



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 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, October 11, 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, and Commissioner George Walls. Staff in attendance was County Manager Christi Dockery and County Attorney Jimmy Skipper. Commissioner Luke Singletary and County Clerk Kaitlyn Sawyer were absent. The meeting was also streamed on Facebook Live. Chairman Mathis called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

INVOCATION

Pastor Trent Cory, Hope City United Church, led the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

Special Presentation

Chairman Mathis spoke on the passing of Ms. Betty Johnson and Ms. Opal Cannon. Ms. Betty Johnson was 78 years old and was the Tax Commissioner in Lee County for 28 years and then served as a County Commissioner for one four-year term. She was always kind and helpful and will be very much missed. Ms. Opal Cannon, in Chairman Mathis's opinion, was a pillar of the modern school system in Lee County as she and several others helped build and shape the Lee County School System we have today. She was very strong willed and determined. She will be dearly missed. (The auditorium in the T. Page Tharp Governmental Building, where all Lee County Board of Commissioners meetings are held, is named after Ms. Opal.) Chairman Mathis asked for a moment of silence in honor of Ms. Betty Johnson and Ms. Opal Cannon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- (A) Consideration to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes for September 26, 2022.
Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes for September 26, 2022. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Mathis voting yea.

CONSENT AGENDA

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

- (A) Consideration to adopt a proclamation declaring October 2022 as National Disability Employment

Awareness Month.

Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to adopt a proclamation declaring October 2022 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Mathis voting yea.

PUBLIC HEARING

NONE

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

Parks & Recreation

- (A) **Consideration to award the bid for a storage building for Parks & Recreation.**

Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to award the bid for a storage building for Parks & Recreation to Daniel Aluminum Company for \$99,999.99, to come from Recreation Impact Fees. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Mathis voting yea.

Planning, Zoning and Engineering

- (B) **Consideration to adopt a resolution granting final approval for Oakland Crossing and accepting deeds for utility improvements, right-of-way, and easements.**

Chairman Mathis asked County Attorney Jimmy Skipper if he has reviewed these easements. County Attorney Jimmy Skipper stated that he has.

Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to adopt a resolution granting final approval for Oakland Crossing and accepting deeds for utility improvements, right-of-way, and easements. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Mathis voting yea.

Fire & EMS

- (C) **Consideration to award the bid for Turn Out Gear for Fire & EMS personnel.**

Commissioner Walls asked if these are changed out often. Chairman Mathis stated they are replaced as the gear gets worn down from use and as new employees are hired. This is a budgeted item. County Manager Christi Dockery added that the gear is measured and ordered to ensure it fits each employee properly.

Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to award the bid for Turn Out Gear for Fire & EMS personnel to Municipal Emergency Services, Inc. for \$27,950.00, to come from the Public Safety departmental budget. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Mathis voting yea

Chairman Mathis added that all ambulances are now equipped with brand new Stryker stretchers that are more automated and do not require our personnel to lift patients into the ambulances, as it is self-lifting. Chairman Mathis asked if at a future meeting an ambulance could be available to show the commissioners the new stretcher. County Manager Christi Dockery stated she would set that up.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS & GOVERNMENTAL BOARDS/AUTHORITIES

NONE

COUNTY MANAGER'S MATTERS

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

County Manager Christi Dockery and Chairman Mathis discussed ongoing projects in the County: (1) Popco has completed the water extension project on US Hwy 82 and are currently only waiting on Woodgrain to hook onto the extension; (2) the Haley Drive resurfacing project has been completed, including shoulder work and striping; and (3) the renovations to the gym are ongoing, albeit we are still waiting on the windows.

Chairman Mathis added that soon the County would need to survey the utilities going to the Grand Island property for the hospital project. A bid will soon need to be published.

(B) **Consideration to approve the 2023 joint funding agreement between Lee County and US Department of the Interior for the operation and maintenance on the two creek gauges.**

Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to approve the 2023 joint funding agreement between Lee County and US Department of the Interior, effective until September 30, 2023, for the operation and maintenance on the two creek gauges for \$14,300.00 to come from the 911 departmental budget. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Mathis voting yea.

(C) **Consideration to approve an annual renewal with Traylor Business Services, Inc.**

Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to approve an annual renewal with Traylor Business Services, Inc. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Mathis voting yea.

