



# BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2022 6:00 P.M.  
T. PAGE THARP BUILDING  
OPAL CANNON AUDITORIUM  
WWW.LEE.GA.US

MEETING MINUTES  
VOTING 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 voting session on Tuesday, July 26, 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

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 July 12, 2022.**  
 Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes for July 12, 2022. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Singletary voting yea.

## CONSENT AGENDA

NONE

## NEW BUSINESS

- (A) **Recognition of employees' years of service.**  
 The following employees were recognized for their years of service to Lee County:  
 5 years – David Cole – Mechanic, Public Works  
 10 years – Bryce Layfield – Captain/Paramedic  
 10 years – Kara Hanson – Billing Associate, Utilities Authority  
 10 years – Jasmine Smith – Administrative Assistant, Sheriff's Office  
 15 years – David Forrester – Fire Chief  
 15 years – Michael McClendon Sr. – Firefighter  
 25 years – Danise Thomas – Administrative Coordinator, Sheriff's Office

(B) **Allison Largeman to address the Board regarding the Dominion ballot marking devices.**

Ms. Largeman introduced herself and thanked the Board for their service to the community. Ms. Largeman applauded law enforcement, emergency services, and the elections office, stating the County has highly competent workers and is the envy of surrounding counties. A link to a recent study and 2020 fraud report (narrated by Mr. David Cross) was sent via email to the Board prior to the start of the meeting to be viewed at their convenience.

Ms. Largeman voiced her concerns over the \$100 million Dominion Voting System that was mandated for use in all Georgia counties in August 2019 stated she wishes the use of the machines would discontinue. When ballots are placed into the scanner, the paper ballots are never seen again, and the digital votes are unverifiable. The Dominion system is prone to irregularities and inaccuracies. It is understood that the county must abide by state law and SOS policy, with the penalty of hefty fees if they do not. Nevertheless, as the governing authority, the Board should react appropriately to citizen concerns.

Ms. Largeman stated that she was one of many concerned citizens across the state addressing their local representatives about these machines, which have been deemed illegal by a federal judge in October 2020 because the data transmitted from the machines to the Secretary of State's Office is in the form of a QR code, which is unreadable and unverifiable.

In mid-June a poll was done on the Lee County Republican Party's Facebook page, and of 42 respondents, 39 indicated they did not want to vote on the machines and would like them gone. All Georgia counties have been served with paperwork with the goal of unsealing paper ballots so they may be examined and compared with the machines' data. There are many anomalies, missing ballot images, and skewed numbers. Current groups are advocating to eliminate these machines.

Ms. Largeman cited an interview with Georgia's Secretary of State on the Today Show in November 2020 stating 4,700,000 ballots had been county with only approximately 50,000 yet to be counted; however, later it was stated that just shy of 5,000,000 votes were certified, so 300,000 votes were added to the totals.

Ms. Largeman stated she would never tell people not to vote, however, there are some who have stated they will not vote on these machines. It is more important than ever to vote because if people do not vote, fraud cannot be discovered. For voters to feel their vote is secure, we need paper audits and paper ballots verifiable in all Georgia counties after any election. The SOS will not release the audit papers from the system which makes people concerned that they are hiding something. Those who have been able to have their paper ballots reviewed have found discrepancies. Ms. Largeman cited an example from another county where it was reportedly found that the machine count winner and the hand count winner differed with around 3000 votes. When there is wrongdoing in larger counties that nullifies any votes in Lee County.

Other counties in Georgia are doing paper hand counts of the May 24 primary, as their Board of elections has voted to do. Lee County should as well. Per federal law, paper ballots and ballot images can be destroyed 22 months after a presidential election. State law indicates 24 months.

Chairman Mathis thanked Ms. Largeman for her time and voicing her concerns as a citizen. Lee County has to follow state and federal laws, therefore, Chairman Mathis encouraged her to reach out to her state legislators to voice her concerns. Chairman Mathis stated that voting in Lee County is secure and applauded the staff within the Elections and Registration Office.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

NONE

## **DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS**

### **Planning, Zoning & Engineering**

- (A) **Consideration to approve an application from Amanda Wiley (Z22-002) to rezone a total of 3.937 acres**

**from C-2 (General Business District) to C-4 (Traditional Office District). The property owner is Southland Restoration, LLC. Parcel Number: 029B 182. The property is located in Land Lot 281 of the Second Land District of Lee County, Georgia. Planning Commission members and Planning Department staff recommend approval. Public Hearing held July 12, 2022.**

