



## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

T. PAGE THARP GOVERNMENTAL BUILDING  
102 STARKSVILLE AVENUE NORTH, LEESBURG, GEORGIA 31763

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2022 6:00 P.M.  
T. PAGE THARP BUILDING  
OPAL CANNON AUDITORIUM  
WWW.LEE.GA.US

MEETING MINUTES  
WORK SESSION

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### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Billy Mathis, Chairman	District 3
John Wheaton, Vice-Chairman	District 1
Luke Singletary, Commissioner	District 2
Rick Muggridge, Commissioner	District 4
George Walls, Commissioner	District 5

### COUNTY STAFF

Christi Dockery, County Manager  
Kaitlyn Sawyer, County Clerk  
Jimmy Skipper, County Attorney

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The Lee County Board of Commissioners met in a work session on Tuesday, May 10, 2022. The meeting was held in the Opal Cannon Auditorium of the Lee County T. Page Tharp Governmental Building in Leesburg, Georgia. Those present were Chairman Billy Mathis, Vice-Chairman John Wheaton, Commissioner Luke Singletary, Commissioner Rick Muggridge, and Commissioner George Walls. Staff in attendance was County Manager Christi Dockery and County Clerk Kaitlyn Sawyer. County Attorney Jimmy Skipper was absent. The meeting was also streamed on Facebook Live. Chairman Mathis called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.

### INVOCATION

Apostle Malden Batten, the Church of Leesburg, led the invocation.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board and the audience said the Pledge of Allegiance in unison.

### CALL TO ORDER

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- (A) **Consideration to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes for April 26, 2022.**  
Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes for April 26, 2022. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Singletary and Commissioner Muggridge voting yea.
- (B) **Consideration to approve the minutes for the Special Called meeting for the Board of Commissioners for April 26, 2022.**  
Commissioner Muggridge made the **MOTION** to approve the minutes for the Special Called meeting for the Board of Commissioners for April 26, 2022. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Wheaton and Commissioner Singletary voting yea.

### CONSENT AGENDA

NONE

### NEW BUSINESS

- (A) **Dana Glass, CEO, ASPIRE Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Services, to present on Mental Health Awareness Month and discuss services provided by ASPIRE.**  
Ms. Glass addressed the Board regarding Mental Health Awareness Month and discussed services currently provided by ASPIRE. Informational handouts were provided to the Board. ASPIRE is contracted by the state

and provides mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disabilities services to individuals, both children and adults, who have no means to pay or are underinsured. ASPIRE serves approximately 20 counties, including Lee County, and has served approximately 1000 Lee County citizens this year; 13% of the service delivery. ASPIRE also employs 38 staff members and 9 medical contractors that are residents of Lee County. The office operates out of a county owned facility that has seen many notable improvements, both to the interior as well the exterior (i.e. installation of a new playground for the children of the after school program).

Ms. Glass thanked to Board for the \$10,000.00 Lee County contributes annually to ASPIRE and asked that the Board please continue to provide that support. Ms. Glass also mentioned an opportunity to partner for an engagement case manager specific to Lee County who will be boots on the ground in the community, linking resources and referrals and following up with the individuals in the program. Additionally, there has been an increase in intake and care through the emergency departments as well as the crisis stabilization unit and the jail. Ms. Glass stated that staff believes having a case manager who could intervene early and intervene often would greatly affect the community by providing the right level of care earlier in someone's life. Chairman Mathis thanked Ms. Glass for everything ASPIRE does for the citizens of the County.

**Consideration to adopt a proclamation declaring May 2022 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Lee County.**

Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to adopt a proclamation declaring May 2022 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Lee County. Commissioner Singletary seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Muggridge and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

(B) **Chad Slaughter, Senior Vice President of Employee Health and Benefits for Marsh McLennan Agency, LLC, to present healthcare.**

The Board, staff, and Mr. Slaughter met in a special called meeting immediately prior to this regularly scheduled meeting to discuss healthcare. Commissioner Singletary summarized the meeting, stating that he recommends keeping the current plan, Anthem BlueCross BlueShield, implementing the telemedicine program (Teledoc), implementing the two new drug programs discussed (Save On SP, LLC and the tighter formulary program), and keeping the rates of the Silver and Gold plans the same. Commissioner Muggridge agreed with Commissioner Singletary and would personally would like the Platinum plan to be removed as an option altogether; however would suggest a 5% increase in rate.

**Consideration to approve a healthcare plan. HANDOUT**

**Consideration to approve an agreement with Save On SP, LLC.**

Commissioner Muggridge made the **MOTION** to approve keeping the current healthcare plan, Anthem BlueCross BlueShield, implementing the telemedicine program (Teledoc), implementing the two new drug programs discussed (Save On SP, LLC and the tighter formulary program), keeping the rates of the Silver and Gold plans the same and increasing the rate of the Platinum plan by 5%. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Wheaton and Commissioner Singletary voting yea.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

(A) **Lexwig, LLC (Z22-001) has submitted an application to the Lee County Planning Commission requesting to rezone a total of 151.361 acres from AG-1 (Active Agricultural District) to R-1 (Single-Family Residential District). The property owner is Lexwig, LLC, Parcel Number is 039D 121, being part of Land Lots 209 and 210 of the Second Land District of Lee County, GA. Planning Commission members and Planning Department staff recommend approval.**

Chairman Mathis opened the Public Hearing.

Bobby Donley, Lanier Engineering, addressed the Board regarding this project. Mr. Donley summarized the project stating the property is a total of 354 acres, with approximately 60% of the property being zoned R-1 already (the southern end); this is just to rezone the northern part of the property to match (remaining 151.361 acres). Commissioner Muggridge asked if there were any preliminary plans. Mr. Donley explained that each lot will have county water (with a new well on Lovers Lane Road), septic, and be on 0.75 acre minimum lots, and

the General Development Plan will be completed and given to the Planning Commission this week. Commissioner Walls asked the approximate number of lots for this project, to which Mr. Donley stated there would be approximately 240 - 243 lots that will be spread out over six or seven phases. Commissioner Walls expressed concern that this development might put too much pressure on the new well and may also overload the Forrester Parkway/ Lovers Lane Road intersection, which already has a number of accidents. Mr. Donley stated there would be two entrances to the neighborhood on Lovers Lane Road and one on Forrester Parkway, which would hopefully help citizens bypass that intersection; however, a traffic study is to be done soon. Commissioner Wheaton asked for a proposed timeline in putting in the homes, to which Mr. Donley answered that Phase 1, with approximately 47 lots, will commence as soon as possible.

With no further comments or questions from the Board or audience, the Public Hearing was closed.

## **DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS**

NONE

## **CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS & GOVERNMENTAL BOARDS/AUTHORITIES**

- (A) **Consideration to reappoint Assistant Fire Chief/ EMA Director Cole Williams to the Regional Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council as County representative for a term of four (4) years, to end in 2025.**

Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to reappoint Assistant Fire Chief/ EMA Director Cole Williams to the Regional Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council as County representative for a term of four (4) years, to end in 2025. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Singletary and Commissioner Muggridge voting yea.

- (B) **Consideration to appoint four members to the Development Authority Board for a term of four years. Current term expires 05/31/2022. New term expires 05/31/2026. Letters of interest in appointment received from David Brokamp (current member), Greg Crowder (current member), Dr. Jason Miller, and Keith Miller.**

Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to appoint David Brokamp (current member), Greg Crowder (current member), Dr. Jason Miller, and Keith Miller to the Development Authority Board for a term of four (4) years, expiring 05/31/2026. Commissioner Singletary seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Muggridge and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

- (C) **Consideration to appoint one member to the Housing Task Force for a term of two years. Current term expires 05/31/2022. New term expires 05/31/2024. Letter of interest in reappointment received by Marian Grant-Whitlock.**

Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to reappoint Marian Grant-Whitlock to the Housing Task Force for a term of two (2) years, expiring 05/31/2024. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Singletary and Commissioner Muggridge voting yea.

## **COUNTY MANAGER'S MATTERS**

- (A) **Updates on County projects.**

County Manager Christi Dockery discussed ongoing projects in the County: (1) Bill Walter will be onsite this week to conduct a final inspection of the Tharp Building following the completion of the restoration project, and (2) Motorola has the radios, they are waiting on the FCC license and an engineering report for the new tower in the northern part of the county to ensure it can handle the new equipment.

### **Further Discussion of the Tower and Motorola Radios**

Chairman Mathis asked when the radios would be delivered. County Manager Dockery stated that there had been a delay - waiting on the FCC license and the tower. Chairman Mathis asked if the current radios could be programmed to work with the current system, to which Ms. Dockery replied that they could, but they would have to take them all back and reissue them once programmed.

Chairman Mathis asked E-911 Director Nikkie Celinski what the timeframe was for getting the new tower, as he understood it could take months. Ms. Celinski stated she was waiting on the engineering report for the new tower. Chairman Mathis asked the status on the tower on Hwy 32 E. Ms. Celinski stated that both she and Ms. Dockery have had a difficult time contacting American Tower to even discuss the issue with them. American Tower does not pay rent for the tower even though it's on County property and we maintain it; the tower was completed with a \$10.00 easement from the Board when it was constructed around 10 years ago. Chairman Mathis stated he would talk with County Attorney Skipper about next steps.

Chairman Mathis also stated he would like to go ahead and get the portable radios from Motorola. Ms. Celinski offered to speak to Motorola on the Board's behalf to see if the delivery for the portables could be expedited.

(B) **Consideration to approve a six-month (07/01/2022 – 12/31/2022) proposed contract and budget for the Office of the Circuit Public Defender David T. Winheim.**

County Manager Christi Dockery stated that the fees did increase a little due to a rise in both rent and population; we now have the largest population in the circuit.

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to approve a six-month (07/01/2022 – 12/31/2022) proposed contract and budget for the Office of the Circuit Public Defender David T. Winheim. Commissioner Muggridge seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Wheaton and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

## **COMMISSIONER'S MATTERS**

(A) **Consideration to approve the Certificate of Distribution and adopt the Resolution for LOST.**

Chairman Mathis summarized the resolution stating that Lee County would receive 85%, Leesburg would receive 13% (as agreed to by City officials), and Smithville would receive 2% (an amount above their population) as City officials did not get in touch with County officials. Both the Resolution and the Certificate of Distribution will be sent to the state.

Smithville Councilman Dwight Hickman disputed the percentage, stating the City needs 6% and officials were not told to contact anyone from the County following the joint meetings where Smithville had asked for 8%. With 2%, Councilman Hickman stated that County officials should have just said they wanted to take over the City of Smithville. Chairman Mathis stated that a meeting occurred that didn't include the County, the City of Smithville has forfeited six figures in LMIG funding from GDOT over the past few years by failing to submit paperwork, and the Smithville City Council recently voted for a 50% pay increase for City Council. Smithville has lost population and that was figured into the percentage. Councilman Hickman confirmed the salary raises, stating that was done with the understanding the city would be receiving 6% in LOST.

Councilman Hickman stated it was his opinion that the County does not care about the northern part of the County or its citizens because whenever something is asked for, the County shoots it down. Councilman Hickman again asked for 6% for the City of Smithville, as he thought was understood. Chairman Mathis stated at the previously held joint meeting they asked for 8%, to which Councilman Hickman replied that they did that knowing they wouldn't receive that much just to see what the response of the County would be, which there was none. Commissioner Muggridge stated that while it was mentioned the County has never done anything for Smithville, a fire station was built that serves Smithville; Councilman Hickman interrupted saying it took 12 years to get that fire station. Commissioner Muggridge continued by stating that the fire station that serves Smithville is County funded as the City could not fund and operate that fire station. Furthermore, the County has given Smithville vehicles and equipment when they needed them; whenever Smithville asks, we do our best to see that help is provided. The County wished to provide a more consistent distribution of the LOST funds by suggesting a split by population and 2% of the people live in Smithville.

Commissioner Muggridge made the **MOTION** to approve the Certificate of Distribution and adopt the Resolution for LOST. Commissioner Singletary seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Wheaton and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

NONE

**COUNTY ATTORNEY'S MATTERS**

NONE

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

NONE

**PUBLIC FORUM**

*Citizens will be allowed to address the Board of Commissioners regarding any issues or complaints. Individuals should sign up prior to the start of the meeting.*

No citizens took part in the Public Forum.

**Special Presentation**

Chairman Mathis acknowledged that this would be Commissioner Rick Muggridge's last meeting as a Commissioner for Lee County. Commissioner Muggridge was presented with a framed historical map of Lee County as well as a Proclamation, signed by Chairman Mathis, Vice-Chairman Wheaton, Commissioner Singletary, and Commissioner Walls. Chairman Mathis read the proclamation and thanked Commissioner Muggridge for his service to the County and comradery while on the Board.

Commissioner Muggridge thanked the Board and staff, extending special thanks to Commissioner Luke Singletary, County Attorney Jimmy Skipper, Finance Director Heather Jones, and County Manager Christi Dockery. Commissioner Muggridge stated he was not worried because the County was in good hands. Commissioner Muggridge also thanked those who voted for him and allowed him to be their representation on the Board.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (A) The next regularly scheduled County Commission Meeting is **Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 6:00pm.**
- (B) **Advance-in-Person Voting** is open to all eligible voters at the Elections and Registration Office, 100 Starksville Avenue North, Suite C in Leesburg **Monday through Friday from 8:15am to 5:00pm.** Advance-in-Person Voting will also be available on **Saturday, May 14, 2022 from 9:00am to 5:00pm.** **The last day for Advance-in-Person Voting is Friday, May 20, 2022.**
- (C) The last day to mail an **absentee ballot** will be **Friday, May 13, 2022.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:46PM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY CLERK

*Lee County is a thriving vibrant community celebrated for its value of tradition encompassing a safe family oriented community, schools of excellence, and life long opportunities for prosperity and happiness without sacrificing the rural agricultural tapestry.*

Persons with special needs relating to handicapped accessibility or foreign language interpretation should contact the ADA Coordinator at (229) 759-6000 or through the Georgia Relay Service (800) 255-0056 (TDD) or (800) 355-0135 (voice). This person can be contacted at the T. Page Tharp Building in Leesburg, Georgia between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and will assist citizens with special needs given proper notice of seven (7) working days. The meeting rooms and buildings are handicap accessible.