

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
December 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

Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3 (absent)

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, Finance Director Laura Nichols, Emergency Services Director Derrick Ogletree, Project Superintendent Jay Knight, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler

Others present: Paul Fryar, Office of Congressman Sanford Bishop

News/Media present: None

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

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

Chairman Grady made a motion to approve the agenda for the December 10, 2024 Board Meeting with the addition of an update on the Floating Local Option Sales Tax meetings by County Manager Michael Stephenson. Commissioner NeSmith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized County Manager Stephenson who referenced the amended ARPA Budget in the agenda packet. The first two categories represent money that was spent on premium pay (\$3,964,360) and non-profit agencies and individual households (\$1,194,000) that experienced a negative economic impact. The remaining monies (\$3,441,640) are allocated to Reductions in Revenue to reimburse County Government for providing services due to the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the amended ARPA Budget as presented. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized County Manager Stephenson who noted that the 2025 Budget presented today is the same as the one presented during the Budget Work Session with the addition of \$35,000 being allocated to the Land Bank Authority.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to approve the 2025 Budget Resolution for all funds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Grady and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

**Thomas County
2025 Budget Resolution
All Funds**

Whereas, the Thomas County Board of Commissioners is required by Georgia law to approve balanced budgets for all funds; and

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on Monday, November 18, 2024, as required by Georgia law to receive public comment on the proposed budget; and

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners has carefully considered the interests of the citizens of Thomas County, the requirements of public services provided thereunto and the extent of financial resources available to county government.

Now therefore be it resolved that the following budgets are adopted and approved effective on January 1, 2025:

General Fund - 100

Revenues	\$	29,610,512
Expenses	\$	29,610,512

Unincorporated Services Fund - 200

Revenues	\$	2,951,300
Expenses	\$	2,951,300

Law Library Fund - 205

Revenues	\$	40,000
Expenses	\$	40,000

Sheriff's Drug Forfeiture Fund - 210

Revenues	\$	100,000
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Expenses	\$	100,000
Sheriff's Federal Drug Forfeiture Fund - 211		
Revenues	\$	40,000
Expenses	\$	40,000
Drug Opioid Settlement Fund - 213		
Revenues	\$	52,000
Expenses	\$	52,000
Enhanced 911 Fund - 215		
Revenues	\$	1,981,000
Expenses	\$	1,981,000
Drug Education Fund - 230		
Revenues	\$	30,000
Expenses	\$	30,000
ARPA - Grant Fund - 231		
Revenues	\$	0
Expenses	\$	0
Impact Fees Fund - 260		
Revenues	\$	50,000
Expenses	\$	50,000
Emergency Services Fund - 273		
Revenues	\$	8,315,718
Expenses	\$	8,315,718
Fire District 1, 2 & 3 Fund - 274		
Revenues	\$	5,058,176
Expenses	\$	5,058,176

Hotel/Motel Tax Fund - 275

Revenues	\$	340,000
Expenses	\$	340,000

County-wide 2017 SPLOST Fund (Project Length) - 326

Revenues	\$	42,000,000
Expenses	\$	42,000,000

Thomas County 2017 SPLOST-CPF (Project Length) - 329

Revenues	\$	35,752,259
Expenses	\$	35,752,259

County-wide 2023 SPLOST Fund (Project Length) - 330

Revenues	\$	64,000,000
Expenses	\$	64,000,000

Thomas County 2023 SPLOST-CPF (Project Length) - 331

Revenues	\$	32,924,000
Expenses	\$	32,924,000

Capital Improvement Fund (Project Length) - 350

Revenues	\$	934,000
Expenses	\$	934,000

Thomas County Area Transit - 545

Revenues	\$	1,464,107
Expenses	\$	1,464,107

Recreation Fund - 555

Revenues	\$	682,579
Expenses	\$	682,579

Health Benefits Fund - 601

Revenues	\$	5,639,000
Expenses	\$	5,639,000

Airport Fund Fund - 785

Revenues	\$	10,000
Expenses	\$	10,000

Approved this the 10th day of December 2024.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to approve the 2025 Board of Commissioners’ Meeting Schedule. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

2025 Board of Commissioners’ Meeting Schedule

January	14	28
February	11	25
March	11	25
April	8	22
May	13	27
June	10	24
July	8	22
August	12	26
September	9	23
October	14	28
November	11	25
December	9	

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

2025 Holiday Schedule

Holiday	Date Observed
New Year’s Day	Wednesday, January 1st
Martin Luther King, Jr.	Monday, January 20 th
Memorial Day	Monday, May 26 th
Independence Day	Friday, July 4 th
Labor Day	Monday, September 1st
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 27 th
Christmas Holidays	Wednesday, December 24 th & Thursday, December 25 th
*Mandatory Leave (unpaid)	Friday, November 28 th

Board Appointment

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Rich who made a motion to re-appoint Eddie Brown, Sr. to the Thomas County Assessor Board. His new term will expire on 12/2027. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Grady and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Open Meeting to Citizens: Chairman Grady recognized Jack Sangster of 210 Forest Hills Dr., Thomasville, Georgia who came to express his support for the Floating Local Option Sales Tax. He also expressed appreciation to the Commissioners for their public service. Chairman Grady recognized Darrell Scarbrough of 116 Jordan Dr., Thomasville, Georgia who inquired about the Jordan Oaks Subdivision storm water project. Mr. Scarbrough represents the HOA for the subdivision. Jay Knight stated that they were unaware of the timing of Phase III being developed so quickly; thereby the project stopped. County Manager Stephenson added that the project, estimated at \$2,000,000 could only be funded with the new SPLOST which will begin funding in March 2025. Meanwhile, temporary concerns can be handled by calling the Public Works Department.

Reports

Chairman Grady recognized County Manager Stephenson who requested approval to designate inactive EMS accounts as "Doubtful Accounts". The requested accounts total \$746,162.83 and represent accounts in 2019, 2020, and 2021 that have remained inactive for the last three years. The accounts have also been reviewed with the County Auditor.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to move the inactive accounts as presented to "Doubtful Accounts". The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Grady and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to call a Special FLOST 2025 Mayors' Meeting on Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. as requested by the County Manager. The County Clerk will notify the Mayors of the Cities of Barwick, Boston, Coolidge, Meigs, Ochlocknee, and Pavo. Commissioner NeSmith seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Grady and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

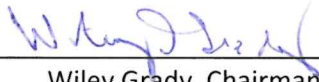
Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Rich who noted Paul Fryer's attendance and thanked him for coming.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to award the bid to sole bidder Martin Marietta for Aggregate Rock. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to award the bid to low bidder, Delta Landscape for Hydroseeding Materials. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

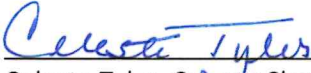
Commissioner Rich made a motion to award the bid to sole bidder, Willacoochee Industrial Fabrics for Woven Geotextiles. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

With no further business, Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Rich who made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.



Wiley Grady, Chairman

ATTEST:



Celeste Tyler, County Clerk