

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
January 12, 2016

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:

Kenneth E. Hickey, Chairman, Dist. 3	Phillip V. Brown, Vice-Chair, Dist. 7
Merrill E. Baker, Jr., Dist. 1	Moses Gross, Dist. 2
Mark NeSmith, Dist. 4	Hershel P. Ansley, Dist. 5
Wiley E. Grady, Dist. 6	J. Elaine Mays, Dist. 8

Staff present was Michael J. Stephenson, Toyona Brooks, Board Secretary, and Twink Monahan, County Clerk. Media present was Patti Dozier, Times Enterprise and Chris Hurst, WPAX.

Chairman Gross called the meeting to order.

Chairman Gross recognized Louis Jackson who gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Gross recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to approve the minutes of the 12/8/2014 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Gross, Vice-Chairman Hickey and Commissioners Baker, Ansley, NeSmith, Grady, Brown and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Gross turned the meeting over to Bruce Warren, County Attorney, to serve as temporary Chairman for the purpose of electing the Board Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Bruce Warren opened the floor for nominations for chairman.

Bruce Warren recognized Chairman Gross who nominated Commissioner Hickey for Chairman of the 2016 Board. Mr. Warren asked for any other nominations. Commissioner Grady made a motion to close the nominations for Chairman. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley. Mr. Warren confirmed Commissioner Hickey's appointment as Chairman for 2016 by acclamation.

Bruce Warren opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Mays nominated Commissioner Brown for Vice-Chairman of the 2016 Board. Mr. Warren asked for any other nominations. Commissioner Grady who made a motion to close the nominations for Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baker. Mr. Warren confirmed Commissioner Brown's appointment as Vice-Chairman for 2016, by acclamation.

Mr. Warren turned the meeting over to Chairman Hickey.

Chairman Hickey thanked the board for their vote of confidence and said that he takes the welfare of this county seriously and that he looks forward to serving as chairman.

Vice-Chairman Brown thanked the board for the election as Vice-Chairman and looks forward to serving Thomas County in this capacity.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Mays who made a motion to reappoint Bruce Warren as the 2016 County Attorney. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to ratify the fuel purchases on January 4, 2016; gas from Plantation Petroleum at \$1.4133 per gallon and diesel from Petroleum Products at \$1.1925 per gallon. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baker. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the resolution setting the 2016 Qualifying Fees for the 2016 elections. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mays. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

A RESOLUTION
2016 Election QUALIFYING FEES

WHEREAS, state law in O. C. G. A. 21-2-131(a)(1) authorizes the County Governing Authority to fix qualifying fees at 3% of base salary.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Thomas County Board Of Commissioners set qualifying fees for the 2016 Election as follows:

2016 Qualifying Fees	
Sheriff	\$2,107
Superior Court Clerk	\$1,691
Tax Commissioner	\$1,691
Probate Judge	\$1,691
Magistrate	\$1,691
State Court Judge	\$1,671
Solicitors General	\$1,146
Coroner	\$887
County Commissioners	\$108
School Board Member	\$54

Adopted this the 12th day of January, 2016

Chairman Hickey recognized Captain Ron James of the Sheriff's Office. Captain James explained that in order to comply with special requirements from the FBI for processing palm and fingerprints in Georgia the current Cogent equipment will need to be replaced. The deadline was 12/31/2015 which he has received a 30 day extension. He has been working with Cogent for the past several months to see if their equipment was upgradable. This was not the case and he was able to get a quote from Eagle Advantage Solutions which meets all the special requirements in Georgia. They are also asking for the Cogent livescan equipment to be declared surplus. Their office would like to take bids from agencies outside of Georgia who can use this equipment.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the Sheriff's request presented by Capt. Ron James to purchase new Eagle Print Palm Live Scan Systems, including installation and training from Eagle Advantage Solutions, Inc. for \$15,200. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mays. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Mays who made a motion to surplus the Cogent Livescan equipment and allow the sheriff's office to receive bids from agencies outside of Georgia. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baker. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Hickey recognized Chief Chris Jones. Chief Jones is asking to submit application for the 2016 Assistance to Firefighters Grant. He stated that this will be the third time he has applied for the grant to replace the 2003 air-filling station/trailer. The match is in the 2016 approved budget, \$6,500. Chief Jones would like to take the old unit's equipment out of the trailer and have it placed at the Sunset Station. The deadline to apply is January 15, 2016.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Gross who made a motion to approve for the Fire Department to submit application for the 2016 Assistance to Firefighters Grant to replace the 2003 air trailer. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Brown. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Hickey opened the meeting to citizens not listed on the agenda who wish to address the board.

Chairman Hickey recognized Sheriff Carlton Powell. Sheriff Powell thanked the board for the Employee Appreciation Dinner last month. The participation and presentation of the awards was very impressive. He stated that he would like it to be considered every year.

Chairman Hickey recognized the newly elected Mayor, Greg Hobbs, and Councilmember Terry Scott of the City of Thomasville. The Board congratulated the Mayor Hobbs on his election by the council and look forward to working with him. Councilmember Scott told the board that he was very thankful for department presentations and the time the county department heads took out of their schedules.

Mr. Stephenson also congratulated Mayor Hobbs and Councilmember Scott for the elections. Mr. Stephenson reminded the board about the semiannual planning session set for January 19, beginning at 9:00 a.m. until about 3:00 p.m. in the conference room in the commissioners' office.

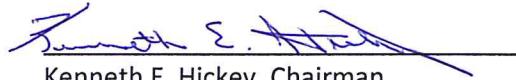
Bruce Warren, County Attorney reviewed the proposed resolution and policy for Credit Cards and Purchasing Cards as required by HB 192. They reviewed the list of elected officials that have used county credit cards. Sheriff Powell wants to discuss first his concerns about future Sheriff's, stating that he does not have an issue with compliance with the sample resolution, policy and name a card administrator that the board decides to pass. He does however point out that the Sheriff's Association is not in favor of the current language of the model policy.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Mays who made a motion to approve the resolution. Michael Stephenson requested that it be delayed until the next board meeting when all language is agreed upon since the board is already talking about changing it at a later date. He requested a final, agreed upon version before passing a resolution. Commissioner Mays withdrew her motion.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the Public Property Committee's recommendation purchase 10 Mercury 911 Emergency Consoles from Watson Dispatch for \$149,283 to be installed in the new center. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baker. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Mays who made a motion to authorize the manager to execute the contract supplement for Transit, purchasing 4 new shuttle vans with lifts to replace DOT vehicle #'s 2974, 2976, 3205, and 3206 with a 10% match of \$17,676.40 to be returned with the executed contract. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Brown. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Mays voting aye.

Chairman Hickey recognized Vice-Chairman Brown who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baker, Ansley, NeSmith, Grady, Gross and Mays voting aye.


Kenneth E. Hickey, Chairman

ATTEST:


M. Twink Monahan, County Clerk