

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
September 24, 2024

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:

Wiley Grady, Chairman Dist. 6

Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3
Phillip V. Brown, Dist. 7

Donnie L. Baggett, Vice-Chair Dist. 5

Moses Gross, Dist. 2
Mark NeSmith, Dist. 4
Zippy T. Vonier, Dist. 8

Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Transit Director Corey McGee, Emergency Services Director Derrick Ogletree, Street to Station instructor Derek Knight, Project Superintendent Jay Knight, Capt. Tim Watkins, Sheriff Carlton Powell, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler

News/Media present: none

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

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

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to approve the agenda for the September 24, 2024 Board Meeting. Commissioner NeSmith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized Dereck Ogletree and Derek Knight who presented the 2024 Street to Station Class to the Board.

Shaquille Coleman
Yeilin Garcia
Juan Hernandez
Jarvis Lewis
Garrett Morrell

Dimitrius Myrick
John Reed
Jared Robinson
Demarious Walker
Nathaniel Wells

These 10 were selected out of a competitive pool of 78 applicants. They are in their third week of class, and accolades were given by their instructors and the County Manager. Chairman Grady congratulated them on their achievement thus far and welcomed them as employees of Thomas County.

Chairman Grady recognized Jay Knight who requested approval for the invoices from Thompson Consulting to be paid. Two invoices have been received thus far \$8,435.51 and \$31,962.26 for debris removal and monitoring from Hurricane Debby. It is expected that a major disaster declaration will be made soon by FEMA which would result in the availability of federal assistance.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to approve the invoices from Thompson Consulting for debris removal and monitoring as presented. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. Commissioner Baggett also commended Jay and Chief Chris Jones for their hard work and proactive stance allowing the process to run smoothly.

Also under New Business, Chairman Grady referenced the Title VI Program for Thomas County Area Transit that is in the agenda packet and has been viewed multiple times. Transit Director Corey McGee was also present to answer questions and recommend its approval. Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to adopt the Title VI Plan for Thomas County Area Transit. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized Capt. Tim Watkins with the Sheriff's Office who introduced the Flock Safety camera system and requested its purchase. The cost, \$57,450.00, would be eligible for reimbursement from the GAP grant. Capt. Watkins gave an overview of the system and how it works collaboratively with all Flock Safety Camera Systems nationwide. Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to approve the purchase of the Flock Safety camera system and reimbursable through the GAP grant as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Open Meeting to Citizens: Chairman Grady recognized Shirley Jackson of 727 Crowley Rd., Thomasville, Georgia who asked questions regarding the Flock Safety camera system and whether it would be complimentary to the City of Thomasville's camera system. Chairman Grady recognized Russ Biondo of 119 Huntington Point Dr., Thomasville, Georgia who asked questions regarding lake sedimentation (Lilliquin). Chairman Grady referred him to Jay Knight to discuss his concerns after the meeting.

Committee Reports

Chairman Grady County Manager Stephenson gave an update on the briefing at the EOC regarding Hurricane Helene. The possibility of a 5 to 10 - day power outage was discussed. Electrical crews from Oklahoma are already in route.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who elaborated on a meeting held with Judge Prine regarding the Public Defender's Office space. Since that time the County Manager has found appropriate office space at Pinetree Commons for \$1800 per month. Commissioner Baggett made a motion to approve the lease while the office space at the Hancock Center is being renovated. Commissioner NeSmith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to declare the brass at the Ranges at Oakfield as surplus and to authorize its sale on GovDeals online auction. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Hickey also made a motion to declare the following equipment as surplus and authorize its sale on GovDeals online auction.

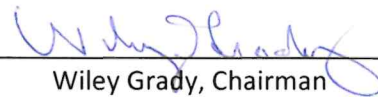
1. Unit # 635 – 2004 - Vemeer Chipper Model #BC1000XL
2. Unit # 636 – 1987 – Hyster fork lift – Model # H40XLM
3. Unit # 12-202 - 2012 - John Deere walk- behind mower Model #WG36A
4. Unit # 16-356 – 2016- Sarlo Walk behind mower Model #30HY-B344

Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Brown who announced the next Personnel Committee meeting will be held on September 25th at 8:30 a.m. at the Historic Courthouse.

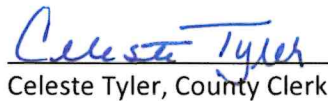
Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Rich who announced the next Purchasing Committee meeting will be held on October 1st at 4:00 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m. a.m.



Wiley Grady, Chairman

ATTEST:



Celeste Tyler, County Clerk