

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
June 9, 2020

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:

Phillip V. Brown, Chairman, Dist. 7

Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1

Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3

Donnie L. Baggett, Dist. 5

Wiley E. Grady, Vice-Chair, Dist. 6

Moses Gross, Dist. 2

Mark NeSmith, Dist. 4

Zippy T. Vonier, Dist. 8

Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Transit Director Corey McGee, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

News/Media present: none

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order, and Commissioner Rich gave the invocation.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2020 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown reviewed the 2020 NACo request for steering committee nominations. No action was taken.

Chairman Brown recognized Transit Director Corey McGee who briefed the Board on the GDOT Supplemental Agreement for the 2020-2021 Cares Act funding for operating assistance. Revenues lost during the COVID-19 Pandemic will be eligible for reimbursement. There were no transit employees that got sick and only part-time workers were let go. Although drastically decreased in number, public trips and DHS (Department of Human Services) trips still ran.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to authorize the execution of the GDOT Supplemental Transit Contract. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown reviewed the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension and Thomas County. Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the MOU agreement between the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension and Thomas County. Commissioner NeSmith seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

In the Open Meeting to Citizens, Chairman Brown recognized Nolah Shotwell of 702 Wright Street, Thomasville, Georgia. Ms. Shotwell addressed the 2023 Thomas County Comprehensive Plan, and

recommended participation in the PlanFirst Community program, and the Georgia Initiative Community Housing program.

Chairman Brown recognized County Attorney Warren who reported on a request he had received from the owners of the Dollar General store on 319 South. They are seeking abandonment of a Right of Way Easement on their property that was given to the County. They are wanting to build a new store or rehab the existing one. County Attorney Warren was asked to contact them and ask that they have a representative at the next Public Works Committee (June 17, 2020) if possible.

Chairman Brown recognized County Manager Stephenson who gave an update on a June 4, 2020 meeting that was held with a representative from SOWEGA Council on Aging at the Scott Senior Center. They picked up client files and personnel folders and removed the computer system and copier. The remaining furniture, equipment, and supplies belong to the Scott Senior Center. Funds of approximately thirty-two thousand dollars will be transferred back to the County and put into a new Thomas County account for Scott Senior Center.

County Manager Stephenson made a request to table the recommendation from the Fleet Services Committee regarding surplus. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Rich made a motion to move forward with an absolute auction for any approved surplus parts, vehicles, and equipment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gross. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown, and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to ratify the demolition of the GA DOT buildings with salvage recovery. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the diesel fuel purchase from Coastal Plains Farmers CO-OP for \$1.05069/gal. on June 2, 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to approve the six-month bid for Ready Mix Portland Cement Concrete from Scruggs Concrete Company. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion was approved by Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the recommendation to go with the ambulance remount option in the 2021 budget. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioner Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.


Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Rich who stated that Ms. Cason from the City of Thomasville has been invited to the next Finance Committee meeting on July 16, 2020. He also thanked Ms. Shotwell for her presentation.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a recommendation to have someone come and give a presentation on the LandBank. Commissioner Grady will contact ACCG for suggestions.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Hickey who reported that Oil-Dri will be attending a Public Works Committee meeting in July to give a status report to the Board.

The upcoming committee meetings were announced. The Emergency Services Committee will meet at the Historic Courthouse on June 15, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. The Public Works Committee will meet at the Historic Courthouse on June 17, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

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



Phillip V. Brown, Chairman

ATTEST:



Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk