

Thomas County Board of Commissioners  
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
225 North Broad St  
January 13, 2026

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, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor 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 (absent)
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3	Wiley Grady, District 6
Phillip V. Brown, District 7	Zippy Vonier, District 8

Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, County Clerk Tracy Dukes, Public Works Director Jay Knight, Emergency Services Director Derrick Ogletree, Sheriff Tim Watkins, Purchasing Agent/Deputy Clerk Nisha Thurman

News/Media present: Jill Holloway, Thomasville Times Enterprise

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

Chairman Nesmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 23, 2025, Board Meeting. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Nesmith, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett, who made a motion to approve the January 13, 2026, agenda, as amended to include an additional agenda item. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Nesmith, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

**2026 Elections and Appointments:**

Chairman NeSmith turned the meeting over to County Attorney Bruce Warren who asked for nominations for 2026 Chairman of the Board. Commissioner Baggett made the nomination to elect Commissioner Mark NeSmith. With no other nominations forthcoming, Commissioner Hickey made a motion to close the nominations for Chairman. Upon voting, Commissioner NeSmith was unanimously selected to be the 2026 Chairman. Mr. Warren confirmed Commissioner NeSmith's appointment as Chairman for 2026 by acclamation.

Chairman NeSmith thanked the Board for its confidence and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve.

County Attorney Bruce Warren opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Grady nominated Commissioner Baggett for Vice-Chairman of the 2026 Board. With no other nominations forthcoming, Commissioner Hickey made a motion to close the nominations for Vice-Chairman. Upon voting, Commissioner Baggett was unanimously selected to be the 2026 Vice-Chairman. Mr. Warren confirmed Commissioner Baggett's appointment as Vice-Chairman for 2026 by acclamation.

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Commissioner Grady expressed pride moving forward into the 2026 year, noting this year has been exceptional for the Thomas County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Baggett thanked the board for the election as Vice-Chairman and looks forward to serving Thomas County, again, in 2026.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to reappoint Bruce Warren as the County Attorney. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Nesmith, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

#### **New Business:**

Chairman NeSmith recognized Judge Voyles, who discussed recent state changes to compensation for Superior Court judges. Judge Voyles explained that all judges have opted into the new compensation plan. As a result, the current supplement will end effective January 1, 2026, and be replaced with an optional locality pay, capped at 10 percent of state pay, which will be reduced and ultimately eliminated as state pay increases. Judge Voyles requested a supplement reallocation for locality pay and staff supplements, noting that no additional funding is being requested and that the request is solely to reallocate existing funds. Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the reallocation of funds. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Nesmith, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Yash Jain d/b/a Sunrise 2 Thomasville LLC, located at 2685 US-84 West, Thomasville, GA. Mr. Jain is the store owner and is requesting a Beer and Wine License at said location.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the application for a Beer and Wine License as requested by Yash Jain for Sunrise 2 Thomasville LLC, 2685 US84 West, Thomasville GA. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vonier. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Nesmith, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to set the 2026 Qualifying Fees as presented. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, Grady and Vonier voting aye.

#### **Board Appointments:**

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who spoke on the Southwest Georgia Commission and commended Elaine Mays and Jason Giddens for their commitment to serving on the Council in 2025. Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to re-appoint Donnie Baggett, Elaine Mays, and Jason Giddens to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Council. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

#### **Reports**

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Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Stephenson, who presented a letter from Medicom informing the Board of upcoming programming changes and rate adjustments. Mr. Stephenson stated that the presentation was for informational purposes only, as notice is required, and that no action by the Board was necessary.

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Stephenson who requested approval to designate inactive EMS accounts as "Doubtful Accounts". The requested accounts total \$864,097.88 and represent accounts 2021 and 2022 that have remained inactive for the last three years.

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

### **Committees:**

#### **Emergency Services:**

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to award the bid to Custom Truck & Body Works, Inc for a Dodge 4500 Type 1 Ambulance prewired for install of a power-load fastener system for \$279,994 (2023 SPLOST) Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Grady also mentioned there is an Emergency Services Meeting on January 20, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to award the bid to Custom Truck & Body Works, Inc for a Dodge 4500 Type 1 Ambulance prewired for install of a power-load fastener system for \$279,994 (2023 SPLOST) Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to award the bid to Delta Landscape Supply of GA for Hydroseeding Materials. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to award the bid to Willacoochee Industrial Fabrics for Woven Geotextiles. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to award the bid to sole bidder Martiin Marietta Materials for Aggregate Rock. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to award the bid to low bidder Dobbs Equipment Company for a 2026 John Deere Wheel Loader for \$179,500. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to award the bid to low bidder, Fouts Commercial Vehicles, for a 2025 Ford 550 Sign truck for \$163,500. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to award Jones Septic Tank Inc, sole bidder, for the installation of an on-site sewage management system for the Southside EMS station for \$28,955. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to award the bid to multiple vendors, as presented, for Janitorial Supplies, as needed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to award the bid to multiple vendors, as presented, for Office Supplies, as needed. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the purchase of fuel on December 12, 2025, from Petroleum products for \$2.283 per gallon. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who stated there is a Public Works Committee Meeting on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.



Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:



Tracy Dukes, County Clerk

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