

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
January 12, 2021

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 (absent)
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3
Donnie L. Baggett, Dist. 5

Wiley 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 Clerk Celeste Tyler, Public Works Director Tony Bodiford, Planning Director Ken Gay, Zoning Administrator Donna Holbert, Sheriff Carlton Powell, and Emergency Services Director Derrick Ogletree

News/Media present: Chris Hurst, WPAX radio

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order, and Associate Pastor Andy Daughtry of the First Baptist Church gave the invocation.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2020 Board Meeting. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown expressed his appreciation for the Board's support over the past year. He described it as a year like no other with the challenges of COVID-19. He then turned the meeting over to County Clerk Celeste Tyler who asked for nominations for 2021 Chairman of the Board. Commissioner NeSmith made the nomination to re-elect Phillip Brown. With no other nominations forthcoming, County Clerk Tyler ceased the nominating period. Commissioner NeSmith made the motion to elect Phillip Brown as Chairman. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye. Chairman Brown asked for nominations for Vice Chairman of the Board. Commissioner Hickey made the nomination to elect Wiley Grady. With no other nominations forthcoming, Chairman Brown ceased the nominating period. Commissioner Hickey made the motion to elect Wiley Grady as Vice Chairman. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to re-appoint Bruce Warren as the County Attorney. Commissioner NeSmith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown thanked the Board for trusting him with another year as Chairman and assured them he will do his best. He also thanked Andy Daughtry, Associate Pastor from Thomasville First Baptist Church for the nice invocation, his wife Carolyn, sister in-law and brother in-law Emma and Tom Bowdry, and nephew Terry Ross, for their attendance today and continued support.

Chairman Brown recognized Zoning Administrator Donna Holbert who introduced Application 21-11-1 requesting a medical hardship variance on property located at 1300 Dillion Road (Map 45, Parcel 5) consisting of 5.5 acres, more or less. Applicant is property owner Dale Millere. A Public Hearing for the request will be held at the January 26, 2021 Board of Commissioners Meeting. The Planning Staff recommends approval of the medical hardship variance.

Board Appointments: Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to appoint Ben Smith, PA-C to the Department of Public Health Board. Commissioner NeSmith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye. Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to re-appoint County Manager Michael Stephenson to the Georgia Pines Board. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye. Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to re-appoint Donnie Baggett, Elaine Mays, and Al Bryan to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Board. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized County Manager Stephenson who congratulated the Chairman and Vice Chairman on their re-election and expressed appreciation to the whole Board for their support. He then briefed the Board on his recommendation to approve the purchase of 11 new computer hardware/OptiPlex Intel Processors for the Tax Commissioner's Office. The NTS Quote submitted reflects the Dell State Contract specifications and price. The total cost is \$22,112.61 and is under the budgeted amount. Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the purchase of 11 OptiPlex computers as presented. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye. County Manager Stephenson also shared a recent News Release from the Department of Public Health regarding the identification of a COVID-19 variant in Georgia.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to ratify the authorization for the sale of surplus property by the Fleet Services Department (Tire Inventory, 2 lifts and 1A-Frame hoist). Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown, Commissioners Rich, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Baggett, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Grady made a motion to ratify the 2021 Budget Amendment 21-1-1 (Capitol Improvements Fund and General Fund). Commissioner NeSmith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown, Commissioners, Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Grady made a motion to ratify the authorization to move forward with the Sheriff Shooting Range at the new designated location. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the purchase of diesel fuel from Petroleum Products for \$1.5600/gal approved on 12/30/20. Commissioner NeSmith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the bid award to Barber Contracting for \$252,520.00 for the Hancock Center DFACS/Juvenile Court Painting and Flooring. Commissioner Grady seconded the

motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier also notified the Board that Bill Owens purchased the Patten precinct building from Jeff Willis. His plans are to move it within the next three to four weeks.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner NeSmith who reminded everyone of the combined Emergency Services Committee and Community Meeting on January 21, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. This is the County's opportunity to share plans with the public regarding the new Southside Station. He also echoed his appreciation for the leadership of the Board.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Hickey who thanked Chairman Brown for his leadership during the past year. He also announced the Public Works Committee will be held on Wednesday, January 20th.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Gross who joined the other Commissioners in expressing his appreciation for Chairman Brown's leadership.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:26 a.m.



Phillip V. Brown, Chairman

ATTEST:



Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk