

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Broad St
December 9, 2025

The Thomas County Board of Commissioners met on the above date in a regular scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.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 Absent | Moses Gross, District 2 Absent |
| 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 Attorney Bruce Warren, County Clerk Tracy Dukes, Purchasing Agent/Deputy Clerk Nisha Thurman, Public Works Director Jay Knight, Sheriff Tim Watkins

Chairman NeSmith called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Commissioner Brown offered the invocation.

Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2025, meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Vonier and seconded by Commissioner Grady. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to approve the December 9, 2025, agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Hickey. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to approve the 2026 Budget for all funds by resolution. Commissioner Baggett made the motion; Commissioner Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Thomas County
2026 Budget Resolution
All Funds**

Whereas, the Thomas County Board of Commissioners is required by Georgia law to approve balanced budgets for all funds; and

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on Monday, November 17, 2025, as required by Georgia law to receive public comment on the proposed budget; and

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners has carefully considered the interests of the citizens of Thomas County, the requirements of public services provided thereunto and the extent of financial resources available to county government.

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Now therefore be it resolved that the following budgets are adopted and approved effective on January 1, 2026:

| | |
|--|---------------|
| General Fund - 100 | |
| Revenues | \$ 30,405,710 |
| Expenses | \$ 30,405,710 |
| Unincorporated Services Fund - 200 | |
| Revenues | \$ 956,300 |
| Expenses | \$ 956,300 |
| Law Library Fund - 205 | |
| Revenues | \$ 40,000 |
| Expenses | \$ 40,000 |
| Sheriff's Drug Forfeiture Fund - 210 | |
| Revenues | \$ 100,000 |
| Expenses | \$ 100,000 |
| Sheriff's Federal Drug Forfeiture Fund - 211 | |
| Revenues | \$ 40,000 |
| Expenses | \$ 40,000 |
| Drug Opioid Settlement Fund - 213 | |
| Revenues | \$ 52,000 |
| Expenses | \$ 52,000 |
| Enhanced 911 Fund - 215 | |
| Revenues | \$ 2,026,760 |
| Expenses | \$ 2,026,760 |
| Drug Education Fund - 230 | |
| Revenues | \$ 30,000 |
| Expenses | \$ 30,000 |
| Impact Fees Fund - 260 | |
| Revenues | \$ 50,000 |
| Expenses | \$ 50,000 |
| Emergency Services Fund - 273 | |
| Revenues | \$ 8,308,718 |
| Expenses | \$ 8,308,718 |
| Fire District 1, 2 & 3 Fund - 274 | |
| Revenues | \$ 4,237,622 |
| Expenses | \$ 4,237,622 |
| Hotel/Motel Tax Fund - 275 | |
| Revenues | \$ 350,000 |

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| | | |
|--|----|------------|
| Expenses | \$ | 350,000 |
| County-wide 2017 SPLOST Fund (Project Length) - 326 | | |
| Revenues | \$ | 42,000,000 |
| Expenses | \$ | 42,000,000 |
| Thomas County 2017 SPLOST-CPF (Project Length) - 329 | | |
| Revenues | \$ | 39,494,064 |
| Expenses | \$ | 39,494,064 |
| County-wide 2023 SPLOST Fund (Project Length) - 330 | | |
| Revenues | \$ | 64,000,000 |
| Expenses | \$ | 64,000,000 |
| Thomas County 2023 SPLOST-CPF (Project Length) - 331 | | |
| Revenues | \$ | 37,700,000 |
| Expenses | \$ | 37,700,000 |
| FLOST/PTRLOST Fund (Project Length) - 336 | | |
| Revenues | \$ | 10,000,000 |
| Expenses | \$ | 10,000,000 |
| Capital Improvement Fund (Project Length) - 350 | | |
| Revenues | \$ | 714,010 |
| Expenses | \$ | 714,010 |
| Recreation Fund - 555 | | |
| Revenues | \$ | 692,579 |
| Expenses | \$ | 692,579 |
| Health Benefits Fund - 601 | | |
| Revenues | \$ | 5,911,000 |
| Expenses | \$ | 5,911,000 |
| Airport Fund - 785 | | |
| Revenues | \$ | 13,400 |
| Expenses | \$ | 13,400 |

Approved this the 9th day of December 2025.

Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to approve the 2026 Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule. Commissioner Vonier made the motion; Commissioner Baggett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2026 Board of Commissioners' Meeting Schedule

| | | |
|-----------|----|----|
| January | 13 | 27 |
| February | 10 | 24 |
| March | 10 | 24 |
| April | 14 | 28 |
| May | 12 | 26 |
| June | 9 | 23 |
| July | 14 | 28 |
| August | 11 | 25 |
| September | 8 | 22 |
| October | 13 | 27 |
| November | 10 | 24 |
| December | 8 | |

Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to approve the 2026 Thomas County Holiday Schedule. Commissioner Brown made the motion; Commissioner Baggett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2026 Holiday Schedule

| Holiday | Date Observed |
|-------------------------|---|
| New Year's Day | Thursday, January 1st |
| Martin Luther King, Jr. | Monday, January 19 th |
| Memorial Day | Monday, May 25 th |
| Independence Day | Friday, July 3 rd (July 4 th on Saturday) |
| Labor Day | Monday, September 7 th |
| Veteran's Day | Wednesday, November 11 th |
| Thanksgiving Holiday | Thursday, November 26 th & Friday November 27 th |
| Christmas Holiday | Thursday, December 24 th & Friday, December 25 th |

Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to appoint Linda Solana to the Thomas County Library Board. Commissioner Grady made the motion; Commissioner Baggett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to reappoint Terry Ross to the Elections and Registration Board. Commissioner Brown made the motion; Commissioner Hickey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Open Meeting to Citizens:

None

Reports

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Attorney Bruce Warren, who stated that the 2026 Public Defenders Contract is routine and includes no changes from prior years. Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to approve the 2026 Public Defender's Contract. Commissioner Baggett made the motion; Commissioner Grady seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Attorney Bruce Warren, who presented a Resolution Consenting to the Proposed De-Annexation of parcel 046-TH-122 from the City of Thomasville to Thomas County. Chairman NeSmith then called for a motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Baggett made the motion, and Commissioner Vonier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO PROPOSED DEANNEXATION

WHEREAS, Kevin C. Taylor and Rena C. Taylor have filed a request for de-annexation from the City of Thomasville of the property described in Exhibit A.

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that Thomas County hereby consents to the de-annexation of the property owned by Kevin C. Taylor and Rena C. Taylor as provided in O.C.G.A. § 36-36-22.

Committees

Purchasing:

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify server upgrades by NTS in the amount of \$42,939.77. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to award the bid to low bidder, The Scruggs Company, for the 2025 Road Resurfacing Project (Millpond Road, Linwood Lane, Clyde Griffin Road,

Cindy Drive, Inman Lane, Marcia Lane). Commissioner Hickey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to award the bid for Public Works warehouse supplies to the low bidder, per line item, with Tom Horne and Whitehead (as needed). Commissioner Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hickey reminded the Board of the Public Works Committee Meeting on December 17, 2025.

Commissioner Grady reminded the Board of the Emergency Services Committee Meeting on December 16, 2025.

Commissioner Hickey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 a.m.



Mark NeSmith

Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:



Tracy Dukes

Tracy Dukes, County Clerk