



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 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, August 23, 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, Commissioner Luke Singletary, and Commissioner George Walls. Staff in attendance was County Manager Christi Dockery, County Attorney Jimmy Skipper, and County Clerk Kaitlyn Sawyer. Vice-Chairman John Wheaton called in. The meeting was also streamed on Facebook Live. Chairman Mathis called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

INVOCATION

Chairman Mathis 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 August 9, 2022.**
Commissioner Walls made the **MOTION** to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes for August 9, 2022. Commissioner Singletary seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Wheaton 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 Tollefson – Firefighter/EMT-B
15 years – Geoffrey Williamson – Firefighter/Paramedic
15 years – Jeremy Morey – Director, Parks and Recreation
20 years – Coleman Williams – Assistant Fire Chief/EMA Director

PUBLIC HEARING

NONE

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

Parks & Recreation

- (A) **Consideration to authorize staff to put out a bid for a storage building.**

County Manager Christi Dockery stated that this project was approved within the budget for SPLOST VII. Parks & Recreation Director Jeremy Morey added that this storage building would be located near the office on Park Street. Chairman Mathis stated that the project may go ahead; as it was approved in the budget, no action was needed from the Board. Staff will write and publish bid documents for the project.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS & GOVERNMENTAL BOARDS/AUTHORITIES

Utilities Authority

- (A) **Consideration to approve an application for a grant for drinking water from Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget.**

Utilities Authority General Manager Chris Boswell and Chad Griffin, Stillwaters Engineering, were present. Mr. Griffin stated that several projects had been discussed for this grant, including a large storage tank, well, a system to better control the wells, and a generator to act as backup for the new well. This work will be a total of approximately \$6 - \$7 million. The match of 30% would leave Lee County with a cost not to exceed \$1.8 million. This grant is solely for the improvement of drinking water; improvements to the treatment plant are not an allowable use for this particular grant.

Commissioner Walls made the **MOTION** to approve an application for a grant for drinking water from Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, with a match of approximately \$1.8 million to come from ARPA and SPLOST VII funds. 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 and Chairman Mathis discussed ongoing projects in the County: (1) Popco is progressing on the water line extension project on Hwy 82; (2) Fuzzy's Taco broke all their records with their opening August 22; (3) the hospital project is moving along swiftly; and (4) the Development Authority has developed initial plans for the Grand Island property.

- (B) **Consideration to award the bid for the Landfill Retaining Wall Phase II project.**

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to award the bid for the Landfill Retaining Wall Phase II project to Griffin Grading & Concrete for \$127,164.10 to come from SPLOST VII funds. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Wheaton voting yea.

- (C) **Consideration to approve the Safety Discount Verification Forms for ACCG.**

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to approve the Safety Discount Verification Forms for ACCG. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Wheaton voting yea.

- (D) **Consideration to approve an agreement with Pictometry for ortho and oblique imagery.**

County Manager Christi Dockery summarized the agreement and services, stating that this program will aid departments such as Tax Assessor, GIS, Building Inspection, and Public Safety.

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to approve, per County Attorney Skipper's review and approval an agreement with Pictometry for ortho and oblique imagery for Phase I in the amount of \$86,250.00, inclusive of initial payments and annual fees for two years. The annual fee of \$28,750.00 has been budgeted in SPLOST VII. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Wheaton voting yea.

- (E) **Consideration to approve an application for a grant from the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS) to help with mitigation projects.**

EMA Director Cole Williams and Chief Marshal Jim Wright presented the proposed project to the Board, stating the cost for the project at most would be \$200,000.00, with a 10% match. Chief Wright summarized the proposed project stating that the idea is to clear the creeks of debris, allowing for more flow. The trees would be chopped into smaller pieces and safely lowered to the bottom of the creek, aiding in the creation of fish habitats. Chairman Mathis asked if that has gotten approval from EPD, to which Mr. Wright replied that it had.

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to approve an application for a grant from the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS) to help with mitigation projects to include a 10% match of approximately \$20,000.00 to come from Contingency funds. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Wheaton voting yea.

(F) **Consideration to award the bid for Curbside Solid Waste Services.**

Curbside solid waste collection services of commercial and residential properties in Lee County under this new agreement, will begin September 1, 2023.

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to award the bid for Curbside Solid Waste Services to Express Disposal, the lowest responsive bidder, for an overall annual savings of approximately \$144,885.12. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Wheaton voting yea.

COMMISSIONER'S MATTERS

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

Chairman Mathis suggested listing all the worst roads needing to be resurfaced. Commissioner Singletary selected some of the most worn neighborhood roads as suggestions. Chairman Mathis asked staff to complete the application with the worst roads in each district of the county; Commissioner Singletary had submitted his list of suggestions and the other commissioners will do the same. Commissioner Walls stated he would like to add Sportsman's Club Road. The final application will be brought back to the Board for approval prior to submission. LMIG funds are used for road projects and must be used within two years of award.

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.

Sam Johnson- Requests more speed limit signs on Old Leslie Road; criticism of Public Works

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(A) Offices of the Lee County Board of Commissioners will be **closed Monday, September 5, 2022** observance of Labor Day.

(B) The next regularly scheduled County Commission Meeting is **Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 6:00pm.**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 PM.

Facebook video link: <https://www.facebook.com/leecountyga/videos/1237828766976930>

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.

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