

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Broad St
August 25, 2026

The Thomas County Board of Commissioners met on the above date in a regular scheduled meeting at 6:00p.m. at the Historic Courthouse, Commission Chambers, with the following board members present:

Mark NeSmith, District 4, Chairman - absent	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, Purchasing Agent/Deputy Clerk Nisha Thurman, Public Works Director Jay Knight, Emergency Services Director Derrick Ogletree, E911 Director Whitney Hopkins, Finance Director Laura Nichols, Accounts Payable Lorie Mitchell, Benefits Jessie Winkleman, Lieutenant Derrick Knight

News/Media Present: Jill Holloway, Thomasville Times Enterprise

Vice-Chair Baggett called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and Commissioner Rich offered the invocation.

Vice-Chair Baggett called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2026, Special Called Board of Commissioners meeting as presented. The motion was made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Vonier. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair Baggett called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2026, regular Board of Commissioners meeting as presented. The motion was made by Commissioner Hickey and seconded by Commissioner Vonier. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair Baggett called for a motion to approve the August 25, 2026, Agenda as presented. The motion was made by Commissioner Hickey and seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion passed unanimously.

Special Recognition

Vice-Chair Baggett recognized Director of Emergency Services, Derrick Ogletree, who in turn introduced street-to-station class instructor, Derrick Knight. Mr. Knight introduced the street-to-street class 2025. The class was hired in September 2025. January 2026 was the start of EMT school. Five students are Firefighters/EMT's and are getting checked off to ride trucks. Present from the 2025 Street-to-Station class were: Clayton Taylor, Montana Manley, Satchel Goodrich, Brett Gillard. Present from the 2026 Street-to-Station class were: Christian Owens, Nathaniel Walker, Jalandon Revels, Zachary Bryant, Quinshard Barnes, Lorey Buckner, Jasmine Brooks. Commissioner Brown thanked everyone for their time.

New Business:

Review of the 2026 tentative millage rate. Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Michael Stephenson, who recommended amending the 2026 tentative millage rates adopted at the August 11, 2026, Board of Commissioners meeting and accepting the corrected rates as presented.

Commissioner Hickey made a motion to amend the previously adopted tentative millage rates and adopt the corrected rates as presented. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

District	Recommended 2026 Millage Rates
Incorporated	2.024
Unincorporated	0.316
Emergency Services	1.192
Fire District 1	2.041
Fire District 2	1.992
Fire District 3	1.755

County Manager Appointment: Commissioner Brown made a motion to appoint Shawn Boatright as Thomas County's County Manager and to approve his contract. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing SWGRC to apply for FY2028 Transit 5311 Funds on behalf of Thomas County. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION, FOR A GRANT UNDER TITLE 49 U.S.C., SECTION 5311.

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration and the Georgia Department of Transportation are authorized to make grants to non-urbanized (rural) areas for mass transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the contract for financial assistance will impose certain obligations upon Applicant, including the provision of the local share of project costs; and

WHEREAS, it is required by the United States Department of Transportation and the Georgia Department of Transportation in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that in connection with the filing of an application for assistance under the Federal Transit Act, the applicant gives an assurance that it will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the United States Department of Transportation requirements thereunder; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the Applicant that Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) be utilized to the fullest extent possible in connection with this project, and that definitive procedures shall be established and administered to ensure that minority business shall have the maximum feasible opportunity to compete for contracts and purchase orders when procuring construction contracts, supplies, equipment contracts, or consultant and other services.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY Thomas County Board of Commissioners, hereinafter referred to as the "Applicant",

1. That the Designated Official, SWG Regional Commission, hereinafter referred to as the "Official", is authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of Thomas County Board of Commissioners, with the Georgia Department of Transportation, to aid in the purchase of bus transit vehicles and/or the planning, development, and construction of bus transit-related facilities pursuant to Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act.
2. That the Official is authorized to execute and file such application and assurances, or any other document required by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Georgia Department of Transportation effectuating the purpose of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
3. That the Official is authorized to execute and file all other standard assurances, or any other document required by the Georgia Department of Transportation or the U.S. Department of Transportation in connection with the application for public transportation assistance.
4. That the Official is authorized to execute grant contract agreements on behalf of the Applicant with the Georgia Department of Transportation.
5. That the Official is authorized to set forth and execute DBE policies and procedures in connection with the project's procurement needs as applicable.
6. That the applicant while making application to or receiving grants from the Federal Transit Administration will comply with FTA Circular 9040.1G, FTA Certifications and Assurances for Federal Assistance 2024 as listed in this grant application and General Operating Guidelines as illustrated in the Georgia State Management Plan.

7. That the applicant has or will have available in the General Fund the required non-federal funds to meet local share requirements for this grant application.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 25th day of August, 2026.

[Signature]
Signature of Authorized Official

Via Chairman
Name and Title of Authorized Official

Signed, sealed, and delivered this 25th day of August, 2026 in the presence of

Lorrie W. Mitchell
Witness

Nisha Thurman
Notary Public/Notary Seal



CERTIFICATE

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Finance Manager of Thomas County Board of Commissioners Louisa Nichols (Title of Certifying/Attesting Official) (Applicant's Legal Name) certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting held on

August 25, 2026.

Louisa Nichols
Name of Certifying/Attesting Official

Finance Manager
Title of Certifying/Attesting Official



Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the purchase of diesel fuel for \$4.60 per gallon from Petroleum Products on August 18, 2026. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Vonier announced the September 1, 2026, purchasing meeting has moved to 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner Baggett made a motion to ratify the authorization to declare surplus and sale on GovDeals online auction. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Authorization Resolution
Sale of Surplus Property**

The Thomas County Emergency Services is hereby authorized to sale the following listed Thomas County property on the GovDeals website:

- Lot 1:
16 rolls of 1 1/2" hose
21 rolls of 2 1/2" hose
1 roll of 3" hose
- Lot 2:
21 rolls of 5" hose

The sale shall commence on 23 August 2026 and end on 09 September 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 above items do not sale on GovDeals website within the set time frame, the Board of Commissioners declare the items salvage and authorize Derrick C. Ogletree to dismantle, 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 25th day of August, 2026.

[Signature]
Chairman
Nisha Thurman
Deputy County Clerk

**Authorization Resolution
Sale of Surplus Property**

The Thomas County Emergency Services is hereby authorized to sale the following listed Thomas County property on the GovDeals website:

Lot 1: 25 Mask
25 SCBA's
50 Air cylinders

Lot 2: 25 Mask
25 SCBA's
50 Air cylinders

Lot 3: 25 Mask
25 SCBA's
50 Air cylinders

Lot 4: 21 Mask
25 SCBA's
50 Air cylinders

Lot 5: 25 SCBA's
42 Air cylinders

The sale shall commence on 26 August 2026 and end on 09 September 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 above items do not sale on GovDeals website within the set time frame, the Board of Commissioners declare the items salvage and authorize Derrick C. Osler 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 25th day of August, 2026.

Donnie Baggett
Vice Chairman

Nisha Thurman
Deputy County Clerk

With no further business, Commissioner Brown made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Adjourned: 6:21 p.m.

The minutes were recorded by Nisha Thurman, Purchasing Agent/Deputy Clerk in the County Clerk's absence and transcribed by Tracy Dukes, County Clerk

Donnie Baggett
Vice-Chair Donnie Baggett

ATTEST:

Nisha Thurman
Nisha Thurman, Purchasing Agent/Deputy Clerk