

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
March 8, 2022

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:

Mark NeSmith, Chairman, Dist. 4

Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3
Phillip V. Brown, District 7

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

Moses Gross, District 2
Donnie L. Baggett, District 5
Zippy T. Vonier, District 8

Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Public Works Director Tony Bodiford, Planning Director Ken Gay, Fleet Services Director Jamie Parrott, Building and Maintenance Director Lyndall Knight, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

News/Media present: Chris Hurst, WPAX and Pat Donahue, Thomasville Times Enterprise

Chairman NeSmith called the meeting to order, and Commissioner Grady gave the invocation.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2022 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Jeremy Rich who read the Thomas County Proclamation recognizing 2022 International Women’s Day. The celebration of this day is in appreciation of the many achievements of the women of Thomas County and those across the nation and the world.

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Stephenson who introduced the new employees of Thomas County that participated in the Deming Orientation – Group 28. The following participants each received a certificate of achievement.

Deming Orientation – Group 28

Jimmy Bender	Public Works	Hunter Bass	Fleet Services
Frank Hunter	Public Works	Rhonda Price	Fleet Services
Willie Spivey	Public Works	Lashon Christopher	Emergency Serv
Nicholas Youmans	Public Works	Lance Farlow	Emergency Serv
Rick Orso	Ranges	Douglas Hopkins	Emergency Serv
Chuck Repass	Ranges	David Piland	Emergency Serv
Jared Singletary	Ranges	Ethan Poppell	Emergency Serv
Brooklyn Phillips	911	Caleb Spence	Emergency Serv
Terry Jackson	Facilities Mgt.	Larry Lewis	Transit

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Rich who made a motion to adopt the Resolution to amend the ACCG 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. The

motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to adopt the Agreement Amendment #1 to ACCG Deferred Compensation Plan 457(b). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND
THE ACCG 457(b) DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN
FOR THOMAS COUNTY EMPLOYEES**

WHEREAS, Thomas County, Georgia (the "Employer"), by and through the Thomas County Board of Commissioners, maintains the Association County Commissioners of Georgia 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan for Thomas County Employees (the "Plan") for the benefit of its eligible employees;

WHEREAS, the Employer adopted the Plan through an Adoption Agreement which was most recently effective January 1, 2013;

WHEREAS, Section 11.01(a) of the Plan allows the Employer to amend the elective provisions of the Adoption Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Employer desires to amend its Adoption Agreement, effective upon Board approval, to permit Plan participants to make Roth contributions to the Plan, in accordance with and subject to the applicable terms of the Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, the Thomas County Board of Commissioners hereby resolves as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Thomas County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the attached Adoption Agreement Amendment #1 to the Association County Commissioners of Georgia 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan for Thomas County Employees;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board 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 8th day of March, 2022

THOMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Stephenson who presented a request made by Judge Prine asking Thomas County to fund a 20% share of the cost of a new law clerk for the Southern Judicial Circuit. He explained that the 20% would be the Thomas County portion of the supplement in the 5-county Southern Judicial Circuit.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the 20% share of the supplement cost of a new law clerk (\$4000). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Open Meeting to the Citizens: Chairman NeSmith recognized Candee Henderson of 1453 Egg and Butter Rd. South, Thomasville, GA. She referenced an article regarding pros and cons, along with a buyer's guide

to converting the fleet vehicle purchases to electric—an initiative that would align with the goal of 100% renewable energy by 2035. The article also gave information on why the conversion may be more beneficial for rural areas.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Catherine Smith of PO Box 7076, Thomasville, Georgia who introduced herself to the Board of Commissioners and announced her candidacy for Superior Court Judge.

Reports:

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Stephenson who in turn recognized Planning Director Ken Gay. Ken gave an update on the Evergreen Brook Apartments project. The design team for the project contacted the Planning and Zoning office to receive recommendations that they will incorporate into their plans. The owner came into the office last week to discuss the Natural Features Inventory Sheet requirement.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the purchase of diesel fuel from Petroleum Products \$2.8992/gal on February 22, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify approval to purchase the VESTA 911 hardware/software upgrade with 1-year support, maintenance, and warranties plus the Rapid SOS system totaling \$270,564.33 from Motorola for E-911. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify approval to purchase CAD computers, monitors, Dell servers, Brocade switches, and Server License upgrades from NTS and Tyler totaling \$145,000 for E-911. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify approval to purchase four 2022 Ford Interceptor Pursuit Vehicles from Wade Ford (\$153,828). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved 7-0-1 with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. Commissioner Brown abstained.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the approval to use Dana Supply as the sole vendor for “outfitting” vehicles for the Sheriff’s Office. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify approval to purchase Roadside Spraying Chemicals from Coastal Plains as presented for \$145,545.00 and to purchase 30 gallons of Arsenal Power Line from Nutrien Ag for \$2,070.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify approval to purchase Concrete Drainage Pipe for Egg & Butter Rd., Airline Rd., and Newton Rd resurfacing from Foley Products for \$248,893.04. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the purchase of a 2022 Knuckle Boom Trash Loader from Environmental Products Group for \$196,700.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify authorization to purchase an Arrow Board and lights for dump trucks for the Public Works Department through the GMA Safety & Liability Grant (\$7,610.00). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to approve the 10 Provisions outlined in the Retiree Health Benefits Supplement Proposal (dated February 2022). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

The upcoming committee meetings were announced. The Public Works Committee will meet at the Historic Courthouse on March 16th at 8:30 a.m., and the Emergency Services Committee will meet on March 21st at the Historic Courthouse at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.



Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST: 

Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk