

Thomas County Board of Commissioners
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Broad St
June 23, 2026

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 Absent	Moses Gross, District 2
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3	Zippy Vonier, District 8
Phillip V. Brown, District 7	

Staff Present: County Manager Mike Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, County Clerk Tracy Dukes, Public Works Director Jay Knight, Sheriff Tim Watkins

News/Media Present: Jill Holloway, Thomasville Times Enterprise

Chairman Nesmith called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and Commissioner Brown offered the invocation.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2026, Board of Commissioners Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Hickey, Vonier, Gross, Brown, Baggett, and Rich voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to approve the agenda of the June 23, 2026, Board of Commissioners meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Hickey, Vonier, Gross, Brown, Baggett, and Rich voting aye.

Open Meeting to Citizens: Chairman NeSmith recognized Jeanette Dixon of 148 Cindy Drive, Thomasville, Georgia 31792. Ms. Dixon addressed the Board regarding concerns about stray animals and animal control services. She requested that the Board consider reviewing the County's existing animal control ordinance and related enforcement measures to better address stray animal issues. Chairman NeSmith stated that the Board has received recommendations from the Sheriff's Office regarding the County's animal control ordinance and will take those suggestions under consideration. He further noted that Animal Control does a good job in carrying out its responsibilities.

Public Hearing: Chairman NeSmith declared a public hearing open at 6:11 p.m. regarding the proposed closure of McMath Road.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Mr. Brandon Rogers, 104 Salt Lick Lane, Thomasville, Georgia, who stated that he owns property on both sides of McMath Road and supports the road closure, citing liability concerns. Commissioner Hickey informed Mr. Rogers that closure of the road would result in the loss of road frontage. Mr. Rogers acknowledged this consequence and stated that he was aware of it and remained in favor of the closure.

Chairman NeSmith called for any opposition to the proposed road closure. Hearing none, he closed the public hearing at 6:13 p.m.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to proceed with the abandonment of McMath Road. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Hickey, Vonier, Gross, Brown, Baggett, and Rich voting aye.

New Business: Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to appoint Marchelle Walden to the Thomas County Library Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Hickey, Vonier, Gross, Brown, Baggett, and Rich voting aye.

Old Business: Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Rich who made a motion to approve FY27 Thomas County Accountability Court Grant County match funding in the amount of \$16,989. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Hickey, Vonier, Gross, Brown, Baggett, and Rich voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith brought the plat for Pecan Farms Phase 3 back before the Board for consideration, noting that no action had been taken on the item at a previous meeting. Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion that the Board approve the Pecan Farms Phase 3 plat with the condition that it be redrawn to provide access for ingress and egress from Hwy 319 rather than Springhill Road and that the lots be adjusted to delete the entrance from and the exit to Springhill Road. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Hickey, Vonier, Gross, Brown, Baggett, and Rich voting aye.

Reports: Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Michael Stephenson, who provided the Board with an update on the 2026 property taxes. Mr. Stephenson reported that the County is awaiting completion of the tax digest and that the Tax Assessor's Office is concluding the appeals process, after which final digest figures will be available. He stated that the Georgia Department of Revenue is expected to certify the 12-month correction for the FLOST rollback on 2026 property taxes around the first week of July. Mr. Stephenson further advised that the Board is expected to establish tentative millage rates and begin the required advertisement process in mid- to late July, with final millage rates anticipated to be set during the first week of August.

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Attorney Bruce Warren who stated he is working on the Airport Contract and will give an update when completed.

Committees:

Purchasing: Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to approve the Authorized Officials and Property Selector Designations for DOAS. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Hickey, Vonier, Gross, Brown, Baggett, and Rich voting aye.

Authorized Officials and Property Selector Roles-DOAS					
First Name	Last Name	Title	Phone Num/Ext	Email	Buyer Authorization
JUAN	BERNAL	FLEET DIRECTOR	(229) 226-1803	JUAN.BERNAL@THOMASCOUNTYGA.GOV	PROPERTY SELECTOR
JAY	KNIGHT	PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR	(229) 226-4388	JAY.KNIGHT@THOMASCOUNTYGA.GOV	PROPERTY SELECTOR
MARK	NESMITH	CHAIRMAN	(229) 403-0596	NESMITH@ROSE.NET	AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL
DERRICK	OGLETREE	EMER.SERVICES DIRECTOR	(229) 226-4191	DERRICK.KNIGHT@THOMASCOUNTYGA.GOV	PROPERTY SELECTOR
MICHAEL *	STEPHENSON	COUNTY MANAGER	(229) 226-4100	MICHAEL.STEPHENSON@THOMASCOUNTYGA.GOV	AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL
NISHA *	THURMAN	PURCHASING AGENT	(229) 226-4100	NISHA.THURMAN@THOMASCOUNTYGA.GOV	AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Emergency Services: Chairman NeSmith made a motion to authorize DOAS to sell exercise equipment purchased by Jeff Brinson. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Hickey, Vonier, Gross, Brown, Baggett, and Rich voting aye.

Public Works: Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to ratify the declaration of surplus, as presented and authorize the sale on GovDeals online auction. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Hickey, Vonier, Gross, Brown, Baggett, and Rich voting aye.

Authorization Resolution Sale of Surplus Property

Public Works is hereby authorized to sell the following listed Thomas County property on the GovDeals website:

AUCTION SURPLUS LIST

- 10-60 Inch Reinforced Concrete Pipe (Public Works)
- 5-60 Inch Reinforced Concrete Flares (Public Works)
- 6-54 Inch Reinforced Concrete Pipe (Public Works)
- 2-36 Inch Reinforced Concrete Pipe (Public Works)
- 1-36 Inch Reinforced Concrete Flare (Public Works)
- 16-30 Inch Reinforced Concrete Pipe (Public Works)
- 5-30 Inch Reinforced Concrete Flares (Public Works)
- 3-24 Inch Reinforced Concrete Pipe (Public Works)
- 5-24 Inch Reinforced Concrete Flares (Public Works)
- 2-42 Inch Reinforced Concrete Flares (Public Works)
- 9-42 Inch Reinforced Concrete Pipe (Public Works)
- 12-18 Inch Reinforced Concrete Flares (Public Works)

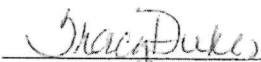
The sale shall commence on June 24 2026, and end on July 31, 2026. All sales are absolute, to the highest bidder, with no reserve.

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 the above items do not sell on the GovDeals website within the set time frame, the Board of Commissioners declares the items salvage and authorizes 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 23rd day of June, 2026.


Mark NeSmith, Chairman


Tracy Dukos, County Clerk

Commissioner Hickey made a motion to ratify the purchase of a replacement dump truck from Four Star Freightliner for \$201,316 (sole-source vendor). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Hickey, Vonier, Gross, Brown, Baggett, and Rich voting aye.

Commissioner Hickey made a motion to approve the additional three-year right of way mowing and maintenance contract with Joiner Contracting LLC for \$563,160 annually. The

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was seconded by Commissioner Baggett and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Hickey, Vonier, Gross, Brown, Baggett, and Rich voting aye.

Sheriff's Office: Chairman NeSmith recognized Sheriff Tim Watkins who made a request to surplus the following vehicles and authorize their sale at public auction on July 7, 2026.

Commissioner Hickey made a motion to surplus and authorize the sale of the vehicles at public auction on July 7, 2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Hickey, Vonier, Gross, Brown, Baggett, and Rich voting aye.

**Authorization Resolution
Sale of Surplus Property
Through Public Auction**

The Sheriff's Office is authorized to dispose of the above-referenced vehicles through public auction, either directly or through an approved auction service, in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and county policies governing the disposition of surplus property.

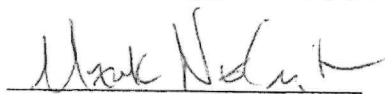
AUCTION SURPLUS LIST

- i. 2001 Nissan Altima Vin# 1N4DL01D81C165830 –Unit #23-776
- ii. 2008 Lexus ES, VIN# JTHBJ46G382219079 – Unit #25-872

The Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, County Manager, and Nisha Thurman, Purchasing Agent are authorized to execute any documents necessary to transfer title and complete the sale of the vehicles.

The sale shall commence on July 7, 2026, and end on July 7, 2026. All sales are absolute, to the highest bidder.

Authorized this 23 day of June, 2026.


Mark NeSmith, Chairman


Tracy Dukes, County Clerk

Commissioner Rich reminded the Board of the Finance Committee Meeting on June 29, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

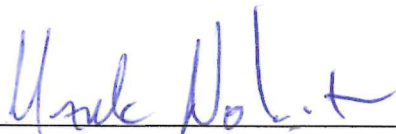
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Commissioner Baggett reminded the Board of the Public Property Meeting on July 2, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.

There being no further business, Commissioner Baggett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Hickey, Vonier, Gross, Brown, Baggett, and Rich voting aye.

Adjourned: 6:27 p.m.



Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:



Tracy Dukes, County Clerk