



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2023 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
Luke Singletary, Vice-Chairman	District 2
Dennis Roland, Commissioner	District 1
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 voting session on Tuesday, June 27, 2023. 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 Luke Singletary, Commissioner Dennis Roland, Commissioner Chris Guarnieri, and Commissioner George Walls. Staff in attendance was County Manager Christi Dockery, County Attorney Jimmy Skipper, and County Clerk Kaitlyn Good. The meeting was also streamed on Facebook Live. Chairman Mathis called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

INVOCATION

Pastor Aaron McCulley, Philema Road Baptist Church, led the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

Reconsideration of the motion for the location of the new telecommunications tower, as made at the last regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting on June 13, 2023.

Glenn Hendry, Executive Account Manager, of Motorola was present. There are two possible sites for the new tower, one on Hwy 118 and one at the Fire Station in Smithville. At the meeting on June 13, 2023, the present Board members voted to place the tower at Fire Station 4 in Smithville. Mr. Hendry stated that both sites will produce very similar maps in terms of coverage and encouraged the Board to think more about access to, and safety of, the equipment and tower when considering a location. Commissioner Singletary added that it would probably be best to place it at the Fire Station, where it is on one of our properties that is continuously occupied, thereby the equipment is easily monitored.

Chairman Mathis asked Assistant Fire Chief Cole Williams if he believed there to be room for a tower at Fire Station 4 and if he had a preference on placement. Mr. Williams stated that both sites would be fine, but that Hwy 118 might be better in terms of available space. County Manager Christi Dockery added that a few years back the County granted an easement for the homeowners on Hwy 118 to utilize some of the land for a second driveway, which is also a factor to be considered. Chairman Mathis suggested Commissioner Roland go look at the two presented sites and speak to staff about proper placement and then bring back his suggestion to the Board.

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to reconsider the motion for the location of the new telecommunications tower, as made at the last regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting on June 13, 2023. Commissioner Guarnieri seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Roland and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- (A) **Consideration to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes for June 13, 2023.**
Commissioner Walls made the **MOTION** to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes for June 13, 2023. Commissioner Roland seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Singletary and Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.

CONSENT AGENDA

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

- (A) **Recognition of employees' years of service.**
Chairman Mathis recognized the following employees for their years of service to Lee County:
5 years – Carl Randy James – Marshal's Office/Code Enforcement
5 years – Kaitlyn Good – County Clerk
5 years – Timothy Ledden – Detention Officer – Corporal
25 years – Ira Houston – Utilities Authority

PUBLIC HEARING

NONE

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

E-911

- (A) **Consideration to approve a proposal from Motorola Solutions for the construction of the new telecommunications tower.**

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** approve a proposal from Motorola Solutions for the construction of the new 350 foot telecommunications tower at a cost of \$466,583.00. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Roland and Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea. This being for tower previously discussed, to be in the Northern end of the County.

Chairman Mathis also mentioned the possibility of Motorola also eventually constructing a tower at the Southern end of the County as well. Mr. Hendry stated that the estimate for the new 300 foot tower would be approximately \$547,000.00 with the understanding that this price will increase over the next few years, adding that it will take approximately \$3.5 million to become fully independent.

Mr. Hendry added that he believed it is best to purchase the tower, the transmission site, and all equipment together in a few years once the current agreement for the P25 System has expired. Also, by waiting to build the tower, the County would not be chipping away at the 30 – 35 year lifespan of the tower.

- (B) **Consideration to approve the purchase of an Uninterruptible Power Supply battery backup system (UPS) for the tower on Ga Hwy 32 E.**

Commissioner Guarnieri made the **MOTION** approve the purchase of an Uninterruptible Power Supply battery backup system (UPS) for the tower on Ga Hwy 32 E for \$33,998.83. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Roland and Commissioner Singletary voting yea.

- (C) **Consideration to approve a SUA+ Agreement with Motorola Solutions.**

Chairman Mathis summarized the agreement stating it pertained to certain updates to the system. Chairman Mathis added that the County already has an agreement with Motorola for the equipment; however, Motorola is now requesting an additional \$100,000.00 per year to complete upgrades. County Manager Christi Dockery added that there is a September deadline. Commissioner Singletary suggested holding off on the agreement. No action was taken on this item.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS & GOVERNMENTAL BOARDS/AUTHORITIES

- (A) **Consideration to appoint one (1) member to the Regional Commission Council of Southwest Georgia to fill an unexpired term of one (1) year expiring 01/01/2024. Letter of interest in appointment received from Cicily Florence.**

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to appoint Cicily Florence to the Regional Commission Council of Southwest Georgia to fill an unexpired term of one (1) year expiring 01/01/2024. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Roland and Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.

- (B) **Elections and Registration – Discussion of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Secretary of State’s Office for a limited time to deploy new equipment.**

This item was tabled until receipt of the agreement.

COUNTY MANAGER’S MATTERS

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

County Manager Christi Dockery discussed ongoing projects in the County: (1) The gymnasium project is complete; (2) the 2023 LMIG road projects and 2021 CDBG projects are completed; (3) an RFQ will soon be published for architectural services for the 100 acres property; (4) the RFP for the Elections Office renovation will be published soon; and (5) the Courthouse expansion project also continues to be discussed.

- (B) **Consideration to approve budget amendment 2023-01 to the FY2022-2023 budget.**

Commissioner Guarnieri made the **MOTION** to approve budget amendment 2023-01 to the FY2022-2023 budget for revenue neutral year-end adjustments. Commissioner Singletary seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Roland and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

- (C) **Consideration to adopt a resolution approving the final FY2023-2024 budget.**

Chairman Mathis stated that the new budget did not include a tax increase.

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to adopt a resolution approving the final FY2023-2024 budget. Commissioner Guarnieri seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Roland and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

- (D) **Discussion of the renewing the lease for USDA, located at 101 North Main Street in Leesburg, for a term of five (5) years.**

The present lease is for three (3) years, expiring 12/31/2023. This lease is revenue neutral and County Manager Christi Dockery added that they were good tenants and provide many services to our citizens.

Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to adopt a renewal lease for USDA, located at 101 North Main Street in Leesburg, for a term of five (5) years. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Singletary and Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.

COMMISSIONER’S MATTERS

- (A) **Discussion of greenspace.**

Chairman Mathis opened the discussion by stating that the state and the county require greenspace in subdivisions. Lee County code indicates that when greenspace is set aside in a new subdivision, that area can be either owned by a homeowner’s association, the County, or a trust. The greenspace must be accessible to everyone within that subdivision.

Staff has been asked to provide a list of every piece of greenspace in the county to be sure they are each deeded in one of those three ways. Commissioner Singletary added that the County has not accepted greenspace in years. Commissioner Walls asked if greenspace could be sold, to which Mr. Skipper replied that it would have to be to a HOA or a trust to abide by the County code.

In further discussion of the Pine Lakes Subdivision greenspace and Commissioner Walls's request to place a gate prohibiting vehicle access, Mr. Skipper stated that the statute does not require continuous access by vehicle, but does require access in the case of emergency. Staff will continue looking into this issue.

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.

Joanne Tuggle – Creekside Subdivision – Presented resident petition for the resurfacing of subdivision roads

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (A) The offices of the Lee County Board of Commissioners will be **closed Tuesday, July 4, 2023** in observance of the Independence Day Holiday. County offices will reopen for regular business hours on Wednesday, July 5, 2023. **Residential garbage collection will be delayed one day.**
- (B) The next regularly scheduled County Commission Meeting is **Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 6:00pm.**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Facebook video link: <https://www.facebook.com/leecountyga/videos/276002321674510>

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.