

Thomas County Board of Commissioners
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Broad St
April 14, 2026

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
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3	Wiley Grady, District 6 Absent
Phillip V. Brown, District 7	Zippy Vonier, District 8

Staff Present: County Manager Mike Stephenson, County Clerk Tracy Dukes, Purchasing Agent/Deputy County Clerk Nisha Thurman, Public Works Director Jay Knight, Sheriff Tim Watkins, Captain Chuck McDonald.

Media: Jill Holloway, Thomasville Times Enterprise, Chris Hurst WPAX

Others Present: William "Bill" Ross, Ross and Associates

Chairman NeSmith called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and offered the invocation.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2026, Board Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, Gross, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith proposed an amendment to the agenda to remove Budget Amendment 26-4-1 and add Proclamation observing National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 19-25, 2026. A motion was made by Commissioner Vonier to approve the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, Gross and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith declared a Public Hearing at 9:03 a.m. and recognized William (Bill) Ross from Ross and Associates who explained that an annual Capital Improvements Element report on impact fees is required. As the county's consultant, he referenced the financial report included in the document and noted that the County continued to have another impressive year. Chairman NeSmith inquired whether the funds could be reallocated. Mr. Ross stated the funds cannot be reallocated without redoing the entire Capital Improvements Element. Mr. Ross stated the last time the CIE was updated was in 2018 and he recommended updating the program. The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission will review the document and forward it to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

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Chairman NeSmith asked for comments or questions. Hearing none, Chairman NeSmith closed the Public Hearing at 9:11 a.m.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey, who made a motion to adopt the 2026 Capital Improvements Element (CIE) Transmittal Resolution and authorize the Chairman to sign the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett and approved unanimously, with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye. Commissioner Hickey expressed appreciation to Bill Ross for his continued work on the CIE each year.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve a proclamation recognizing April 19-25, 2026, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to appoint Monica Marria to the Recreation Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioner Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to approve the bid award for Metal Drainage Pipe from sole bidder Gulf Atlantic Culvert Company for \$86,589.62. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioner Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to approve the bid award for 2026 Knuckle Boom Trash Loader from Worldwide Equipment of Georgia for \$238,857.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioner Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the authorization to solicit bids for the 2026 LMIG resurfacing project list, funded through the 2017 SPLOST, with a 30% match of \$314,015.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioner Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to approve the bid award for Animal Shelter Vehicle from Thomasville CDJR for \$34,944.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett and approved with a 5 to 1 vote with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioner Baggett, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye and Commissioner Brown abstaining.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to approve the bid award for CCTV System Upgrade in the Judicial Center and Tax Commissioner's Office from Focus Communication Solutions for

\$80,059.04. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioner Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to approve the bid award to Crime Tech Solutions, LLC for Case Management Software for the Sheriff's Office for the first year in the amount of \$24,798. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioner Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to approve the bid award for Patrol Car Laptops from sole vendor request Howard Technology Solutions for \$139,236.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioner Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to approve the installation of a 10-ton split system in the computer room of 911 center from Lang Mechanical LLC for \$31,900.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioner Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the purchase of regular fuel from Petroleum Products for \$3.30158/gallon on March 27, 2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioner Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the purchase of diesel fuel from Petroleum Products for \$4.38518/gallon on March 27, 2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioner Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the purchase of regular fuel from Petroleum Products for \$3.368002/gallon from Petroleum Products on April 2, 2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioner Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith made a motion to go into Closed Executive Session at 9:20 a.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

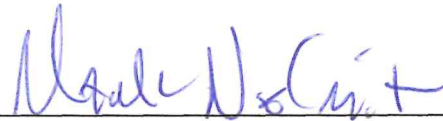
The Board returned to the Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting at 9:42 a.m. No action was taken.

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Michael Stephenson. Mr. Stephenson addressed the Board to announce his retirement after 27 years with Thomas County, effective September 30, 2026. He stated he has been blessed to have served the people of Thomas County and thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as County Manager.

The Board acknowledged the retirement announcement of County Manager Mike Stephenson after 27 years of service. Commissioners offered remarks expressing great appreciation for his leadership and contributions to the county.

There being no further business, Commissioner Brown made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett and approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 a.m.



Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:



Tracy Dukes, County Clerk