



LEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

T. PAGE THARP GOVERNMENTAL BUILDING

102 STARKSVILLE AVENUE NORTH, LEESBURG, GEORGIA 31763

Tuesday, July 8, 2025 AT 6:00 PM

T. PAGE THARP BUILDING

OPAL CANNON AUDITORIUM

WWW.LEE.GA.US

MEETING MINUTES

Work Session

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Luke Singletary, Chairman, District 2

Chris Guarnieri, Vice-Chairman, District 4

Dennis Roland, Commissioner, District 1

Billy Mathis, Commissioner, District 3

George Walls, Commissioner, District 5

COUNTY STAFF

Scott Addison, County Manager

Kaitlyn Good, County Clerk

Jimmy Skipper, County Attorney

The Lee County Board of Commissioners met in a voting session on Tuesday, July 8, 2025. 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 Luke Singletary, Vice-Chairman Chris Guarnieri, Commissioner Dennis Roland, and Commissioner George Walls. Staff in attendance were County Manager Scott Addison, County Clerk Kaitlyn Good, and County Attorney Jimmy Skipper. Commissioner Billy Mathis was absent. The meeting was also streamed on Facebook Live. Chairman Singletary called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **INVOCATION**

Commissioner Roland led the invocation.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A) Consideration to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2025 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2025 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

7. **PUBLIC HEARING**

8. **DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS**

A) **Fire & EMS - Discussion of a quote from Samsara for dashcam systems in Fire & EMS vehicles in the amount of \$22,011.80.**

Fire Chief David Forrester summarized the item stating that this camera system is cloud based and connected to the vehicle computer system that monitors speed, crash detection, harsh braking, use of cell phone, and has a real time GPS that can be seen on managers' phone or computer. A trial demo has been conducted on four vehicles for the past month and managers have used data received of bad driving to coach employees on using safer driving habits. All Fire & EMS vehicles will have this system installed. This is government pricing and the funding source would be SPLOST VII.

Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to approve the quote for dashcam systems in Fire & EMS vehicles in the amount of \$22,011.80 using SPLOST VII funds. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.

9. **CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS & GOVERNMENTAL BOARDS/AUTHORITIES**

- A) **Library** - Consideration to authorize staff to put out a bid for the replacement of the roof of the Oakland Library/Bindery, in accordance with the FY 2026 Major Renovation & Repair (MRR) Grant.

The Board approved submission of the MRR Grant application in August 2024. The estimated cost of the project is between \$130,000.00 and \$150,000.00. Notice of grant award in the amount of \$71,500.00 was received in June 2025. The grant time period is July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026, with all funds having to be spent by June 30, 2026. The remaining funding will come from SPLOST VII.

Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to authorize staff to put out a bid for the replacement of the roof of the Oakland Library/Bindery. Commissioner Guarnieri seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Walls voting yea.

- B) **Tax Assessor's Office** - Discussion of a two (2) year contract renewal with Schneider Geospatial for qPublic services in the amount of \$17,112.00 for year one and \$16,392.00 for year two.

Chief Appraiser Doug Goodin summarized the agreement stating it is a renewal of a service the County already utilizes. qPublic is an interactive public access tool that allows users to view County and City information, public records, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) via an online portal. Property owners are also able to view Pictometry imaging and property assessment notices. Finance Director Heather Jones added that the difference in amount between year one and year two is due to a setup fee in year one.

Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to approve a two (2) year contract renewal with Schneider Geospatial for qPublic services in the amount of \$17,112.00 for year one and \$16,392.00 for year two. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.

10. **COUNTY MANAGER'S MATTERS**

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

County Manager Scott Addison discussed the following updates to County projects: (1) Georgia Power has been working on a streetlight audit, with approximately 90 lights being changed to LED, which is estimated to help decrease the bill by \$100 a month; (2) the Code Enforcement and Animal Control building is currently under construction; and (3) a traffic study on Ledo Road has been authorized and the results will be brought back to the Board.

- B) **Consideration to approve Budget Amendment 2025-01 for year-end adjustments to the FY2024-2025 Budget.**

Chairman Singletary stated that each year, at the end of the fiscal year, staff prepares a budget amendment to clean up individual line items to balance the budget.

Commissioner Guarnieri made the **MOTION** to approve Budget Amendment 2025-01 for year-end adjustments to the FY2024-2025 Budget. Commissioner Roland seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** passed with Commissioner Walls voting yea.

11. **COMMISSIONER'S MATTERS**
12. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
13. **COUNTY ATTORNEY'S MATTERS**
14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
15. **PUBLIC FORUM**

Prior to commencing Public Forum, Chairman Singletary wished to address the audience regarding the recent tax assessment notices. Chairman Singletary stated the current tax notices that were sent out had a significant increase in the appraisal value for many residents. The state requires there to be a certain level of accuracy in property values; there is a range of 36% to 42% and Lee County was out of range with 32% accuracy. Chairman Singletary said a revaluation was needed to get in compliance with the state, otherwise there would be a fine.

Additionally, the state passed a new law that allowed qualified homeowners to opt in to a homestead exemption to lock in the tax value with the previous year's value. Residents have until August 15, 2025 to enroll in the floating homestead exemption. This will set your taxable value to the previous year until your home is either sold or major renovations are made that change your value. Chief Tax Appraiser Doug Goodin stated that the state can make adjustments to the consumer price index. Chairman Singletary stated that the homestead exemption will only apply to the county's portion of residents' taxes, not those set by the City or school system. Mr. Goodin stated that residents can come to the Tax Assessor's Office or call (229) 759-6010 for help to enroll in the homestead exemption.

Rodriquez Strum asked about the process of having a business within Lee County. Chairman Singletary directed him to Chief Building Inspector Joey Davenport to help him obtain a business license.

Chairman Singletary asked if anyone else would like to speak.

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

16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A) The next Board of Commissioners meeting will be held Tuesday, July 22, 2025 at 6:00pm.
- B) The Lee County Rivers Alive annual clean-up event will be held **Saturday, July 12, 2025**. There will be both on water and on land opportunities to volunteer. A waiver must be signed for participation. Please contact the Lee County Chamber of Commerce at (229) 759-2422 for more information. Chairman Singletary added that on this day, citizens may also dump yard debris and old appliances, etc. for free at the Landfill.

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:16PM.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK