

Thomas County Board of Commissioners
Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Broad St
May 12, 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 - Absent
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3	
Phillip V. Brown, District 7	Zippy Vonier, District 8

Staff Present: County Manager Mike Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, County Clerk Tracy Dukes, Public Works Director Jay Knight, Captain Steve Jones Sheriff's Office

Media: Jill Holloway, Thomasville Times Enterprise

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 April 28, 2026, Board of Commissioners Meeting as presented. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Hickey, Brown, Baggett and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to approve the May 12, 2026, agenda noting an amendment under New Business to add the 2026 Capital Improvement Element annual update Resolution for adoption. Commissioner Baggett made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Hickey, Brown, Baggett and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Michael Stephenson, who informed the Board that the 2026 Capital Improvement Element annual update had been received and that Consultant Bill Ross recommended the adoption resolution be signed as early as May 12, 2026.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to adopt the 2026 Capital Improvement Element annual update. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Hickey, Brown, Baggett and Vonier voting aye.

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Adoption Resolution

Capital Improvements Element Annual Update

Thomas County,
Georgia

WHEREAS Thomas County adopted a Capital Improvements Element as an amendment to the *Thomas County Comprehensive Plan* and


WHEREAS Thomas County has prepared the year 2026 Annual Update to the adopted Capital Improvements Element and

WHEREAS the Capital Improvements Element Annual Update was prepared, submitted, and reviewed in accordance with the "Development Impact Fee Compliance Requirements" and the "Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning" adopted by the Board of Community Affairs according to the Georgia Planning Act of 1989.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Thomas County hereby adopt the Capital Improvements Element Annual Update, per the Development Impact Fee Compliance Requirements.

Adopted this 12 day of May 2026

BY: 

ATTEST: 

Reports

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Attorney Bruce Warren, who addressed the Board regarding the vacancy created by the passing of Commissioner Grady. He advised that the Board would need to adopt a resolution calling for a special election and place the matter on the November ballot. He further stated that he would review the applicable deadlines and election requirements and report his findings at the next Board of Commissioners meeting.

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Committees:

Purchasing:

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify bid award to sole bidder Bayon Forest products for rough cut treated lumber for \$29,319.60. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Hickey, Brown, Baggett and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify bid award to Coastal Plains Farmers Co-Op for roadside herbicide spraying chemicals for \$152,200. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Hickey, Brown, Baggett and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify bid award to Ag-Pro Companies for two 60" Zero Turn Mowers for \$27,999.99. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Hickey, Brown, Baggett and Vonier voting aye.

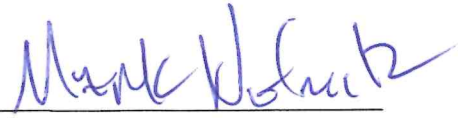
Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the proposal for engineering services from Innovate Engineering for Eddings and Hendry Roads for \$69,000. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Hickey, Brown, Baggett and Vonier voting aye.


Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the bid award to Thomasville CDJR for a 2026 1500 tradesman crew cab 4x4 for Building/Inspections Department for \$39,933.00. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion, and the motion was approved with a 4-0-1 vote, with Commissioner Brown abstaining.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to pay the outstanding invoices to Axon Enterprises, Inc. for \$225,444.83. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Hickey, Brown, Baggett and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith announced the next Emergency Services Meeting is May 19, 2026.

Chairman NeSmith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 a.m. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.


Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST: 
Tracy Dukes, County Clerk