

Minutes  
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
225 North Board Street  
November 26, 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, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler

News/Media present: Jill Holloway, Thomasville Times Enterprise

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

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2024 Board Meeting. 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 Rich who made a motion to approve the agenda for the November 26, 2024 Board Meeting. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized County Manager Stephenson who referenced the 2024 and 2025 Public Defenders contract in the agenda packet. He reminded everyone of Patti Sutton's (from the Public Defenders Office) presentation at the Budget Work Session. County funds submitted to the State of Georgia will not be refunded back to the County. The County's financial/accounting process for the Public Defenders Office will remain the same.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the 2025 Public Defenders Office contract. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

**Reports:** Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to authorize application for the 2025 Georgia Trauma Grant. Emergency Services Director Derrick Ogletree made the request at the last Emergency Services Committee Meeting. The grant total is \$12,459.89 and will be used for the purchase of UESCOPE 2(s) and blades. 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 Bagget who reported the next Public Property meeting will be held on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Rich who announced the next Purchasing meeting will be held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 p.m. and the next Land Bank meeting will be held on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to ratify the bid from Louis Company LLC for Bridge Maintenance and Repair for \$701,706.00. 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 made a motion to ratify the approval to go to bid for debris contractors and monitoring companies. Commissioner NeSmith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

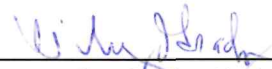
Commissioner Hickey made a motion to approve the repair of three structures damaged by Hurricane Helene: pipe on Pope and Rocky Ford roads and a box culvert on Lawhorne (estimated cost \$275,000; county portion will be 15%). Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Hickey made a motion to declare Unit 13-240 lawnmower John Deere Z655 EZtrak zero-turn radius mower as surplus and authorize its sell on GovDeals.com. Commissioner Brown 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 NeSmith who made a motion to go into Closed Session to discuss a legal matter O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1). Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. (6:12 p.m.)

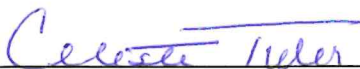
The Board returned to Regular Session (6:25 p.m.). No action was taken.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hickey 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 6:26 p.m.



Wiley Grady, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
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Celeste Tyler, County Clerk