

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
August 22, 2023

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:

Zippy Vonier, Chairman, Dist. 8
Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3
Wiley Grady, District 6

Donnie Baggett, Vice-Chair, Dist. 5
Moses Gross, District 2
Mark NeSmith, District 4
Phillip V. Brown, District 7

Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Planning Director Ken Gay, Fleet Services Director Jamie Parrott, Tax Commissioner Alicia Hester, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

News/Media present: none

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

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2023 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Rich who made a motion to approve the August 22, 2023 agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye.

Chairman Vonier recognized Planning Director Key Gay who recommended the approval of the Preliminary Plat for Evergreen Brook Apartments. He explained that there are two phases, Track 1A and Track 1B in the project with a total of 144 total apartments. The request is for Track 1A only consisting of 72 apartments. The private road in its entirety will be put in, and there is no right-of-way property.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the Preliminary Plat for Evergreen Brook Apartments Track 1A. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the 2023 rollback millage rates for Thomas County and Thomas County Board of Education with a set due date of November 15, 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion passed 7-0-1 with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and NeSmith voting aye. Commissioner Rich abstained from voting citing personal employment with the Thomas County Board of Education.

RESOLUTION
THOMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
P.O. BOX 920 THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA 31799
August 25, 2023

NOW, T HEREFOR, 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 2023 , that it be and is hereby ordered that six and nine hundred sixty thousandths (6.960) 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 six and nine hundred sixty thousandths (6.960) mills with a roll back of Insurance Premium Tax of one and six hundred four thousandths (1.604) mills leaving five and three hundred fifty six thousandths (5.356) 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 three hundred thirty seven thousandths (2.337) mills upon the taxable value of each one dollar of all property located in said County Fire District 1, and two and two hundred eighty thousandths (2.280) 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 one and nine hundred eighty three thousandths (1.983) 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 three hundred sixty six thousandths (1.366) 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 eleven and four hundred forty thousandths (11.440) 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 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Thomas County , Georgia, sitting in regular meeting that the taxable year 2023 a tax of eleven and four hundred forty thousandths (11.440) 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 2023 as provided by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tax Commissioner is hereby instructed to set a due date of November 15, 2023 for 2023 taxes.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to adopt the 2023 Budget Amendment 23-8-1 for a new position in the Sheriff's Office for a School Resource Officer at Brookwood School. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye.

**2023 BUDGET AMENDMENT 23-8-1
GENERAL FUND (100)
August 22, 2023**

Account	Description	Original 2023 Budget	Amended Budget	Difference
Expenses				
100-3300-511100-000	Sheriff Salaries	2,859,307	2,900,323	41,016
100-3300-512100-000	Group Insurance	540,000	550,000	10,000
100-3300-512200-000	Social Security (FICA)	216,843	220,043	3,200
100-3300-512400-000	Retirement	105,000	107,200	2,200
100-3300-512600-000	Unemployment Ins	4,000	4,120	120
100-3300-512700-000	Workers Compensation	40,000	41,800	1,800
100-3300-531701-000	Uniforms	37,600	38,400	800
100-9010-612005-000	Rainy Day Account	543,409	484,273	-59,136
	Total			0

Net Increase to Expenses \$0

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the annual Transportation Service Provider contract FY24 TCAT Department of Human Services with Southwest Georgia Regional Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was

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

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve amending the contract between Thomas County and Community Outreach Training Center, Inc (COTC) to include \$100,000 for the purpose of providing assistance for those citizens of Thomas County residing in the municipalities of Barwick, Boston, Coolidge, Meigs, Ochlocknee, and Pavo. The funds will come from ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye.

Open Meeting to the Citizens: Chairman Vonier recognized Shirley Jackson of 727 Crowley Road, Thomasville, Georgia who stated that several private roads are not being maintained, and the County should be aware of this. She gave Foxcroft Road as an example.

Reports: Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to ratify the purchase of diesel fuel from Petroleum Products for \$3.1328/gal on August 16, 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye.

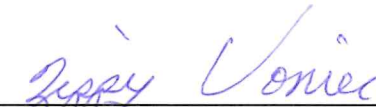
Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Rich who announced that the Personnel Committee meeting will be held on August 29, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in the Historic Courthouse.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Hickey who announced that the Public Property Committee meeting will be held on August 24, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in the Historic Courthouse.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to go into Executive Closed Session to discuss a real estate matter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye. (6:22 p.m.)

The Commissioners returned to the Regular Meeting at 6:33 p.m. with no action to report.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.



Zippy Vonier, Chairman

ATTEST: 

Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk