



## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2022 6:00 P.M.  
T. PAGE THARP BUILDING  
OPAL CANNON AUDITORIUM  
WWW.LEE.GA.US

MEETING MINUTES  
WORK SESSION

---

### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

### COUNTY STAFF

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

---

The Lee County Board of Commissioners met in a work session on Tuesday, June 14, 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, and Commissioner George Walls. Staff in attendance was County Manager Christi Dockery, County Attorney Jimmy Skipper, and County Clerk Kaitlyn Sawyer. The meeting was also streamed on Facebook Live. Chairman Mathis called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

### INVOCATION

Pastor Aaron McCulley, Philema Road Baptist Church, 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 May 24, 2022.**  
Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes for May 24, 2022. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Singletary voting yea.

### CONSENT AGENDA

NONE

### NEW BUSINESS

- (A) **Patsy Shirley, Executive Director of Lee County Family Connections, Inc., to present to the Board.**  
A handout was provided to the Board summarizing the services provided by Family connections and how many individuals have been served this year. Ms. Shirley stated that 4,122 children were helped with Backpack Blessings, 1,800 books were provided to children as part of our Book Clubs, 144 children were provided with Christmas gifts, 8,167 families aided from food distribution events during the pandemic, and many families participated in Family Literacy Nights. Ms. Shirley thanked the Board for their continued support.

The Junior Leadership Lee Academy, in a partnership with the Fanning Institute at UGA, will be implemented during this upcoming school year. Thirty eighth grade students will be selected in the Fall for classes which will begin in January and be held on a monthly basis through May. In year 2, an ambassador element will be



introduced. Ms. Shirley also mentioned that a donation of \$10,000.00 had been received from NextEra Energy Resources for the Literate Lee Coalition; the Coalition will also be receiving a \$25,000.00 grant from the Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy at Georgia College to introduce a new program entitled "The Basics", which will focus on early literacy.

The first food distribution event for the summer was held June 9, 2022, serving a total of approximately 200 families. Family Connections will order food boxes and also receive items from the food bank at no charge. There will be three more food distribution events this summer. The Board thanked Ms. Shirley for everything she and Family Connections do for the County.

(B) **Discussion of DoProcess software.**

This item was not discussed.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

(A) **The Lee County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing regarding the proposed 2022-2023 Budget.**

Chairman Mathis opened the Public Hearing.

Chairman Mathis stated that the proposed budget was available to the public, was balanced with no use of reserves, and included no tax increase and a raise for every full and part-time County employee. The budget will be adopted at the June 28, 2022 meeting and implemented July 1, 2022.

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 appoint three members to the Utilities Authority Board for a term of one year. Current term expires 06/30/2022. New term expires 06/30/2023. Letters of interest in reappointment received from Art Ford, Levent Gokcen, and Victor Stubbs.**

Commissioner Walls made the **MOTION** to reappoint Art Ford, Levent Gokcen, and Victor Stubbs to the Utilities Authority Board for a term of one (1) year, expiring 06/30/2023. Commissioner Wheaton seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Singletary voting yea.

## **COUNTY MANAGER'S MATTERS**

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

County Manager Dockery discussed ongoing projects in the County: (1) The Town Hall event with Windstream will be Wednesday, June 22, 2022 at 3:00pm, and will include speakers from Windstream and local representatives, and will provide citizens with the opportunity to preregister with the company for internet services; (2) approximately 11 of the 13 roads that are part of the LMIG Resurfacing Project have been resurfaced, with the project aiming to be fully completed inclusive of shoulder work in the next few weeks; (3) the LED lighting project at the Oakland Library is nearly completed; and (4) Family Connections have started their food distributions, with the next one being scheduled for Thursday, June 23, 2022.

### **Update on the Lee County Medical Center**

Chairman Mathis provided a brief update on the hospital, stating that Phoebe had filed a new legal objection, which will cause delays and cost more money. There have been several objections and suits and like the previous ones, we would work through this one and keep moving forward.

(B) **Consideration to adopt a comp time policy for employees.**

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to adopt the presented comp time policy for employees with the proposed amendments (and the inclusion of new hires. Commissioner Wheaton seconded the **MOTION**. The

**MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Walls voting yea.

- (C) **Consideration to adopt a social media policy for employees.**  
Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to adopt a social media policy for employees. Commissioner Wheaton seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Walls voting yea.
- (D) **Consideration to adopt a resolution requesting the call of a special election to fill the unexpired term of Rick Muggridge on the Board of Commissioners.**  
Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to adopt a resolution requesting the call of a special election to fill the unexpired term of Rick Muggridge on the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Singletary voting yea.

County Manager Christi Dockery added that the qualifying for this position will be held July 26 – 28, 2022.

- (E) **Discussion of the bid for Inmate Medical Services.**  
Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to award the bid for Inmate Medical Services to Wellpath for approximately \$446,027.00 annually, \$464.61 per month (fixed monthly price per inmate), pending County Attorney Skipper's review and approval. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Wheaton voting yea.

#### **COMMISSIONER'S MATTERS**

NONE

#### **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.*

Paul Clayton – Discussed the current state of Old Leslie Road and asked that it be paved

Lonzie Jimmerson - Asked if the Broadband event would be livestreamed or recorded for those who couldn't attend in person

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (A) The **Broadband Initiative Kick Off Event**, hosted by Windstream, will be held **Wednesday, June 22, 2022** beginning at **3:00pm** in the Opal Cannon Auditorium of the T. Page Tharp Governmental Building.

Chairman Mathis encouraged citizens to attend. County Manager Christi Dockery added that this event will be livestreamed on Facebook and/or recorded and that all information would be made available to the citizens via the website and Facebook.

- (B) **Advance-in-Person Voting** for the June 21, 2022 Primary/Special Election Runoff 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. The last day for Advance-in-Person Voting is Friday, June 17, 2022.**

Chairman Mathis stated that this was mandated by state law.



- (C) Voted **Absentee-by-Mail ballots** mail may be returned to the Elections Office through the Postal Service, in-person, by a family member, or by using the Official Absentee Ballot Drop Box, located inside the Elections Office at 100 Starksville Avenue North, Suite C, Leesburg, Georgia. **The ballot drop box was made available beginning Monday, June 13, 2022 and will close on Friday, June 17, 2022 at 5:00 pm.**

Chairman Mathis stated that this was mandated by state law.

- (D) A **Special Called Joint Meeting** with the County Commission, City of Leesburg, and City of Smithville will be held **Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 5:00pm** to discuss **TSPLOST II.**
- (E) The next regularly scheduled County Commission Meeting is **Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at 6:00pm.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:17PM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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.