Ms. Wiley addressed the Board stating she, as well as the residents and neighbors, would prefer R-1 zoning. County Manager Christi Dockery added that after speaking with planning services consultants, they recommended C-4 because it was transitional. Ms. Wiley stated she would be fine with C-4 or R-1. Commissioner Walls stated that he would prefer it be R-1. County Attorney Skipper stated that zoning it R-1 would create a spot-zoning issue, which we are not supposed to do. Chairman Mathis suggested the current issue be voted on as C-4 and then collectively examine the residences in that area to see if they can all be rezoned to R-1. Staff will work to contact the property owners in question.

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to approve an application from Amanda Wiley (Z22-002) to rezone a total of 3.937 acres from C-2 (General Business District) to C-4 (Traditional Office District). The property owner is Southland Restoration, LLC. Parcel Number: 029B 182. The property is located in Land Lot 281 of the Second Land District of Lee County, Georgia. Commissioner Wheaton seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Walls voting yea.

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

### **Utilities Authority**

- (A) **Consideration to approve a Limited Warranty Deed for land lying and being in Land Lot 209 of the 2nd Land District of Lee County, Georgia, containing 1.159 acres, more or less, for the new well.**

Commissioner Walls made the **MOTION** to approve a Limited Warranty Deed for land lying and being in Land Lot 209 of the 2nd Land District of Lee County, Georgia, containing 1.159 acres, more or less, for the new well. 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 Christi Dockery discussed ongoing projects in the County: (1) Popco has completed the required clearing of the right of way and will start laying pipe on Monday for the water extension project on Hwy 82; and (2) the easements for the CDBG project at the Palmyra Mobile Home Park are being acquired and RFP will be published soon.

- (B) **Consideration to adopt a Resolution Certifying the Abandonment of a Portion of Carter Place Road. Public Hearing held July 12, 2022.**

With no **MOTION**, the item failed.

## **COMMISSIONER'S MATTERS**

- (A) **Consideration to adopt a Resolution calling for a special election to impose a county Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sale and Use Tax (TSPLOST).**

Commissioner Singletary clarified that this is to be put on the ballot in November.

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to adopt a Resolution calling for a special election to impose a county Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sale and Use Tax (TSPLOST). Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Wheaton voting yea.

- (B) **Consideration to adopt a Joint Resolution authorizing the Execution of the T-SPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Leesburg, City of Smithville, and the Lee County Board of Commissioners.**

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to adopt a Joint Resolution authorizing the Execution of the T-SPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Leesburg, City of Smithville, and the Lee County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Wheaton voting yea.

(C) **Discussion of FY2023 LMIG application and potential projects.**

County Manager Christi Dockery stated that this application was not due until February. Chairman Mathis suggested that the Board take a look at the presented information and come back with a wish list. Commissioner Singletary reminded the Board that while there has been talk of dividing funds, we should keep in mind key infrastructure and major connector roads when deciding on which projects to move forward with for the LMIG application. This item will be discussed at a future meeting.

(D) **Consideration to approve Change Order #2 for Popco, Inc. for the Water System Improvement Project on US Hwy 82.**

Chairman Mathis stated that even with this change order, the project is coming in less than the original bid amount.

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to approve Change Order #2 for Popco, Inc. for the Water System Improvement Project on US Hwy 82. Commissioner Wheaton seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Walls voting yea.

**Additional Item for Discussion not on Agenda:**

Commissioner Singletary mentioned the greenspace at North Pebble Ridge and Quail Pines that is approximately 40 acres stating that the kudzu was overgrown and needed spraying again as it is taking over the property. Commissioner Singletary asked if a RFP was necessary, to which County Manager Christi Dockery stated that she would contact the individual who has sprayed the property previously (scheduled to do so annually) and follow up with the Board when a quote was received.

**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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(A) The next regularly scheduled County Commission Meeting is **Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at 6:00pm.**

(B) A fast, more reliable internet connection with Kinetic Fiber is coming soon to Lee County! Visit [GoKinetic.com](http://GoKinetic.com) or call 229-985-8000 to pre-register for Windstream Broadband.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 PM.

Facebook video link: <https://www.facebook.com/leecountyga/videos/455425356158803>

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.

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