

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
October 25, 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, Jessie Winkelmann, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

Others Present: John Taylor and Brittany Stephenson, Taylor Benefit Resource and Steve Sykes representing Live Oak Avenues, LLC.

News/Media present: Jill Holloway, Thomasville Times Enterprise

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

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2022 Board Meeting. 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.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Rich who read and presented a Proclamation designating November 6, 2022 as Georgia Retired Educators Day as signed by Georgia Governor Brian Kemp. Members of the Retired Teachers Association were present and were thanked for their ongoing contributions to the Thomas County Community.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Ken Gay who recommended the approval of the preliminary plat for Live Oak Avenues, LLC. He noted that all stipulations have been met. Commissioner Gross asked if any changes had been made. Ken commented that the only change made was to widen the entrance (north side of Murphy's Express) to keep it at 100ft. There is no entrance on Hall Road.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the preliminary plat for Live Oaks, LLC. 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.

Under New Business Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Stephenson who referenced page 6 in the agenda packet regarding the audited costs of the County's Health Benefits Plan. The chart reflects a significant savings for 2021. County Manager Stephenson recognized John Taylor from Taylor Benefit Resource for further explanation. John contributed the savings to good vendors, making good changes, and controlling the fixed costs. A typical formula used by reinsurance carriers is the cost multiplied by the

population plus 25%. Our current reinsurance carrier is Western Skies, and John recommends staying with them.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the renewal of reinsurance carrier, Western Skies. 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.

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Stephenson who stated that the negotiations with the Humane Society are still ongoing. The 10-year contract expires at the end of the year. Mr. Stephenson presented a revised and more up-to-date Animal Control Ordinance with changes that included clearer definitions specifically in Section 10-8. He also stated that the County Attorney, the Sheriff's Office, Department of Public Health, and Environmental Specialists have reviewed the amended version. County Attorney Warren commented that a revision in the draft may be needed when referencing RM-11 zoning. The Land Use Ordinance changed earlier this year eliminating the future use of RM-11 zoning.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to amend the Animal Control Ordinance as presented. 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.

Reports:

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Stephenson who made a recommendation to transfer \$2,000,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Improvements Fund. As discussed earlier, Mr. Stephenson explained that this will allow an easier way to track capital purchases. Since 2021 there has been a significant gap in the purchase of equipment and when the equipment actually arrives.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to transfer \$2,000,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Improvements Fund as recommended by the County Manager. 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.

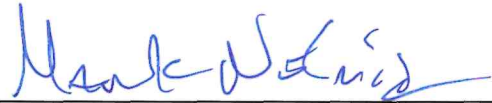
County Manager Stephenson also recommended the distribution of \$60,000 from the Drug Education Fund to Thomas County Schools FTE (69%) and Thomasville City Schools FTE (31%). This distribution will cover fiscal years 2019, 2020, and 2021.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the distribution of \$60,000 from the Drug Education Fund to Thomas County Schools and Thomasville City Schools as presented. 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 Vonier who made a motion to ratify the purchase of diesel fuel from Petroleum Products for \$4.3849/gal on October 11, 2022. 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.

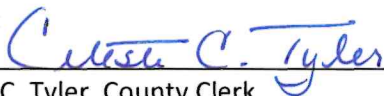
The following meetings were announced: a Personnel Committee meeting on October 26, 2022, a Purchasing Committee meeting on November 1, 2022, and a Public Property Committee meeting on November 3, 2022 (3rd Floor Historic Courthouse at 8:30 a.m.)

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to adjourn. 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. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.



Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:



Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk