

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
September 10, 2024

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:

Wiley Grady, Chairman Dist. 6

Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1 (absent)

Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3

Phillip V. Brown, Dist. 7

Donnie L. Baggett, Vice-Chair Dist. 5

Moses Gross, Dist. 2 (absent)

Mark NeSmith, Dist. 4

Zippy T. Vonier, Dist. 8

Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Planning Director Ken Gay, Transit Director Corey McGee, Capt. Chuck McDonald, Sheriff Carlton Powell, and Purchasing Agent Nisha Thurman.

News/Media present: Jill Holloway, Thomasville Times Enterprise

Chairman Grady called the meeting to order, and Cory McGee gave the invocation.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2024 Board Meeting. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the agenda for the September 10, 2024 Board Meeting. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Under New Business, Chairman Grady referenced the resolution regarding the transit grant application in the agenda packet. County Manager Stephenson acknowledged Transit Director Corey McGee to answer any questions. Hearing none, Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to adopt the Resolution authorizing the submittal of the Federal and State of Georgia Transit Grant Application. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR A GRANT UNDER TITLE 49 U.S.C., SECTION 5311.

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration and the Georgia Department of Transportation are authorized to make grants to non-urbanized (rural) areas for mass transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the contract for financial assistance will impose certain obligations upon Applicant, including the provision of the local share of project costs; and

WHEREAS, it is required by the United States Department of Transportation and the Georgia Department of Transportation in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that in connection with the filing of an application for assistance under the Federal Transit Act, the applicant gives an assurance that it will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the United States Department of Transportation requirements thereunder; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the Applicant that Minority Business Enterprise (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and Women's Business Enterprise) be utilized to the fullest extent possible in connection with this project, and that definitive procedures shall be established and administered to ensure that minority business shall have the maximum feasible opportunity to compete for contracts and purchase orders when procuring construction contracts, supplies, equipment contracts, or consultant and other services.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Thomas County Board of Commissioners hereinafter referred
BY as the "Applicant", _____

1. That the Designated Official Michael Stephenson, hereinafter referred to as the "Official, is authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of Thomas County Board of Commissioners with the Georgia Department of Transportation, to aid in the purchase of bus transit vehicles and/or the planning, development, and construction of bus transit-related facilities pursuant to Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act.
2. That the Official is authorized to execute and file such application and assurances, or any other document required by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Georgia Department of Transportation effectuating the purpose of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
3. That the Official is authorized to execute and file all other standard assurances, or any other document required by the Georgia Department of Transportation or the U.S. Department of Transportation in connection with the application for public transportation assistance.
4. That the Official is authorized to execute grant contract agreements on behalf of the Applicant with the Georgia Department of Transportation.

5. That the Official is authorized to set forth and execute Minority Business Enterprise, DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) and WBE (Women Business Enterprise) policies and procedures in connection with the project's procurement needs as applicable.
6. That the applicant while making application to or receiving grants from the Federal Transit Administration will comply with FTA Circular 9040.1G, FTA Certifications and Assurances for Federal Assistance 2024 as listed in this grant application and General Operating Guidelines as illustrated in the Georgia State Management Plan.
7. That the applicant has or will have available in the General Fund the required non-federal funds to meet local share requirements for this grant application.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2024.

Open Meeting to Citizens: Chairman Grady recognized Candee Henderson of 1453 Egg and Butter Road South, Thomasville, Georgia who asked the Commissioners to replace the diesel trucks in the Thomas County Fleet with electric vehicles. She also added that Thomasville Utilities will be purchasing solar energy from Cox County and suggested that Thomas County could invest in solar energy and sell to other counties, as well. Chairman Grady recognized Carol Burgess of 725 North Mitchell Street, Thomasville, Georgia who expressed concern and distress over the continued dog problem. She stated that dogs have killed her cats, and although she has called Animal Control several times, she never gets a call back. She also stated that Animal Control has offered to put dog traps in her yard, but nothing has been resolved.

Committee Reports

Chairman Grady County Manager Stephenson gave an update on the 2nd Street to Station class. The ten participants will be uniformed soon as the program's start date is in the month of September. Approximately half of the class are already EMT certified. He also stated that after meeting with each of them, they appear to be a great group of young adults that are very appreciative of this opportunity.

Chairman Grady recognized County Attorney Warren who proposed an amendment to the Thomas County Animal Control Ordinance Chapter 10.07 Penalties. If amended, punishments for violation of Chapter 10 – Animal Control shall be subject to the terms of Chapter 1 General Provision Sec. 1.12 of the Thomas County Code of Ordinances that states “the violation of any such provision of this Code or any ordinance shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$500.00 or 60 -days imprisonment, or both, except as otherwise provided by general law”.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to Amend the Animal Control Ordinance Chapter 10.07 Penalties as presented. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to ratify the bid award for a Washer/Extractor and Gas Dryer to TLC Tri-State Laundry Companies for \$21,622.00 for Animal Services. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the purchase of Synergistic Software support for \$40,314.00 for the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to ratify the purchase of animal care equipment from Direct Animal Products for \$183,960.00. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

In Other Business, Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Hickey who announced the next Public Works Committee meeting will be held on September 18th at 8:30 a.m. at the Historic Courthouse.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Brown who announced the next Personnel Committee meeting will be held on September 11th at 8:30 a.m. at the Historic Courthouse.

Chairman Grady recognized County Manager Stephenson who announced a meeting between Thomas County Board of Commissioners and the Public Defender's Office has been set for 10:00 a.m., Friday, September 13th. Judge Prine has agreed to mediate, and the meeting will be held in his office. Chairman Grady and Vice-Chairman Baggett will attend on behalf of the Commissioners.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m.



Wiley Grady, Chairman

ATTEST:



Nisha Thurman, Purchasing Agent