

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
October 26, 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

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 (absent)

Zippy T. Vonier, Dist. 8

Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Sheriff Carlton Powell, 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 October 12, 2021 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized County Manager Stephenson who referenced the Resolution to amend the ACCG Defined Benefit Plan and Amendment #2 to the ACCG Defined Benefit Plan in the agenda packet. This amendment includes an addition to the Eligibility for Unreduced Early Retirement Pension to those who complete thirty-five years of vesting service regardless of age.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the Resolution and the ACCG Amendment #2 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commission Grady. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND ACCG
DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN
FOR THOMAS COUNTY EMPLOYEES**

WHEREAS, the Employer maintains the Association County Commissioners of Georgia Defined Benefit Plan for Thomas County Employees (the "Plan") through an Adoption Agreement that was most recently amended and restated effective as of January 1, 2015;

WHEREAS, Section 16.02(b) of the Plan allows the Employer to amend the elective provisions of the Adoption Agreement with respect to one or more classes of Employees, subject to certain conditions;

WHEREAS, Section 16.02(a) of the Plan allows the Employer to amend the amend the Plan, subject to the consent of Association County Commissioners Defined Benefit Plan Board of Trustees (the "DB Board");

WHEREAS, the Adoption Agreement currently provides for an Unreduced Early Retirement at age sixty- two (62) with thirty (30) years of Vesting Service;

WHEREAS, Section 6.02 of the Plan permits the Employer to elect to provide more than one method of determining Participant eligibility for an Early Retirement Pension;

WHEREAS, the Employer wishes to amend the Adoption Agreement to also permit an Unreduced Early Retirement upon a Participant’s completion of thirty-five (35) years of Vesting Service, without regard to the Participant’s age, which amendment shall be effective as to any Participant who is an Active Participant on or after the effective date of this amendment;

WHEREAS, Section 6.02 of the Plan further provides that a Participant who has had a Termination of Employment after satisfying a Vesting Service requirement but not the age requirement for an Early Retirement Pension may age into Early Retirement Eligibility after his or her Termination of Employment;

WHEREAS, the Employer wishes to amend the Plan to clarify that a Participant may only age into eligibility for an Early Retirement Pension that was in effect as of the date of the Participant’s Termination of Employment.

NOW THEREFORE, at a meeting held on the 26th day of October, 2021, the Thomas County Board of Commissioners hereby resolves as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Thomas County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the adoption of attached Plan and Adoption Agreement Amendment #2 to make the above-referenced amendments to the January 1, 2015 restated Adoption Agreement and Addendum.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission Chair is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to take all further actions and to execute all documents necessary to implement these resolutions.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that any resolution in conflict with this resolution is hereby repealed.

This 26th day of October, 2021.

THOMAS COUNTY, GEORGIA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to approve a Resolution authorizing the FY2023 Transit Grant Application. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown, and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR A GRANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE UNDER TITLE 49 U.S.C., SECTION 5311.

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration and the Georgia Department of Transportation are authorized to make grants to non-urbanized (rural) areas for mass transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the contract for financial assistance will impose certain obligations upon Applicant, including the provision of the local share of project costs; and

WHEREAS, it is required by the United States Department of Transportation and the Georgia Department of Transportation in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that in connection with the filing of an application for assistance under the Federal Transit Act, the applicant gives an assurance that it will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the United States Department of Transportation requirements thereunder; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the Applicant that Minority Business Enterprise (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and Women's Business Enterprise) be utilized to the fullest extent possible in connection with this project, and that definitive procedures shall be established and administered to ensure that minority business shall have the maximum feasible opportunity to compete for contracts and purchase orders when procuring construction contracts, supplies, equipment contracts, or consultant and other services.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY Thomas County Board of Commissioners

hereinafter referred to as the "Applicant",

Michael Stephenson

1. That the Designated Official, _____ hereinafter, referred to as the "Official" is authorized to execute and file an application on the behalf of the Applicant, a City/County government, with the Georgia Department of Transportation to aid in the financing of public transportation assistance pursuant to Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act.
2. That the Official is authorized to execute and file such application and assurances or any other document required by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Georgia Department of Transportation effectuating the purpose of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
3. That the Official is authorized to execute and file all other standard assurances or any other document required by the Georgia Department of Transportation or the U.S. Department of Transportation in connection with the application for public transportation assistance.
4. That the Official is authorized to execute grant contract agreements on behalf of the Applicant with the Georgia Department of Transportation.
5. That the Official is authorized to set forth and execute Minority Business Enterprise, DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) and WBE (Women Business Enterprise) policies and procedures in connection with the project's procurement needs as applicable.
6. That the applicant while making application to or receiving grants from the Federal Transit Administration will comply with FTA Circular 9040.1G, FTA Certifications and Assurances for Federal Assistance 2021 as listed in this grant application and General Operating Guidelines as illustrated in the Georgia State Management Plan.
7. That the applicant has or will have available the required non-federal funds to meet local share requirements for this grant application.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 26th **day of** October, 2021.

County Manager Stephenson reported on the revised plan for the American Rescue Plan – Act of 2021 which reflects his recommendation of an increase in broadband infrastructure to \$3,000,000. The non-profit category of \$500,000.00 would remain unchanged, and the Reserves would be \$1,100,000.00. The complete grant proposals for broadband infrastructure, partnering with AT&T and Windstream were presented. The recommendation for the County match with the AT&T proposal is \$396,398 (25% of the

amount that AT&T will contribute). The recommendation for the County match with the Windstream proposal is \$1,291,081.00 (25% of the amount that Windstream will contribute).

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the revised American Rescue Plan – Act of 2021 and the two broadband proposals, partnering with AT&T and Windstream, as presented and recommended by the County Manager. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized County Attorney Warren who reported that there are no issues with the covenants on the property on the corner of Five Forks Rd and Stephenson Rd (owned by Adam Roland). Commissioner Baggett had presented this location as a suitable site for a Volunteer Fire Station in Boston.


Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the diesel fuel purchase from Petroleum Products for \$2.6190/gal on October 12, 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Grady announced that the Public Property Committee will meet at the Historic Courthouse on November 4, 2021, 8:30 p.m. A work session on re-districting is planned.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Grady 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, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.


Phillip V. Brown, Chairman

ATTEST:


Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk