

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
August 23, 2022

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:

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, Planning Director Ken Gay, Zoning Administrator Donna Holbert, Public Works Director Tony Bodiford, Tax Commissioner Alicia Hester, Tax Assessor Daniel Stokes, Sheriff Carlton Powell, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

Media Present: none

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

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 9, 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 declared a Public Hearing, and Ken Gay presented Application #22-7-1. The application was filed by Steve Sykes, agent for property owner, Live Oak Avenues, and asked for consideration to rezone property located on Hall Road and U.S. HWY 319 N (Map 45, Parcel 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, and 137 portion) consisting of 35.73 acres, more or less, from AG, R-2 and CG to R-4. Live Oak Avenues, LLC proposes to develop a Single-Family Residential subdivision. The staff recommends the approval of the application.

Steve Sykes, of 132 Pheasant Ridge, Thomasville, Georgia, was present and addressed the Board as the consultant for the property owner. Mr. Sykes gave a Power Point presentation that included conceptual drawings of the proposed subdivision, Phase I and Phase II, along with maps depicting the current zoning. Several items were highlighted as beneficial to rezoning which included: providing affordable housing to Thomas County with the creation of medium density ¼ acre single family residential homes, the access to public water, sewer, and telecommunications, the removal of Commercial zoned property from Hall Road access, and the generation of additional property tax for schools and local government.

With no opposition present, Chairman NeSmith closed the Public Hearing.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion approve rezoning application #22-7-1. 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 Gloria Glass of 225 Pig Sauls Road, Boston, Georgia who asked again for the recycling program that was suspended in 2020 to be reinstated. She

commented that the \$120,000 given to the Ranges at Oakfield could have been used in the areas of recycling and global warming. Chairman NeSmith recognized Angie Durham of 155 Avalon Way, Thomasville, Georgia who requested the Board to consider discontinuing the use of electronic voting machines in Thomas County and secure free and fair elections by using paper ballots. Chairman NeSmith recognized Jeanette Dixon of 148 Cindy Drive, Thomasville, Georgia who asked the Board to review and update the County's Animal Control Ordinances and spoke of another incident of dogs killing chickens in Meigs

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Stephenson who requested to amend the 2022 budget for \$637,777 – SPLOST 2017 to include road resurfacing and Emergency Services vehicles/equipment. He also commended Public Works Director Tony Bodiford for coming under budget for the resurfacing of the roads.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to amend the 2022 Budget Amendment 22-8-1. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vonier. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

2022 BUDGET AMENDMENT 22-8-1				
PROJECT TO DATE BUDGET - SPLOST 2017-CPF (329)				
August 23, 2022				
Account	Description	Original 2022 Budget	Amended Budget	Difference
Expenses				
329-3300-542512-000	PS-Bldgs, Veh & Equipment	637,777	0	-637,777
329-3550-542200-000	2021/One Used Fire Truck	46,000	54,366	8,366
329-3550-542200-330	2022/Two Used Fire Trucks	0	160,000	160,000
329-3550-542200-331	2022/New Tanker Pumper	0	296,600	296,600
329-3550-542200-332	2022/New Pierce Resp Pumper	0	341,300	341,300
329-4123-541405-000	Bulloch-GA3-Lee White	356,000	353,407	-2,593
329-4125-541405-000	Rook-GA3-RR Crossing	83,600	82,300	-1,300
329-4131-541405-000	Enon Road	1,065,000	983,776	-81,224
329-4142-541405-000	Salem-SR122/SR33	419,000	396,345	-22,655
329-4149-541405-000	Reichertville	444,200	417,638	-26,562
329-4158-541405-000	Powell Drive	223,400	235,226	11,826
329-4178-541405-000	McMillian Road	603,900	523,026	-80,874
329-4283-541405-000	Myrick Road	240,100	240,998	898
329-9010-579000-000	Contingencies	3,121,425	3,155,420	33,995
	Total			0
Net Increase to Expenses				\$0

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to declare the rusted roll-off containers, a QT15 air compressor, and a sloper arm as surplus and authorize the sale of said items on GovDeals online auction. 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.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the 2022 rollback millage rates for Thomas County and Thomas County Board of Education with a set due date of November 15, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vonier. The motion passed 7-0-1 with Chairman

NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye. Commissioner Rich abstained from voting citing personal employment with the Thomas County Board of Education.

County Manager Stephenson recognized Tax Commissioner Alicia Hester, Tax Assessor Daniel Stokes, Thomas County School Superintendent Lisa Williams, and Thomas County School Finance Director Joey Holland and thanked them for their work and dedication to the process.

