

Summary Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
January 14, 2025

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:

Wiley Grady, Chairman Dist. 6	Donnie Baggett, Vice-Chair, Dist. 5
Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1 (absent)	Moses Gross, Dist. 2 (absent)
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3	Mark NeSmith, Dist. 4
Phillip V. Brown, Dist. 7	Zippy Vonier, Dist. 8

Staff present: County Manager Mike Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Planning Director Ken Gay, Public Works Director Jay Knight, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler

Media present: Jill Holloway, Thomasville Times Enterprise

Chairman Grady opened the meeting, and Commissioner NeSmith gave the invocation

- Approved minutes from the December 10, 2024 meeting
- Approved the January 14, 2025 Agenda
- Elected Commissioner Mark NeSmith 2025 Chairman of the Board
- Elected Commissioner Donnie Baggett 2025 Vice Chairman of the Board
- Appointed Bruce Warren as 2025 County Attorney
- Reappointed Commissioner Donnie Baggett, Elaine Mays, and Jason Giddens to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commissioner Council
- Reappointed Commissioner Jeremy Rich to the Land Bank Authority Board
- Open Meeting to Citizens: Chairman Nesmith recognized Jackie Shoemaker with the American Red Cross at 385 Connell Road, Valdosta, Georgia. Ms. Shoemaker gave statistical information on the services the Red Cross provided in Thomas County for 2024. She also distributed contact information and added that their main point of contact with counties is the EMA Director. Chairman NeSmith thanked Ms. Shoemaker for coming to the meeting and expressed appreciation to the Red Cross for being a vital asset to our community.
- Ratified authorization for grant application to the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire to replace 5 Skids estimated at \$66,000
- Awarded bid for Public Works Warehouse Supplies to low bidder per item from several vendors
- Awarded bid to Green's Backhoe for culvert replacements (\$222,370.00)
- Awarded bid to SDR Southern Disaster Recover, DRC, and Ceres for Debris Removal
- Awarded bid to sole bidder Debristech for Debris Monitoring
- Awarded bid to J&C Fence and Welding for \$53,100.90 for a security fence for the Animal Shelter
- Awarded bid for Janitorial Supplies to low bidder per item from several vendors
- Awarded bid for Office Supplies to low bidder per item from several vendors
- Entered into Closed Session to discuss a legal matter O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1) (9:21 a.m.)
- Re-entered Regular Session (10:18 a.m.); no action was taken
- Authorized County Attorney to draft a 2025 FLOST Intergovernmental Agreement
- Authorized the Chairman of the Board to approve and/or negotiate the 2025 FLOST Intergovernmental Agreement

- Approved the Memorandum of Agreement with Southwest Georgia Regional Commission to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan required by FEMA
- Adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.