



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022 AT 5:00PM
T. PAGE THARP BUILDING
KINCHAFOONEE ROOM
WWW.LEE.GA.US

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

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 for a Special Called Meeting on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 5:00pm. The meeting was held in the Kinchafoonee Room of the Lee County T. Page Tharp Governmental Building in Leesburg, Georgia. Those present from the County were Chairman Billy Mathis, Commissioner John Wheaton, Commissioner Luke Singletary, Commissioner George Walls, County Clerk Kaitlyn Sawyer, Finance Director Heather Jones, and County Manager Christi Dockery. Those present from the City of Leesburg were City Manager Bob Alexander, City Attorney Bert Gregory, Mayor Billy Breeden, Councilwoman Judy Powell, Councilman Rufus Sherman, Councilman Richard Bush, and Finance Director Cheryl Allison. Those present from the City of Smithville were Mayor Vincent Cutts, Councilman Dwight Hickman, and Councilman James Champion.

Chairman Mathis called the meeting to order at 5:04PM.

INVOCATION

Chairman Mathis led the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

(A) **Consideration to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement and adopt a resolution for TSPLOST II.**

County Commission Chairman Billy Mathis began the discussion by providing an overview of the uses of TSPLOST funds and summarized the miles of roads each entity has:

- Leesburg- 23 miles
- Smithville- 11 miles
- Unincorporated Lee County- 419 miles

Leesburg City Attorney Bert Gregory provided handouts describing 12 projects the City of Leesburg would like to pursue, including the SR 32 East Bypass, a roundabout at Leslie Highway and Smithville Avenue, various sidewalk/crosswalk projects, and a school connectivity study. Mr. Gregory added that these projects would have county as well as regional relevance. The estimated cost of these projects is approximately \$12 million and Leesburg would apply for any available grants and provide matching funds. **The city of Leesburg is seeking 13%**, not the 5.08% presented by the County. Mr. Gregory reminded those present that if no agreement is made, 0.75% is received instead of the 1%.

County Commissioner Luke Singletary asked about the proposed SR 32 East Bypass project, stating that that area

was not in the city limits, to which City Manager Bob Alexander stated that some of it was. Commissioner Singletary also questioned the relevancy of the sidewalk projects as TSPLOST should mainly be used for road projects.

Chairman Mathis stated that the County has many projects that would be beneficial to complete and suggested the funds be split fairly and stated the best way to do that is to take into account the number of roads each entity has. Chairman Mathis encouraged members present from each entity to justify their position if they have another suggestion and the group would discuss it.

Smithville Mayor Vincent Cutts summarized the Council's desired projects, including paving Rhodes Street, resurfacing Railroad Street, and resurfacing Boulevard Street, with Railroad Street being the priority. Mayor Cutts stated that the **City of Smithville would like 3.08%**.

Mr. Gregory reminded everyone that TSPLOST funds are not just for paving or resurfacing roads, but for a variety of transportation reasons, citing the school connectivity study and sidewalk projects. Mr. Gregory also emphasized that the school bus barn was located in Leesburg and how the traffic during school times, with both school buses and general traffic, is increased, thereby increasing the wear on the city's roads. Commissioner Singletary stated that the buses and school traffic run on county roads as well and pointed out that the schools being within the city limits provides revenue for the city.

Chairman Mathis again asked the fair way to split the tax revenues, stating that it seemed logical to take into account the number of roads/mileage and encouraged anyone else with a different thought to share their opinion. Mr. Gregory brought up the legislation stating that if no Intergovernmental Agreement is reached, .75% would be received in lieu of the \$0.01, suggesting that the percentages presented for that calculation be examined as a possible starting point for discussion (Leesburg: 10.75%, Smithville: 3.81%, County: 85.44%). Chairman Mathis stated that if divided as such, everyone would get less than desired.

County Manager Christi Dockery added that if an Intergovernmental Agreement is not reached, the term length would not be the established five (5) years, as the Department of Revenue will stop sending checks once the threshold has been met, resulting in a loss of approximately one (1) year.

Mr. Gregory reminded everyone that the prior TSPLOST passage was close and traditionally in midterm elections, people do not like voting for additional taxes. Mr. Gregory again stated that the City of Leesburg desired 13%, to which the Board of County Commissioners did not agree.

With no agreement being made, the meeting was adjourned.

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 **June 28, 2022 at 6:00pm.**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47PM.

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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