(D) **Consideration to approve the application for FY 2023 LMIG funds.**

Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to approve the application for FY 2023 LMIG funds. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Mathis voting yea.

(E) **Consideration to ratify a change order with Oxford Construction for the Haley Drive Resurfacing project.**

Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to ratify a change order with Oxford Construction for the Haley Drive Resurfacing project, decreasing the project cost by \$12,819.41 for a new total of \$277,073.75. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Mathis voting yea.

(F) **Consideration to award the bid for Water Systems Improvement in conjunction with the 2021 CDBG project for Palmyra Mobile Home Park. HANDOUT**

County Manager Christi Dockery summarized the bid stating that there was a very good turnout, with six contractors submitting sealed bids at the public bid opening held earlier this afternoon. Chad Griffin, Stillwaters Engineering, has reviewed all bids and provided his recommendation.

Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to award the bid for Water Systems Improvement in conjunction with the 2021 CDBG project for Palmyra Mobile Home Park to Zane Grace Construction for a base bid of \$541,810.78, to come from CDBG funds. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Mathis voting yea.

(G) **Consideration to approve a lease agreement, to expire December 31, 2027, for property at 726 Creekside Drive, Leesburg, GA 31763 to Sam and Kara Shugart of 710 Creekside Drive.**

The lot in question is one of the flood lots owned by the County that can be leased to adjacent property owners for five (5) years for a fee of \$1.00. Nothing can be built on the lot; however, the individual leasing the property is responsible for its maintenance.

Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to approve a lease agreement for a total of \$1.00, to expire December 31, 2027, for property at 726 Creekside Drive, Leesburg, GA 31763 to Sam and Kara Shugart of 710 Creekside Drive. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Mathis voting yea.

COMMISSIONER'S MATTERS

(A) **Consideration to approve the proposed Infrastructure Development Plans for the LCMC Roadway.**

County Manager Christi Dockery stated that after the Board approves the initial plan and once the survey is done and the utilities planned, this project will go out for bid for the construction of the roadway.

Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to approve the proposed Infrastructure Development Plans for

the LCMC Roadway as presented by EMC Engineering, Inc. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Mathis voting yea.

(B) **Consideration to ratify a survey for the proposed water and sanitary force main route along Fussell Road, to be conducted by EMC Engineering.**

Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to ratify a survey for the proposed water and sanitary force main route along Fussell Road, to be conducted by EMC Engineering. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Mathis 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (A) The next regularly scheduled County Commission Meeting is **Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at 6:00pm.**

Lee County Elections and Registration Director Veronica Johnson provided the following announcements and information regarding voting:

- (B) **Absentee-by-Mail Voting** will be available for all registered voters. To obtain an Absentee-by-Mail ballot you may use the ballot request portal available at <https://securemyabsenteeballot.sos.ga.gov/s/>, request an application from the Elections Office at (229) 759-6002, or visit the Elections Office located at 100 Starksville Avenue North, Suite C, Leesburg, Georgia. Absentee-by-Mail ballots for UOCAVA (military and overseas citizens) voters were mailed beginning Tuesday, September 20, 2022. All other ballots were mailed beginning Monday, October 10, 2022. **The last day to request an absentee-by-mail ballot will be Friday, October 28, 2022.**
- (C) **Voted Absentee-by-Mail ballots** may be returned to the Elections Office through the Postal Service, in-person, by a family/household 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 will be available beginning Monday, October 17, 2022 and close on Friday, November 4, 2022 at 5:00 pm.**
- (D) **Advance-In-Person Voting** will be open to all eligible voters **beginning Monday, October 17, 2022** at the Elections and Registration Office, 100 Starksville Avenue North, Suite C, Leesburg, Georgia. Ballots may be cast Monday through Friday between 8:15 am and 5:00 pm. Advance-in-Person voting will also be available on Saturday, October 22, 2022 and Saturday, October 29, 2022 from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. **The last day a voter may vote an Advance-in-Person ballot is Friday, November 4, 2022.**

There will also be pop-up locations for Advance-In-Person Voting on October 25, 26, and 27 at The Bindery at the Oakland Library from 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm as well as at the Redbone Fire Station on November 1 from 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm.

Chairman Mathis and the Board commended Ms. Johnson and the Elections staff and thanked them for their hard work.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Facebook video link: <https://www.facebook.com/leecountyga/videos/2080923852093479>

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.