

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Broad St
October 14, 2025, 2025

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:

Mark NeSmith, District 4, Chairman	Donnie Baggett, Vice-Chair, District 5
Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, District 1 Absent	Moses Gross, District 2
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3 Absent	Wiley Grady, District 6
Phillip V. Brown, District 7	Zippy Vonier, District 8

Staff Present: County Manager Mike Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, County Clerk Tracy Dukes, Deputy Clerk/ Purchasing Agent Nisha Thurman, Sheriff Tim Watkins, Public Works Director Jay Knight, Zoning Administrator Donna Holbert, Sheriff Department Chaplain Kevin Lamb

Others Present: Trey Ezell, Georgia Forestry Commission

News/Media Present: None

Chairman NeSmith called the meeting to order, and Commissioner Brown offered the invocation.

Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2025, Board Meeting. Commissioner made the motion; Commissioner Vonier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Nesmith called for a motion to approve the agenda of the October 14, 2025, Board Meeting. Commissioner Brown made the motion; Commissioner Baggett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Trey Ezell who presented the 2025 Georgia Forestry Commission Annual Report for Thomas County to the Commissioners. Thomas County contributed \$19,787.00 to the Georgia Forestry Commissioner during the 2025 fiscal year toward the cost of protecting the forest land in the County. Trey stated they replaced an older truck that was out of service. Trey thanked the Board of Commissioners for their support. There was a total of 26 fires with the average fire size of 7.10 acres. In FY2025, the Thomas County Unit issued 2372 permits. Georgia Forestry assisted 69 landowners with firebreaks totaling 532 miles. Six landowners were assisted with the burning of 94 acres, all of which was silviculture. The Thomas County Unit is also currently working with 80 active Cogon grass spots and monitoring numerous other spots. Thomas County Rangers helped with the Hands-On Thomas County Tree Giveaway in 2024 and gave away a total of 325 trees. This year's giveaway will be held October 18, 2025. In other

projects, they have worked with the tree board and recertified Thomas for Tree City USA, 30 years running. Chairman NeSmith expressed appreciation for all they do to protect Thomas County.

Reports:

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Mike Stephenson, who presented the preliminary plat for Jordan Oaks Subdivision Phase III. This item was previously discussed during the Public Property Meeting held on October 2, 2025. Zoning Administrator Donna Holbert noted that the original plat had expired, and a new preliminary plat—reflecting no changes—is now being submitted for the Board’s consideration. Access to the subdivision will be provided via Hall Road and Jordan Drive. This marks the final phase of the Jordan Oaks development. The Board accepted the preliminary plat for Jordan Oaks Phase 3 by acclamation. Chairman NeSmith signed off on the preliminary plats.

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Attorney Bruce Warren who presented a request by Miriam Mirabzadeh for a one-day special event permit for a Mahjong Tournament on October 28, 2025 at Millpond Plantation benefitting the Thomasville Antiques Show and Foundation. Bruce stated there were no issues with the event. Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to approve the one-day special event permit. Commissioner Baggett made the motion; Commissioner Vonier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Bruce Warren presented a request submitted by Chandler Giddes for a special event permit to benefit the Thomasville Humane Society. The event is planned to take place at a private residence. Bruce clarified that, because the event is being held on private property, a special event permit is not required.

Committees:

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the purchase of regular fuel from Petroleum Products for \$2.263 and Diesel fuel for \$2.38 on September 23, 2025. Commissioner Grady seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the purchase of un-hulled Bermuda Gass Seed from Coastal Plains Farmers Co-op for \$7,780. Commissioner Baggett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the purchase of metal drainage pipe from Gulf Atlantic Culvert for \$44,209.94.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the purchase of two ½ ton pickup trucks from Thomasville CDJR for \$85,564 (re-bid). Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioners Vonier, Baggett, Gross, Grady, NeSmith voting aye. Commissioner Brown abstained from the vote.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the purchase of Turnout Gear from Municipal Equipment (\$67,290) and AEST Fire and Safety (\$5,850). Commissioner Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the purchase of eight LifePak cardiac monitors, eight LifePak Flex Lithium-ion battery/chargers and accessories from Stryker (\$390,954.25). Commissioner Grady seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the purchase of Safety Arm System for Stryker Power-Pro-XT stretchers, counter mount brackets, device brackets for cardiac monitors from Technimount System USA (\$41,361). Commissioner Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the purchase of a 90-gallon water heater/boiler from Murphy Plumbing for \$28,125 on October 9, 2025. Commissioner Baggett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

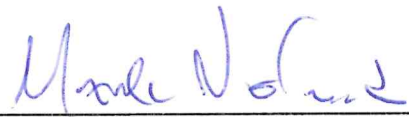
Commissioner Baggett made a motion to ratify proceeding with bid process for Pod A of the Jail. Commissioner Vonier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who announced the Emergency Services Meeting will be held at the Transit Building on October 21, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

The Public Works Meeting has been moved from October 15, 2025, to October 22, 2025 to be held at the Transit Building at 8:30 a.m.

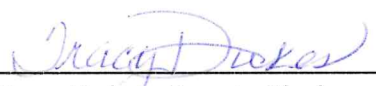
With no further business, Commissioner Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Baggett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.



Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:



Tracy Dukes, County Clerk