RESOLUTION

THOMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

P.O. BOX 920

THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA 31799

August 23, 2022

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Thomas County, Georgia, sitting for County purposes in a special called meeting and for the purpose of setting millage and levying a tax for 2022, that it be and is hereby ordered that seven and eight hundred fifty thousandths (7.850) mills on each one dollar of all taxable property in the incorporated areas of said Thomas County, and that it be and is hereby ordered that seven and eight hundred fifty thousandths (7.850) mills with a roll back of Insurance Premium Tax of one and seven hundred sixty nine thousandths (1.769) mills leaving six and eighty one thousandths (6.081) mills on each one dollar of all taxable property in the unincorporated area in said Thomas County, be and the same is hereby levied for Thomas County purposes, said rate to be apportioned for legal purposes of said Thomas County under constitutional limitations of the State of Georgia; and that the Tax Commissioner of Thomas County be, and is hereby instructed to collect the same for said Thomas County purposes, as provided by law; and,

WHEREAS: The proper Legislation was enacted and a referendum was held there under as provided therein on June 16, 1965, at which time the voters of Fire District Number 1 and 2, as described in said Legislation approved said Act creating fire districts in Thomas County and authorizing the Board of Commissioners of Thomas County, Georgia, to levy upon the taxable value of all property within such fire districts for fire protection purposes in said districts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Thomas County, Georgia, sitting in regular meeting for County purposes, that it be and it is hereby ordered that two and six hundred sixty one thousandths (2.661) mills upon the taxable value of each one dollar of all property located in said County Fire District 1, and two and five hundred sixty one thousandths (2.561) mills upon taxable value of each one dollar of all property located in said Fire District 2, as described in said act creating Fire Districts in Thomas County, be and the same is hereby levied for the purpose of said County furnishing fire protection services within such district; and that the Tax Commissioner of Thomas County be, and is hereby instructed to collect the same for said purposes by law; and,

WHEREAS: The Board of Commissioners of Thomas County have adopted Resolution dated December 9, 1986, that there is created within Thomas County, Georgia, pursuant to the authority of Article IX, Section II, paragraph VI, of the Constitution of the State of Georgia, of 1983, a special service district to be known as Fire District No. 3 of Thomas County, Georgia.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Thomas County, Georgia, sitting in regular meeting for County purposes, that it be and it is hereby ordered that two and one hundred seven thousandths (2.107) mills upon the taxable value of each one dollar of all property located in said County Fire District 3, be and the same is hereby levied for the purpose of said County furnishing fire protection

services within such district; and that the Tax Commissioner of Thomas County be and is hereby instructed to collect the same for said purpose by law; and,

WHEREAS: The Board of Commissioners of Thomas County have adopted a Resolution dated February 11, 2003 that there is created in Thomas County, pursuant to the authority of Article IX, Section 11 Paragraph VI of the Constitution of the State of Georgia of 1983, a special service district to be known as Emergency Service District of Thomas County, Georgia.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the board of Commissioners of Thomas County, Georgia, sitting in a regular meeting for County Purposes, that it be and it is hereby ordered that one and five hundred seventeen thousandths (1.517) mills upon the taxable value of each one dollar of all property located in said county Emergency Services District, be and the same is hereby levied for the purpose of said County furnishing emergency services within such district; and that the Tax Commissioner of Thomas County be and is hereby instructed to collect the same for said purpose by law; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Thomas County, Georgia, that it be and is hereby ordered that said mills above be assessed for State purposes and that the Tax Commissioner of said Thomas County, be instructed to collect the same as provided by law; and,

WHEREAS: the Board of Education of Thomas County, Georgia, having recommended a levy of twelve and five hundred thirty three thousandths (12.533) mills on all taxable property in said Thomas County, not embraced within the present corporate limits of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, for the support and maintenance of education for County-wide schools, as provided by law for the taxable year of 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED , by the Board of Commissioners of Thomas County, Georgia, sitting in regular meeting that the taxable year 2022 a tax of twelve and five hundred thirty three thousandths (12.533) mills for the support and maintenance for County-wide schools be levied on each one dollar of all the taxable property in said Thomas County not embraced within the present corporate limits of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, and that the Tax Commissioner of Thomas County, Georgia, be and is hereby instructed to collect the same for the support and maintenance for County-wide schools for the taxable year of 2022 as provided by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tax Commissioner is hereby instructed to set a due date of November 15, 2022 for 2022 taxes.

Reports

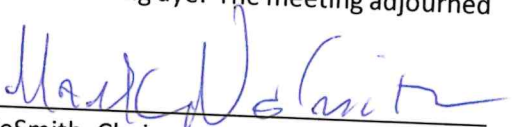
Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the purchase of diesel fuel from Petroleum Products for \$3.3990/gal on August 9, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who announced the next Public Property Committee meeting will be held on September 1, 2022 at the Historic Courthouse at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Gross who commented that he had talked with some of the landowners on Centennial Road and more information regarding the right-of-way may be forthcoming shortly.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to adjourn. 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 meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.



Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:


Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk