

Minutes  
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
225 North Board Street  
April 22 2025

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:

<b>Mark NeSmith, Chairman Dist. 4 (absent)</b>	<b>Donnie L. Baggett, Vice-Chair Dist. 5</b>
Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1	Moses Gross, Dist. 2
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3	Wiley Grady, Dist. 6
Phillip V. Brown, Dist. 7	Zippy T. Vonier, Dist. 8

Staff present: County Manager Mike Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Public Works Director Jay Knight, Planning Director Ken Gay, Sheriff Tim Watkins, Sheriff Department Captain Ron James, Finance Manager Laura Nichols, Deputy County Clerk Nisha Thurman, County Clerk Celeste Tyler, County Clerk Tracy Dukes.

Media present: None

Others present: Bill Ross, Ross & Associates, David Parrish.

Vice-Chairman Baggett called the meeting to order, and David Parrish gave the invocation.

Vice-Chairman Baggett recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2025 Board Meeting. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Vice-Chairman Baggett, Commissioners Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Vice-Chairman Baggett recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to approve the agenda for the April 22, 2025 Board Meeting. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Vice-Chairman Baggett, Commissioners Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Vice-Chairman Baggett recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve a proclamation for a National Day of Prayer on May 1, 2025. The motion was approved unanimously with Vice-Chairman Baggett, Commissioners Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Vice-Chairman Baggett recognized Mr. Bill Ross, Ross + Associates, who explained briefly an update is required every year relating to the county's impact fee program. The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) will review and forward to the Department of Community Affairs. The report included the Financial Summary and the individual report on departments and projects.

Vice-Chairman Baggett declared a public hearing to consider a resolution transmitting a draft Capital Improvements Element 2025 Annual Update report and receive public input. Being none, the public hearing was closed.

Vice-Chairman Baggett recognized Commissioner Rich who made a motion to approve the 2025 Annual Update Capital Improvements Element Financial Report and Community Work Program. The motion was

seconded by Commissioner Hickey and approved. The motion was approved unanimously with Vice-Chairman Baggett, Commissioners Brown, Grady, Gross, Rich, Hickey and Vonier voting aye.

Vice Chairman Baggett recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to adopt the Transmittal Resolution for the 2025 Capital Improvements Element Update and approve submission to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission for Regional and State review, per the Development Impact Fee Compliance Requirements. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Vice-Chairman Baggett, Commissioners Brown, Grady, Gross, Rich, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Vice-Chairman Baggett recognized Sheriff Tim Watkins who presented a proposal by Montgomery Technology Systems LLC (MTS) for the first phase of the control systems upgrade in the Sheriff's Office. Vice Chairman Baggett questioned the use of the existing cabinetry and recommended upgrading the cabinetry as well.

Vice Chairman Baggett recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the proposal from MTS for the control systems upgrade including Option1, Option 2, and new cabinetry. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Vice-Chairman Baggett, Commissioners Brown, Grady, Gross, Rich, Hickey and Vonier voting aye.

**Reports:** Vice Chairman Baggett recognized County Manager Stephenson who introduced the newly hired County Clerk, Tracy Dukes.

Vice Chairman Baggett recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the purchase of regular fuel and diesel fuel from Petroleum Products for \$2.1766 / gal and \$2.2507 / gal respectively on 4/14/2025. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Vice-Chairman Baggett, Commissioners Brown, Grady, Gross, Rich, Hickey and Vonier voting aye.

Vice-Chairman Baggett recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the 2025 Budget Amendment 25-4-1 from the 2023 SPLOST Capital Projects Fund. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Vice-Chairman Baggett, Commissioners Brown, Grady, Gross, Rich, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

**2025 BUDGET AMENDMENT 25-4-1  
2023-SPLOST CPF (331)  
April 22, 2025**

Account	Description	Original 2025 Budget Amended Budget Difference		
Revenues				
331-34-3300	LMIG-DOT	0	5,400,000	5,400,000
331-36-1000	Interest	0	300,000	300,000
	Total			5,700,000
Net Increase to Revenues				\$5,700,000

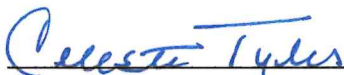
Account	Description	Original 2025 Budget Amended Budget Difference		
Expenses				
331-4200-541405-000	Road & Bridge Projects	10,000,000	15,400,000	5,400,000
331-9010-579000-000	Contingencies	5,341,000	5,641,000	300,000
	Total	15,341,000	21,041,000	5,700,000
Net Increase to Expenses				\$5,700,000

Commissioner Hickey made a motion to declare equipment and vehicles as surplus and authorize the sale on GovDeals online auction. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Vice-Chairman Baggett, Commissioners Brown, Grady, Gross, Rich, Hickey and Vonier voting aye.

Vice-Chairman Baggett recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Gross seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

  
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Donnie Baggett, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:

  
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Celeste Tyler, County Clerk