

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
September 10, 2019

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:

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

Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Sheriff Carlton Powell, County Clerk Twink Monahan.

Chairman Grady opened the meeting and Vice-Chairman Brown gave the invocation.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2019 board meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey and approved unanimously. Chairman Grady, Vice-Chairman Brown, and Commissioners Baggett, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized Mr. Bill Schultz from the Humane Society. Mr. Schultz is the new Animal Control Director and he extended an invitation to the Humane Society Fall Dinner, Friday September 27, 2019 at the Biscuit Company on Oak Street. There is seating available to the board members. He also told the board of a training opportunity available to receive P.O.S.T. certification credits for law enforcement officers on September 27, 2019 at the Brooks County Agricultural Building on East Courtland Avenue in Quitman.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to ratify the Department of Transportation 99-Year lease for the new Local Maintenance Barn at 424 Joiner Road. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Brown and approved unanimously. Chairman Grady, Vice-Chairman Brown, and Commissioners Baggett, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to declare a list of miscellaneous electrical accessories and equipment scrap for recycling from the Mapping Office. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey and approved unanimously. Chairman Grady, Vice-Chairman Brown, and Commissioners Baggett, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady explained that Thomas County received a request for a re-hearing of application 19-8-1. The application was not approved at the August 27, 2019 board meeting.

Commissioner NeSmith stated that the Public Hearing held on August 27, 2019 and there were citizens present and both the petitioner and the opposition spoke. He believed that all information was presented and did not see justification to have another hearing. The letter received did not explain any new and additional information.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to deny the request for a rehearing of the Conditional Use Application 19-8-1. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. Chairman Grady asked for a show of hands on the motion. Aye was Chairman Grady, Vice-Chairman Brown, and Commissioners Baggett and Vonier. Opposed was Commissioner Gross. Abstaining was Commissioner Hickey. The motion was approved.

County Manager Stephenson gave the board a history of the Unincorporated Services Fund (USF). ACCG has recommended that before Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) negotiations begin, all Counties should properly account for unincorporated service expenses and revenues. Georgia law requires unincorporated services be paid by unincorporated tax payers and vice versa. When the County was preparing for the 2012 LOST negotiations, Finance Officer Nichols reconciled accounts back to the early 1990's (when building inspections started) and documented an unincorporated services surplus of about \$4.0 million. Several years ago, the County Commission approved a committed fund balance for unincorporated services in the General Fund. About three years ago the Board set up an Unincorporated Services Fund (USF) and began transferring the committed fund balance from the General Fund. There is currently \$1,599,353 of committed fund balance remaining in the General Fund.. Mr. Stephenson is recommending a \$1.0 million transfer now to the USF, leaving \$599,353 to be transferred in 2020, The LOST negotiations will begin in 2022.

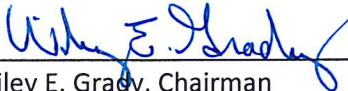
Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to approve the \$1.0 million transfer from the General Fund to the Unincorporated Services Fund. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Brown. The motion was approved unanimously. Voting aye was Chairman Grady, Vice-Chairman Brown, and Commissioners Baggett, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized Commission Vonier who made a motion to ratify the purchase of gas, \$1.8940, and diesel, \$1.9295, from Petroleum Products on 8/29/2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. The motion was approved unanimously. Voting aye was Chairman Grady, Vice-Chairman Brown, and Commissioners Baggett, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized former Commissioner Claud Davis who was in attendance.


The upcoming committee meetings were announced: Emergency Services Committee, 9/16 at 8:30 a.m.; Public Works Committee, 9/18 2 8:30 a.m. in the conference room at the Commissioners' Office.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Brown and approved unanimously. Voting aye was Chairman Grady, Vice-Chairman Brown, and Commissioners Baggett, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.



Wiley E. Grady, Chairman

ATTEST:



M. Twink Monahan, County Clerk