

Minutes  
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 <b>Absent</b>	Moses Gross, District 2 <b>Absent</b>
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.

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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**

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

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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,

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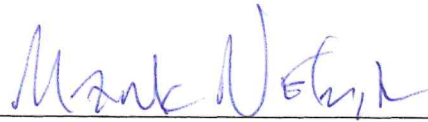
Cindy Drive, Inman Lane, Marcia Lane). Commissioner Hickey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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, Chairman

ATTEST:



Tracy Dukes, County Clerk