

Minutes
 Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
 225 North Board Street
 September 12, 2023

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:

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

Donnie Baggett, Vice-Chair, Dist. 5
 Moses Gross, District 2 (absent)
 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, E-911 Director Whitney Hopkins, Public Works Director Tony Bodiford, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

News/Media present: Jill Holloway Thomasville Times Enterprise

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

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

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the September 12, 2023 agenda with the addition of debris cleanup from Hurricane Idalia. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and NeSmith voting aye.

Chairman Vonier and County Manager Stephenson recognized the participants of the Deming Orientation Group 29 and presented them with awards of achievement.

Deming Orientation Group 29

Mary Griffin	Admin.Services	Marcus Paytee	Facilities Mngt
Hunter Baxter	E-911	Kesha Walker	Facilities Mgt.
Jessica Sharp	E-911	Elbert Willis	Facilities Mgt.
Susan Turner	E-911	Leslie Clark	Planning & Insp.
Jon Allen	Emergency Services	Damian Cooper	Public Works
Cleveland Collins	Emergency Services	Josh Henderson	Public Works
Ernest Moore	Emergency Services	Michael Horne	Public Works
Krystle Perkins	Emergency Services	Anthony Pickels	Public Works
Mark Sealy	Emergency Services	Casey Spry	Public Works
Glenn Walker	Emergency Services	Celia Smith	Ranges @Oakfield
Andrew Baugh	Facilities Mngt		

Under New Business, Chairman Vonier recognized Tammy Bryant, applicant for the Thomas County Public Health Board. Mrs. Bryant introduced herself to the Board and her impressive resume was included in the

agenda packet. Mrs. Bryant has lived in Thomas County/Pavo for 30+ years. She has held several positions with Southern Regional Technical College including Dean of Nursing and presently serves as Director of Allied Health Curriculum for the entire Technical College System of Georgia.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the appointment of Mrs. Tammy Bryant to the Thomas County Board of Health. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and NeSmith voting aye.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to adopt a Resolution authorizing the filing of applications with the US DOT and the GDOT for a grant under Title 49. The Federal Transit Administration and the Georgia Department of Transportation are authorized to make grants to rural areas for mass transportation projects. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and NeSmith voting aye.

Chairman Vonier recognized County Manager Stephenson who briefed the Board on the estimated cost to Thomas County from Hurricane Idalia on August 30, 2023. Of the approximate \$600,000 cost, the Federal Government has committed to covering 75% of the expense, and we will be asking the State of Georgia to cover the remaining 25%.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion authorizing Crowder Gulf and Thompson Consulting Services to immediately begin monitoring and cleaning up storm debris. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and NeSmith voting aye.

Reports: Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to ratify the purchase of diesel fuel from Petroleum Products for \$3.2338/gal on September 1, 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and NeSmith voting aye.


Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to accept the bids for the Five Forks Volunteer Station totaling \$165,127.36 The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and NeSmith voting aye.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Hickey who announced that the Public Works Committee meeting will be held on September 20, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in the Historic Courthouse.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and NeSmith voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m.



Zippy Vonier, Chairman

ATTEST: 

Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk