

Thomas County Board of Commissioners
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Broad St
August 11, 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	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, Purchasing Agent Nisha Thurman, Public Works Director Jay Knight, Chief Appraiser Daniel Stokes, E911 Director Whitney Hopkins, Fleet Services Director Juan Bernal, Planning Director Ken Gay, Elections Supervisor Savannah Sorrentino, Facilities Management Director Johnnie Clark, Finance Director Laura Nichols, Sheriff Tim Watkins.

Others Present: Magistrate Judge Matt Shiner, Probate Judge Josh Smith

News/Media Present: 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 Baggett who made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2026, Board Meeting as presented. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the agenda of the August 11, 2026, Board Meeting. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman NeSmith opened the meeting for citizen comments. No comments were received.

New Business

Chairman Nesmith announced Shawn Boatright as the finalist in the County Manager search. He noted that the search was conducted with the assistance of the Mercer Group and Alan Reddish and that 31 applications were received, with five candidates ultimately interviewed.

Commissioner Baggett made a motion to select Shawn Boatright as the finalist for County Manager. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Michael Stephenson who recommended the 2026 Property Tax Levy with tentative millage rates tax districts as follows:

<u>District</u>	<u>Recommended 2026 Millage</u>
Incorporated	2.024
Unincorporated	0.000
Emer. Serv.	1.191
Fire District 1	2.041
Fire District 2	1.992
Fire District 3	1.755

The recommended millage rates are at or below the roll-back rate allowing for final approval without three public hearings and mandated advertisements. The tentative millage rates will receive final approval at the Board of Commissioners' regular meeting on August 25, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to set the Tentative 2026 Millage Rate as presented and approve the transfer of \$1,687,031 to the Unincorporated Services Fund. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to reappoint Bob Brettel to the Department of Family and Children's Services Advisory Board. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Rich who made a motion to ratify authorization for the Chairman to sign the TREES ACT Resolution. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports

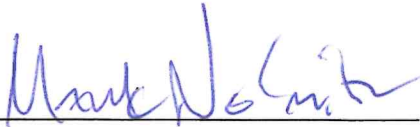
Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the motion to re-bid the three-year right-of-way mowing contract for FY2027-2029 with the addition to the contract to specify that any renewal would be at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Rich, who reported that he attended the Land Bank meeting with Commissioner Gross and that everything is progressing well.

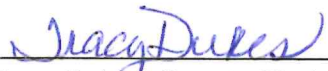
Chairman NeSmith announced there is an open house at the Airport on August 12, 2026, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn: 9:30 p.m.


Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:


Tracy Dukes, County Clerk