

Thomas County Board of Commissioners
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Broad St
March 10, 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, 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	Wiley Grady, District 6
Phillip V. Brown, District 7 Absent	Zippy Vonier, District 8

Staff Present: County Manager Mike Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, County Clerk Tracy Dukes, Planning Director Ken Gay, Fleet Services Director Juan Bernal

Others present: Jackie Leatherman

Chairman NeSmith called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and offered the invocation

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2026, Board Meeting. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Hickey, Gross, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to amend the agenda to include consideration of a surplus vehicle for the Town of Ochlocknee Security Department. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Hickey, Gross, and Vonier voting aye.

New Business:

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey, who recommended that the board consider declaring a vehicle surplus for transfer to the Town of Ochlocknee Security Department, as their current vehicle is experiencing engine problems. The Fleet Services Director, Juan Bernal, advised that an older Sheriff's Office vehicle is available, is durable, and has no known engine issues.

Commissioner Hickey made a motion to sign the title of the vehicle over to the Town of Ochlocknee. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Hickey, Gross, and Vonier voting aye.

Open Meeting to Citizens:

None

Committees:

Purchasing:

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier, who made a motion to ratify the bid award to Thomasville Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram for the purchase of a 2026 Dodge Durango for the Magistrate
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Court in the amount of \$34,944. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Hickey, Gross, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the bid award to Mohawk Lifts LLC for the purchase of a heavy-duty tire changer machine for \$36,648.29. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Hickey, Gross, and Vonier voting aye.

Reports:

Chairman NeSmith recognized Planning Director Ken Gay who introduced rezoning application #26-3-1 that has been filed by Shemika Lucas and Ivory Lucas, III, property owners, have filed an application for a zoning change. The subject properties are located on U.S. Highway 319 North identified on Thomas County Tax Map 045, Parcel 152 (3.09 acres, more or less, portion that is zoned as AG (Agricultural) of 5.29 acres, more or less) and Dillon Road identified on Thomas County Tax Map 045, Parcel 041L (.18 of an acre, more or less, portion zoned as AG (Agricultural) of a .21 of an acre, more or less.) Parcel 041L consists of a 30-foot-wide driveway. The remaining portions of the subject parcels are zoned as CG (Commercial General.) The request is to rezone the AG (Agricultural) portions of the subject properties to CG (Commercial General) to allow for the use and construction of an event center. The Planning Staff recommends approval of this rezoning application. A Public Hearing will be held at the March 24, 2026, Board of Commissioners' Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who announced the next Emergency Services Meeting is Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who announced the next Public Works Meeting is March 18, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

At 9:15 a.m. Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to go into Executive Closed Session. Commissioner Baggett made the motion. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Hickey, Gross, and Vonier voting aye.

At 9:38 a.m. the Board of Commissioners returned to the regular meeting. No action was taken.

With no further business, Chairman NeSmith made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hickey seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 a.m.



Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST: 

Tracy Dukes, County Clerk

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