

Thomas County Board of Commissioners
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Broad St
September 8, 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	Moses Gross, District 2 Absent
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3 Absent	Zippy Vonier, District 8
Phillip V. Brown, District 7	

Staff Present: County Manager Michael Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, County Clerk Tracy Dukes, Public Works Director Jay Knight, Planning Director Ken Gay, Deputy Cory Sellers.

News/Media Present: None

Chairman Nesmith called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and Commissioner Brown offered the invocation.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2026, Board Meeting as presented. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to approve the agenda of the September 8, 2026, Board Meeting. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Open Meeting to Citizens: None

New Business:

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Rich who made a motion to adopt the Resolution and approve the 2026 millage rates for Thomas County and Thomas County Board of Education with a set due date of December 1, 2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vonier. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioner Rich, Commissioner Baggett, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Vonier voting aye.

RESOLUTION

THOMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
P.O. BOX 920
THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA 31799
September 8, 2026

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Thomas County, Georgia, sitting for County purposes in a special called meeting and for the purpose of setting millage and levying a tax for 2026, that it be and is hereby ordered that two and twenty four thousandths (2.024) mills on each one dollar of all taxable property in the incorporated areas of said Thomas County, and that it be and is hereby ordered that two and twenty four thousandths (2.024) mills with a roll back of Insurance Premium Tax of one and seven hundred eight thousandths (1.708) mills leaving three hundred sixteen thousandths (0.316) mills on each one dollar of all taxable property in the unincorporated area in said Thomas County, be and the same is hereby levied for Thomas County purposes, said rate to be apportioned for legal purposes of said Thomas County under constitutional limitations of the State of Georgia; and that the Tax Commissioner of Thomas County be, and is hereby instructed to collect the same for said Thomas County purposes, as provided by law; and,

WHEREAS: The proper Legislation was enacted and a referendum was held there under as provided therein on June 16, 1965, at which time the voters of Fire District Number 1 and 2, as described in said Legislation approved said Act creating fire districts in Thomas County and authorizing the Board of Commissioners of Thomas County, Georgia, to levy upon the taxable value of all property within such fire districts for fire protection purposes in said districts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Thomas County, Georgia, sitting in regular meeting for County purposes, that it be and it is hereby ordered that two and forty one thousandths (2.041) mills upon the taxable value of each one dollar of all property located in said County Fire District 1, and one and nine hundred ninety two thousandths (1.992) mills upon taxable value of each one dollar of all property located in said Fire District 2, as described in said act creating Fire Districts in Thomas County, be and the same is hereby levied for the purpose of said County furnishing fire protection services within such district; and that the Tax Commissioner of Thomas County be, and is hereby instructed to collect the same for said purposes by law; and,

WHEREAS: The Board of Commissioners of Thomas County have adopted Resolution dated December 9, 1986, that there is created within Thomas County, Georgia, pursuant to the authority of Article IX, Section II, paragraph VI, of the Constitution of the State of Georgia, of 1983, a special service district to be known as Fire District No. 3 of Thomas County, Georgia.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Thomas County, Georgia, sitting in regular meeting for County purposes, that it be and it is hereby ordered that one and seven hundred fifty five thousandths (1.755) mills upon the taxable value of each one dollar of all property located in said County Fire District 3, be and the same is hereby levied for the purpose of said County furnishing fire protection services within such district; and that the Tax Commissioner of Thomas County be and is hereby instructed to collect the same for said purpose by law; and,

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WHEREAS: The Board of Commissioners of Thomas County have adopted a Resolution dated February 11, 2003 that there is created in Thomas County, pursuant to the authority of Article IX, Section II Paragraph VI of the Constitution of the State of Georgia of 1983, a special service district to be known as Emergency Service District of Thomas County, Georgia.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the board of Commissioners of Thomas County, Georgia, sitting in a regular meeting for County Purposes, that it be and it is hereby ordered that one and one hundred ninety two thousandths (1.192) mills upon the taxable value of each one dollar of all property located in said county Emergency Services District, be and the same is hereby levied for the purpose of said County furnishing emergency services within such district; and that the Tax Commissioner of Thomas County be and is hereby instructed to collect the same for said purpose by law; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Thomas County, Georgia, that it be and is hereby ordered that said mills above be assessed for State purposes and that the Tax Commissioner of said Thomas County, be instructed to collect the same as provided by law; and,

WHEREAS: the Board of Education of Thomas County, Georgia, having recommended a levy of eleven and nine hundred twenty-three thousandths (11.923) mills on all taxable property in said Thomas County, not embraced within the present corporate limits of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, for the support and maintenance of education for County-wide schools, as provided by law for the taxable year of 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Thomas County, Georgia, sitting in regular meeting that the taxable year 2026 a tax of eleven and nine hundred twenty three thousandths (11.923) mills for the support and maintenance for County-wide schools be levied on each one dollar of all the taxable property in said Thomas County not embraced within the present corporate limits of the City of Thomasville, Georgia, and that the Tax Commissioner of Thomas County, Georgia, be and is hereby instructed to collect the same for the support and maintenance for County-wide schools for the taxable year of 2026 as provided by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tax Commissioner is hereby instructed to set a due date of December 1, 2026, for 2026 taxes.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Rich who made a motion to approve budget amendment 26-9-1. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioner Rich, Commissioner Baggett, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Vonier voting aye.

**2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT 26-9-1
GENERAL FUND (100)
September 8, 2026**

Account	Description	Original 2026 Budget	Amended Budget	Difference
Revenues				
100-31-1100	Real Property-Current Year	10,100,000	3,028,000	-7,072,000
100-31-3300	FLOST/PTRLOST	5,400,000	9,972,000	4,572,000
100-31-6200	Insurance Premium Tax	0	2,500,000	2,500,000
	Total			0

Net Increase to Revenues

\$0

**2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT 26-9-1
Fire District 1, 2 & 3 (274)
September 8, 2026**

Account	Description	Original 2026 Budget	Amended Budget	Difference
Revenues				
274-31-1102	F1-Real Property-CY	19,220	525,000	505,780
274-31-1104	F2-Real Property-CY	24,528	670,000	645,472
274-31-1106	F3-Real Property-CY	51,252	1,400,000	1,348,748
274-31-6200	Insurance Premium Tax	2,500,000	0	-2,500,000
	Total			0

Net Increase to Revenues

\$0

**2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT 26-9-1
Opioid Settlement Fund (213)
September 8, 2026**

Account	Description	Original 2026 Budget	Amended Budget	Difference
Expenses				
213-3385-52-3702-000	Opioid Related Expense	52,000	19,350	-32,650
213-3385-57-2105-000	GA Pines-Co Resp Program	0	32,650	32,650
	Total			0

Net Increase to Expenses

\$0

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Clerk Tracy Dukes who presented Special Event Permit request for Lives Without Limits 16th Annual Banquet and Auction to be held at the Thomasville Exchange Fairgrounds on October 23, 2026, for a one-day event. Commissioner Vonier made a

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motion to approve the Special Event Request. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioner Rich, Commissioner Baggett, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to approve the petition to rename a private lane, Alexis Lane to Delvalle Lane, in Coolidge, GA. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioner Rich, Commissioner Baggett, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign a letter of support for the Southwest Georgia Community Action Council USDA Rural Development Grant. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioner Rich, Commissioner Baggett, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Attorney Bruce Warren, who stated that Thomasville National Bank had requested a letter from the County regarding the environmental contamination associated with Rose City Cleaners. The letter would state that Thomasville National Bank would be relieved of responsibility for testing wells in the area of contamination and that the County would not drill a well on County property in the affected area.

Chairman NeSmith then recognized Commissioner Vonier, who made a motion to approve a letter to Thomasville National Bank stating that the Bank would be relieved of responsibility for testing wells in the area of contamination associated with Rose City Cleaners and that the County would not drill a well on County property in the affected area. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Rich, Baggett, Brown, and Vonier voting aye. County Attorney Bruce Warren stated that he would prepare the necessary paperwork.

Purchasing Committee

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify committee approval of 2026 Annual Road Signs from sole bidder, Vulcan Signs, in the amount of \$46,785.46. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioner Rich, Commissioner Baggett, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Vonier voting aye.

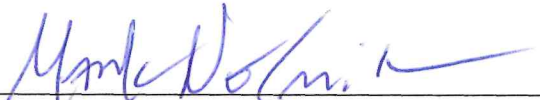
Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify committee approval of 2026 Clay Targets from lowest bidder Industrial Chemicals for \$26,869.41. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioner Rich, Commissioner Baggett, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify committee approval of the purchase of eleven (11) Axon In-Car Cameras from Axon Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$77,777.92. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioner Rich, Commissioner Baggett, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Vonier voting aye.

There being no further business, Commissioner Rich made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith,

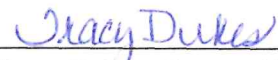
Commissioner Rich, Commissioner Baggett, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Vonier voting aye.

Adjourned: 9:20 a.m.



Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:



Tracy Dukes, County Clerk