

Minutes  
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
225 North Board Street  
January 24, 2017

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:

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	Zippy T. Vonier, Dist. 8

Staff present was Michael J. Stephenson, Thelma Maxwell, Assistant Clerk and Twink Monahan, County Clerk. Media present was Patti Dozier, Times Enterprise and Chris Hurst, WPAX.

Other staff present was Tony Wooten, Public Works, Bill Eddings and Donna Holbert, Planning and Zoning, Chris Jones, Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director.

Chairman Hickey called the meeting to order.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Grady who gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to approve the minutes of the 1/10/2017 Board Meeting and 1/17/2017 Planning Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baker. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baker, Gross, Ansley, NeSmith, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

#### Severe Weather Event Report

Chairman asked Chief Jones to give the board an update of the storm damage and cleanup. Chief Jones stated that some volunteer teams are already helping residents with damage. The Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) representatives will be here in Thomas County on Thursday at 2:00 p.m.

Chief Jones introduced Al McClaran of Southern Disaster Recovery. This is one of the three (3) companies contracted with Thomas County for debris removal in case of an event. Mr. McClaran's company was available for this event. He explained what will happen if Thomas County has a Presidential Declaration for Public Assistance disaster relief. After surveying the vegetation debris in Thomas County he feels that Thomas County will be declared. If all debris is cleaned up within 30 days the county's reimbursement is 85%, within 60 days it drops to 65%. This includes the vegetation and construction and demolition. As soon as the declaration is received and his company receives the Notice to Proceed, they will start. He stated there is no mobilization fees involved. He will pick up everything on the right of ways. He also stated that Thomasville could partner with Thomas County and come under his contract.

Mr. McClaran also said that Thomas County must monitor the debris contractor or contract with a monitoring company. The monitoring company charges are also reimbursable. Under a declaration you

should be able to send out a request for proposals with a 48 hour turnaround time. This monitoring company will relieve the county forces of the paperwork responsibilities also.

Chairman Hickey recognized Vice-Chairman Brown who made a motion to approve a resolution appointing Southern Disaster Recovery, LLC of Simpsonville, SC as the disaster debris removal and disposal company selected from the pool of three (3) companies contract with Thomas County in July 2016. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Vonier voting aye.

## **A RESOLUTION Appointment of Disaster Debris and Removal Company**

**WHEREAS**, on July 12, 2016 at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Disaster Debris and Removal contracts were awarded to Ceres Environmental, Southern Disaster Recovery LLC, and TAG Grinding in the case of a disaster in Thomas County; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 22, 2017 Thomas County experienced an event involving tornadoes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the State of Georgia declared a State of Emergency in Thomas County Due to the severe weather system on January 21 and 22, 2017; and

**NOW THEREFORE** be it resolved that the Thomas County Board of Commissioners has selected Southern Disaster Recovery, LLC.as the disaster debris company for this event.

Adopted this the 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2017.

Chairman Hickey declared a public hearing to receive comments and concerns from the citizens about Solar Energy in Thomas County.

Mr. Bill Eddings pointed out the definitions of solar energy in the proposed ordinance amendments.

Chairman Hickey called for citizens wishing to speak in favor or opposition of the proposed ordinance amendments.

Chairman Hickey recognized Candee Henderson, Egg and Butter Road. She encouraged the board to allow for solar energy panels. They installed panel at their home in 2011 and that solar energy is the future of energy. Mrs. Henderson also said that panels do not generate noise.

Chairman Hickey recognized Beth Brant. Ms. Grant disagreed that ground mounted panels could not be used in R1, R2 and R3. This is the perfect energy source for pools and wells.

Chairman Hickey recognized Courtney Brinson, of Albany, and a property owner on the McMillan Road. Mr. Brinson commented on the access easement, the height of the fence compared to the ground mounted panels, the 100 foot set-back from adjacent property owner, allowing chain-link fence and the devaluing of neighboring properties and home sites. Mr. Brinson said that these areas need to be addressed and asked the board for stricter measures to preserve the culture of Thomas County. Mr. Brinson requested the board not consider any tax abatements or incentive for solar fields. He also asked that the board be wary of the vendors of solar panels. They had already called Mr. Brinson three months ago about leasing his property stating that neighboring property was already under contract.

Chairman Hickey thanked the citizens for their comments. Commissioner NeSmith told them that there will be two (2) more public hearings for citizen input before the proposed ordinance changes can be adopted.

Chairman Hickey declared the public hearing closed.

Chairman Hickey made a motion to ratify the action taken on January 9, 2017 to accept 90 day pricing for aggregate rock, Limerock base and Limerock 57 from A Mining and Surge Rock from Martin Marietta at the following prices. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vonier. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Vonier voting aye.

	Description	*Price Per Ton Rock	Price Per Ton Freight	Total Per Ton Price
<b>A Mining Group</b>	Limerock Base	\$6.50	\$10.25	\$16.75
	Limerock 57	\$15.00	\$10.25	\$25.25
<b>Martin Marietta</b>	Surge Rock / 2" – 4"		\$10.75 via trailer	\$27.75 trailer
		\$17.00	\$12.00 via triaxle	\$29.00 triaxle

Chairman Hickey opened the meeting to citizens wishing to speak to the board but not on the agenda.

Chairman Hickey recognized Karen Sponaugle the owner of South Eden Plantation, a local resort. Mrs. Sponaugle asked the board for a special permit for the sales and consumption of alcoholic beverages for the Valentine’s Day events they will be having February 10-11 and 14<sup>th</sup>. Bruce Warren stated there is nothing in the county ordinance that allows for the sales and consumption and that it would require a referendum be on the ballot for the voters of Thomas County to approve.

Chairman Hickey recognized Hal Pullen who thanked the board for the personnel policy change that allows Thomas County medical employees to have part time jobs at Gold Star, a medical transport company.

Road Committee

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to include the funding for the North Pinetree Boulevard Project, \$141,000 to the 2012 SPLOST fund. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Hickey, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, NeSmith, Ansley, Grady and Vonier voting aye.

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

ATTEST:

  
 M. Twink Monahan, County Clerk

  
 Kenneth E. Hickey, Chairman