



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 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, June 28, 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, Commissioner Luke Singletary, and Commissioner George Walls. Staff in attendance was County Manager Christi Dockery, County Attorney Jimmy Skipper, County Clerk Kaitlyn Sawyer, and Finance Director Heather Jones. The meeting was also streamed on Facebook Live. Chairman Mathis called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

INVOCATION

Chairman Billy 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 June 14, 2022.
Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes for June 14, 2022. Commissioner Singletary seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Walls voting yea.

CONSENT AGENDA

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

PUBLIC HEARING

NONE

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

NONE

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS & GOVERNMENTAL BOARDS/AUTHORITIES

- (A) Consideration to appoint two members to the DARTS Citizens Transportation Committee for a term of two years. Current term expires 07/01/2022. New term expires 07/01/2024. Letters of interest received by Brent Davis and Dr. Peter Ngwafu (reappointment).

Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to reappoint Dr. Peter Ngwafu and appoint Brent Davis to the DARTS Citizens Transportation Committee for a term of two (2) years, expiring 07/01/2024. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Singletary voting yea.

- (B) Consideration to appoint two members to the Library Board of Trustees for a term of three years. Current term expires 06/30/2022. New term expires 06/30/2025. Letters of interest in reappointment received from Greg Crowder and Donna Ford.

Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to reappoint Greg Crowder and Donna Ford to the Library Board of Trustees for a term of three (3) years, expiring 06/30/2025. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Singletary voting yea.

COUNTY MANAGER'S MATTERS

- (A) Updates on County projects.

Brent Davis, Reliable Engineering, provided an update on the 2022 LMIG Road Resurfacing Project, stating that Oxford Construction crews had completed paving (including the additional roads of Firetower and Midway) and the shoulder work would be completed in the next few weeks. Additionally, after negotiating with Oxford to lessen the thickness of the patches, patching came in approximately 10 tons less than was originally estimated.

The milling on Woodstone Circle was stopped as it was discovered that the road consisted of approximately .75 inch of asphalt on top of a sand clay base. Mr. Davis stated that with the funds saved by not milling the Woodstone Circle neighborhood, except for specifically marked areas, crews were able to resurface Midway at no additional cost. Mr. Davis stated that he was proud of how the project turned out and the Board thanked him for his assistance. Commissioner Walls mentioned a complaint he received about the edging on one of the roads, to which Mr. Davis stated he would look into it.

County Manager Christi Dockery added that Popco, Inc. should begin work on the US 82 Water Extension project within the next few days and complete the project within 90 days.

- (B) Consideration to approve the Anticipated Collections Addendum from Non-Federal Sources for the SAVE Program.

County Manager Dockery explained that this is completed once a year and is a requirement for the Immigration Office.

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to approve the Anticipated Collection Addendum from Non-Federal Sources for the SAVE Program. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Wheaton voting yea.

- (C) Consideration to adopt the Resolution adopting the 2022-2023 Budget. Public Hearing held June 14, 2022

Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to adopt the Resolution adopting the FY 2022-2023 Budget. Commissioner Singletary seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Walls voting yea.

Chairman Mathis stated that the budget was balanced, with no use of reserves, no use of federal funds, no tax increase, and a pay raise for part time and full time County employees (average of 7% to 13% for each employee).

- (D) Consideration to adopt a Preliminary Resolution Notifying the Election Superintendent of Lee County's Intent to Request a Call for a Special Election Referendum to Impose a County Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sale and Use Tax (TSPLOST).

Chairman Mathis stated that a TSPLOST is already in place and is the reason we have been able to do so many road projects. This resolution lets Elections know the County would like TSPLOST to again be on the ballot in November.

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to adopt a Preliminary Resolution Notifying the Election Superintendent of Lee County's Intent to Request a Call for a Special Election Referendum to Impose a County Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sale and Use Tax (TSPLOST), with the update to the amount listed to be \$23 million. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Wheaton voting yea.

(E) **Consideration to award the bid for Curbside Solid Waste Collection.**

Chairman Mathis stated that there was some confusion on the end date of the current contract. The contract is for a term length of approximately 25 years, but the commencement date is not listed as an actual date on the contract, which is unusual. It seems we have approximately one year remaining on the current contract.

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to reject all received bids for Curbside Solid Waste Collection until the end date is properly determined, and at that point, put it back out for bid. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Wheaton voting yea.

(F) **Consideration to approve an agreement with Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. for Planning Services.**

Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to approve, pending County Attorney Jimmy Skipper's approval, an agreement with Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. for Planning Services for \$51,000.00 annually (budgeted item). Commissioner Singletary seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Walls voting yea.

COMMISSIONER'S MATTERS

(A) **Discussion of the Comp time policy for employees.**

Chairman Mathis stated there were some clarification to make about the policy, adding that it was the goal to eventually phase out comp time and rely on overtime. County Manager Dockery also added that this policy would be with the exception of the Sheriff's Office.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S MATTERS

(A) **Consideration to approve Lee County School Tax Levy Resolution and bonds.**

Chairman Mathis stated this was a legal requirement, to which County Attorney Skipper agreed.

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to approve Lee County School Tax Levy Resolution and bonds. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Wheaton voting yea.

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.

Lonzie Jimmerson – Concerns pertaining to District 1, including the ISO/Fire Rating, need of a fire station, the low voting turnout, and the absence of the District 1 Commission seat candidates from these meetings and other public events

Carmen Jimmerson – Concerns over the availability of important county information for those who may not

have access to internet or frequent county owned buildings

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (A) **Utilities Authority Customers:** Due to recent extreme weather conditions and high water demand, the Utilities Authority is requesting and encouraging all customers to limit irrigation and to water at night. Please, no irrigation between 10:00am and 4:00pm every day.
- (B) A fast, more reliable internet connection with Kinetic Fiber is coming soon to Lee County! Visit GoKinetic.com or call 229-985-8000 to pre-register for Windstream Broadband.
- (C) Offices of the Lee County Board of Commissioners will be **closed Monday, July 4, 2022** in observance of the **Independence Day**. Garbage services will be delayed by one day.
- (D) The next **Summer Food Distribution** will be **Thursday, July 7, 2022 at 10:00am** at the Lee County Parks & Recreation Office, located at 141 Park Street in Leesburg.
- (E) This year's **Lee County Rivers Alive** event will be held **Saturday, July 9, 2022**. Contact Code Enforcement or the Chamber of Commerce for more information.
- (F) The next regularly scheduled County Commission Meeting is **Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 6:00pm**.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM.

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.