 20 Yard	#664 2005 30 Yard
#670 2004 20 Yard	#685 2005 30 Yard
#671 2004 20 Yard	
#673 2004 20 Yard	
#677 2004 20 Yard	
#680 2005 20 Yard	
#682 2005 20 Yard	
#683 2005 20 Yard	

The sale shall commence on _____ and end on _____. All sales are absolute, to the highest bidder, with no reserve.

Any fee will be paid in full by the Buyer to GovDeals in connection with the sale of property. The fee is set by GovDeals and Thomas County has no responsibility for the fee rate. All funds shall be payable to the Thomas County Board of Commissioners in a manner to be prescribed by the Thomas County Finance Director. All funds from such sales shall be deposited in the appropriate Thomas County government fund.

If above items do not sale on GovDeals website within the set time frame, the Board of Commissioners declare the items salvage and authorize Jay Knight, Director to disassemble, destroy, discard and/or recycle the salvaged items. The disposition of salvage items shall be certified in writing as prescribed by the Thomas County Clerk.

Authorized this the 28 day of October, 2025.


Mark NeSmith, Chairman


Tracy Duker, County Clerk

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who reminded the Board that the Public Property Committee Meeting has been moved to November 13, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.

With no further business, Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Brown made the motion. Commissioner Rich seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.


Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:


Tracy Duker, County Clerk

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