



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.

T. PAGE THARP BUILDING
OPAL CANNON AUDITORIUM
WWW.LEE.GA.US

MEETING MINUTES
WORK SESSION

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Dennis Roland, Commissioner	District 1
Luke Singletary, Commissioner	District 2
Billy Mathis, Commissioner	District 3
Chris Guarnieri, Commissioner	District 4
George Walls, Commissioner	District 5

COUNTY STAFF

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

The Lee County Board of Commissioners met in a work session on Tuesday, January 9, 2024. The meeting was held in the Opal Cannon Auditorium of the Lee County T. Page Tharp Governmental Building in Leesburg, Georgia. Those present were Commissioner Dennis Roland, Commissioner Luke Singletary, Commissioner Billy Mathis, Commissioner Chris Guarnieri, and Commissioner George Walls. Staff in attendance was County Manager Christi Dockery, County Clerk Kaitlyn Good, and County Attorney Jimmy Skipper. The meeting was also streamed on Facebook Live.

INVOCATION

Pastor Robin Chaplin, Victory Baptist Church led the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

(A) Selection of a Chairman for 2024 and by virtue of office, Chairman will serve on the following boards:

- DARTS Policy Coordinator – meets quarterly
- Southwest Georgia Regional Commission – meets monthly
- Health Department – meets quarterly
- WorkSource Southwest Georgia Consortium – meets annually

** Chairman may appoint another Commissioner to serve as proxy.*

Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to name Commissioner Singletary as Chairman of the Lee County Board of Commissioners for 2024. Commissioner Guarnieri seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Mathis and Commissioner Walls voting yea. Commissioner Luke Singletary is Chairman of the Lee County Board of Commissioners for 2024.

(B) Selection of a Vice-Chairman for 2024.

Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to name Commissioner Guarnieri as Vice-Chairman of the Lee County Board of Commissioners for 2024. Chairman Singletary seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Mathis and Commissioner Walls voting yea. Commissioner Chris Guarnieri is Vice-Chairman of the Lee County Board of Commissioners for 2023.

(C) Chairman to make appointments to the County's 2024 Standing Committees:

- Budget & Finance Committee: Commissioners Mathis and Guarnieri

- **Personnel Committee:** Commissioners Singletary and Guarnieri
- **Road Committee:** Commissioners Walls and Roland

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- (A) **Consideration to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes for December 12, 2023.**
 Commissioner Guarnieri made the **MOTION** to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes for December 12, 2023. Commissioner Roland seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Mathis and Commissioner Walls voting yea.
- (B) **Consideration to approve the minutes from the Joint Public Hearing with the Cities of Leesburg and Smithville for December 19, 2023.**
 Commissioner Guarnieri made the **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the Joint Public Hearing with the Cities of Leesburg and Smithville for December 19, 2023. Commissioner Roland seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Mathis and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

CONSENT AGENDA

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

PUBLIC HEARING

NONE

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

Building Inspection/ Business Licensing

- (A) **Consideration to approve the package store renewals for 2024.**
 Co-Assistant County Manager/ Chief Building Official Joey Davenport summarized the renewals, stating that one (1) of the listed package stores is approximately 75% complete and should open for business within the next three (3) months. Mr. Davenport also reminded the Board of the previous discussion during which it was determined that package stores did need to renew their license every year. They were provided a provisional license so as to allow the construction process to begin.
- Commissioner Guarnieri made the **MOTION** to approve the package store renewals for 2024. Commissioner Roland seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Mathis and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS & GOVERNMENTAL BOARDS/AUTHORITIES

NONE

COUNTY MANAGER'S MATTERS

- (A) **Updates on County projects.**
 County Manager Christi Dockery discussed ongoing projects in the County: (1) The 2024 road resurfacing project (39 roads- utilizing LMIG, SPLOST, and TSPLOST funds) is starting soon and will begin in the New York Road area; (2) Windstream has also begun with their fiber project, having approximately 61 permits applied for already; and (3) staff will hold a meeting with Windstream soon to go over the project.
- (B) **Discussion of this year's accomplishments.**
 County Manager Christi Dockery summarized a few of this year's accomplishments, including: (1) The tax digest is complete; (2) with the use of EMD training, 911 dispatchers successfully helped deliver three (3) babies; and (3) Fire & EMS officials saved approximately 23 lives.

(C) **Consideration to declare vehicles and equipment surplus.**

Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to declare the following vehicles and equipment from Public Works surplus, to sale on GovDeals: A 1991 Landoll Trailer, a 2015 Dodge Charger with 100,115 miles, an 8' Reading Utility Body with Lift Gate, a 14" Tractor Operated Auger, a 6" Tractor Operated Auger, a Bolt on Pad Foot Roller for an I.R. Roller, and assorted used and outdated tires. Commissioner Guarnieri seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Mathis and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

(D) **Consideration to adopt a Resolution adopting the Lee County Joint Comprehensive Plan.**

County Manager Christi Dockery stated that the Board had previously approved the submission of the plan to DCA. DCA has since approved the plan; therefore, the Board now needs to official adopt it.

Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to adopt a Resolution adopting the Lee County Joint Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Guarnieri seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Mathis and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

COMMISSIONER'S MATTERS

(A) **Discussion of the Coston Road paving project.**

County Manager Christi Dockery summarized the paving project, stating that it was approved to be one of the roads involved in the road project for 2024; however, there was a question regarding the issue of right of way, as it was found that different lots along the road have different rights of way ranging from 30 to 60 ft. Additionally, the existing County ordinance shows a right of way of 80 ft. for roads without curb and gutter. The Board needs to decide whether to amend the code.

Chairman Singletary asked if it was reasonable to send letters to the property owners before moving forward with the design process to make sure all property owners would be willing to give their rights of way for the project. Commissioner Walls stated that everyone out there would be willing to give the right of way. Commissioner Roland suggested having the property owners sign something showing their willingness to provide right of way.

Commissioner Mathis added that the last paving road project utilized a 60 ft. right of way. Commissioner Walls stated that 60 ft. would be ideal for small County roads whereas 80ft. might be more beneficial for one more heavily trafficked. County Attorney Jimmy Skipper reiterated that the existing County ordinance shows a right of way of 80 ft. for roads without curb and gutter as well as minor streets and major streets. Mr. Skipper stated that before right of way can be acquired, the design needs to be made. Mr. Skipper suggested first amending the current ordinance to be whatever the Board desires.

Chairman Singletary asked how this amendment would affect developers and future developments. Mr. Skipper stated that the ordinance would be for all residential roads. Co-Assistant County Manager/ Chief Building Official Joey Davenport added that for the current paving project, 60 ft. is probably adequate; however, we won't know for sure until the design in completed. Mr. Davenport also stated that if the ordinance is amended, he suggests adding a caveat in case 60 ft. does not work in a particular case, where 80ft. could then be required. Mr. Davenport suggested obtaining a preliminary design to ensure the amount of right of way needed before contacting property owners as it could differ. For example, in a curve, more right of way may be needed on one side of the roadway versus the other.

Commissioner Mathis made the **MOTION** to approve County Attorney Jimmy Skipper drafting an amendment to the ordinance pertaining to rights of way and to authorize staff to put out an RFP for the design for the Coston Road paving project. Commissioner Guarnieri seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Roland and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

(B) **Consideration to adopt a Georgia Fund I Resolution to Authorize Investment and Designate Representatives.**

Commissioner Mathis asked County Manager Christi Dockery if two (2) signatures are used when transferring funds, as has been suggested by the auditors, to which Ms. Dockery stated that that was a current practice.

Commissioner Mathis made the **MOTION** to adopt a Georgia Fund I Resolution to Authorize Investment and Designate Representatives. Commissioner Guarnieri seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Roland and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

County Manager Christi Dockery explained that this resolution allows the creation of a new bank account for the TSPLOST II funds, which begins collection in April.

Additional Discussion Not Listed on Agenda:

Chairman Singletary stated that a revised concept plan would soon be brought to the Board for the 100 acre project by Lose Design. The next step in the project would be soil sampling. After this, an architectural drawing that would include everything to scale, estimated phases, and estimated cost will be completed and presented to the Board.

Commissioner Roland mentioned the storm from earlier in the day and how the majority of employees were told not to report to work until 12:00pm; however, there were several departments, including Public Safety and Public Works, which had been there since 8:00am or before. Commissioner Roland suggested the individuals who were at work prior to 12:00pm and worked through the storm as essential/emergency personnel receive an additional four (4) hours of comp time for their service today. Chairman Singletary and Vice-Chairman Guarnieri supported the idea.

Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to approve giving individuals who were at work prior to 12:00pm and worked through the storm an additional four (4) hours of comp time. Commissioner Guarnieri seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Mathis 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.

Chairman Singletary asked if anyone else would like to speak.

Co-Assistant County Manager/ Chief Building Official Joey Davenport requested that the Board consider waiving the demolition permit fees for those citizens who were affected by this morning's storms.

Commissioner Mathis made the **MOTION** to waive the demolition permit fees for those citizens affected by the storms of January 9, 2024. Commissioner Guarnieri seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Roland and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (A) The next regularly scheduled County Commission Meeting is **Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 6:00pm.**
- (B) The offices of the Lee County Board of Commissioners will be **closed Monday, January 15, 2024** in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday. County offices will reopen for regular business on Tuesday, January 16, 2024. **Garbage collection services will not run on Monday, January 15, 2024,** but will

be delayed by one day for the remainder of the week.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Guarnieri made the **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Roland seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Mathis and Commissioner Walls voting yea. The meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM.

Facebook video link: <https://www.facebook.com/leecountyga/videos/1432033154059668>

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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