



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 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, October 25, 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, Commissioner Luke Singletary, and Commissioner George Walls. Staff in attendance was County Manager Christi Dockery, County Attorney Jimmy Skipper, and County Clerk Kaitlyn Sawyer. Vice-Chairman John Wheaton was absent. The meeting was also streamed on Facebook Live. Chairman Mathis called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

INVOCATION

Apostle Malden Batten, The Church of Leesburg, 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 October 11, 2022.**

Commissioner Walls made the **MOTION** to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes for October 11, 2022. Commissioner Singletary seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Mathis voting yea.

CONSENT AGENDA

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

(A) **Recognition of employees' years of service.**

The following employees were recognized for their years of service to Lee County:

5 years – Wendy O'Lear – Firefighter/Paramedic

10 years – Elaine Watts – Part-Time Employee for Probate Court (formerly) and Elections and Registration (currently)

PUBLIC HEARING

NONE

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

NONE

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS & GOVERNMENTAL BOARDS/AUTHORITIES

Board of Elections and Registration

(A) **Consideration to approve the purchase of new equipment.**

Director of Elections and Registration Veronica Johnson presented on the equipment in question, Georgia Poll Pad Printer Check-In Stations from KNOWiNK, LLC. Ms. Johnson stated that the Lee County Elections Office had been approached earlier in the year by the Secretary of State's Office to begin beta testing the equipment (the "Poll Pad"), and has been doing so for the current ongoing advance in-person voting. This equipment provides the capability to maintain an electronic voting list. In previous elections, while a voter's signature was captured digitally, there was no other verifiable paper audit trail; but, this equipment is attached to a printer and provides an application containing voter information. This new equipment would allow one more opportunity to show citizens how transparent and accurate all processes in Lee County elections are.

Ms. Johnson summarized the function of the equipment, stating that when a citizen arrives to vote, they scan their government issued ID, their record is presented, they can sign, and an application/receipt prints out. Said application is retained in the Elections office for two (2) years. The voter is then presented with a card and may proceed to a voting machine. Notable benefits to using the system include a faster check in experience, now having a verifiable paper audit trail, and the fact that all information communicates back to hub at the Elections Office, allowing staff to monitor voter check-in statistics at all voting precincts.

In the past week of utilizing the new equipment, the Elections staff as well as the voters have voiced that they liked using the new Poll Pads. Last night (October 24, 2022), a representative of the Secretary of State's Office had contacted Ms. Johnson stating that the beta testing was going well and inquired if this office would like to purchase the equipment and have it fully in place for Election Day on November 8. Ms. Johnson stated that the rest of the state probably will not have the opportunity to purchase this equipment until early 2023.

The application/ receipt contains the date, time, type of ID presented, and signatures of both the citizen and the Elections employee that processed the check in. This printout only contains information pertinent to the check in process and does not include anything about the person's ballot. A person's ballot is private and confidential.

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to approve the purchase of Georgia Poll Pad Printer Check-In Stations from KNOWiNK, LLC. at a cost of \$32,895.00, to be split into three equal annual payments of \$10,965.00, to come from the General Fund. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Mathis voting yea.

COUNTY MANAGER'S MATTERS

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

County Manager Christi Dockery discussed ongoing projects in the County: (1) the CDBG project at Palmyra Mobile Home Park is moving forward as we are awaiting completed deeds and other paperwork to be finalized; (2) the Landfill Wall Phase II project is ongoing with an estimated completion of four to five weeks; and (3) the renovation of the gym is also ongoing.

(B) **Consideration to award the bid for LED light fixtures in the fire stations.**

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to reject the provided bids for LED light fixtures in the fire stations project, asking that staff review the Invitation to Bid documents and reopen the bid process at a later date. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Mathis voting yea.

COMMISSIONER'S MATTERS

NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S MATTERS

- (A) Consideration to approve intergovernmental agreements between Lee County and Lee County Developmental Authority regarding the construction of two new roadways and the installation of the utilities.

County Attorney Jimmy Skipper summarized the documents stating that they pertain to the development of infrastructure at the Grand Island property, including two (2) roadways and the necessary water, sewer, and stormwater drainage elements. Establishing this infrastructure will be beneficial as the whole area will be developed at some point in the future. These documents, already approved by the Development Authority (property owner), state that the County will pay for the roadways and the water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure development.

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to approve intergovernmental agreements between Lee County and Lee County Developmental Authority regarding the construction of two new roadways and the installation of the utilities. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Mathis voting yea.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- (A) Executive Session to discuss potential or pending litigation.

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to adjourn to Executive Session. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Mathis voting yea. Time: 6:12PM.

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to adjourn from Executive Session. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Mathis voting yea. Time: 6:34PM.

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.

*Public Forum was held before the Board of Commissioners exited for the Executive Session.

Paul Clayton – Old Leslie Road – Presented each of the commissioners with a letter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (A) The next regularly scheduled County Commission Meeting is **Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 6:00pm.**
- (B) **Absentee-by-Mail Voting** is 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 is available and will close on Friday, November 4, 2022 at 5:00 pm.**
- (D) **Advance-In-Person Voting** is now open to all eligible voters 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. 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. **The last day a voter may vote an Advance-in-Person ballot is Friday, November 4, 2022.**

- (E) The renewal process for 2022 Occupation Tax/Business License will begin November 1, 2022. **All current business licenses will expire on December 31, 2022.**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:37PM.

Facebook video link: <https://www.facebook.com/leecountyga/videos/1112699956047099>

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.