



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 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, September 26, 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, and County Attorney Jimmy Skipper. County Clerk Kaitlyn Good 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 minutes for the Board of Commissioners meeting for September 12, 2023.

Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to approve the minutes for the Board of Commissioners meeting for September 12, 2023. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Guarnieri and Commissioner Singletary voting yea.

Chairman Mathis acknowledged members of the audience who were present anticipating a discussion of the closure of Grey Moss Road. Chairman Mathis stated that it was not on tonight's agenda. Commissioner Roland added that he had heard of citizens who wish to close the remained of Grey Moss Road, Batts Road, and Dan Green Road; however, acknowledged the County's road closure process stating that they would not be closed if the Board or citizens opposed. Chairman Mathis asked if anyone present wanted to speak on the subject, to which a citizen stated that someone wished to install a gate only entrance. No one in attendance was in support of this idea. Chairman Mathis stated that closing a road does not typically occur unless all citizens on the road are in favor and reiterated that no gate would be installed on Grey Moss Road as it is a public road.

CONSENT AGENDA

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Mathis recognized the following employees for their years of service to Lee County:

5 years – Courtney Dassie – Communication Officer, E-911

5 years – Jamie Roberts – Equipment Operator, Public Works

5 years – Matthew Brown – Assistant Shift Commander, Sheriff's Office

PUBLIC HEARING

NONE

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

Building Inspection/ Business Licensing

- (A) **Consideration to approve an application for an alcohol license from Mr. Devanshukumar Patel for the retail sale of off-premise consumption of liquor, wine and beer. This will be a Package Store named "The Spirits" proposed to be located at 1379 US Hwy 82 West.**

This alcohol license/package store application had been previously approved; this is simply a change in address. The store was originally slated to go into an existing structure, but the owners have now decided to build a new structure for the store.

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to approve the application for an alcohol license from Mr. Devanshukumar Patel for the retail sale of off-premise consumption of liquor, wine and beer for a Package Store named "The Spirits" proposed to be located at 1379 US Hwy 82 West. Commissioner Guarnieri seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Roland and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

Fire & EMS

- (B) **Consideration to approve the engine repair for Engine 8.**

Chairman Mathis stated that he had spoken to Fire Chief Forrester and would like to see another quote for the repairs as only one had been received thus far. Repairs are estimated to be around \$50,000.00. Commissioner Singletary suggested placing the item out for bid so that sealed bids are received and therefore the process uncompromised. Chairman Mathis agreed and instructed staff to put out a bid for a new engine for two weeks.

Parks & Recreation

- (C) **Discussion of the "Pocket Parks" revitalization project. HANDOUT**

Commissioner Guarnieri made the **MOTION** to approve the quote from Hasley Recreation, Inc. for \$156,513.00 for the Callaway Lakes Park and \$157,912.00 for the Springdale Park. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Roland and Commissioner Singletary voting yea.

Planning, Zoning & Engineering

- (D) **Review of the minutes from the September 7, 2023 Planning Commission meeting.**

The minutes were reviewed as presented.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS & GOVERNMENTAL BOARDS/AUTHORITIES

NONE

COUNTY MANAGER'S MATTERS

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

County Manager Christi Dockery discussed ongoing project in the County: (1) the 2024 LMIG application has been approved, with funds being received and the RFP documents for all road projects being drafted; and (2) the documents for SPLOST VIII are being prepared, with a meeting scheduled for October 10 with the Cities.

- (B) **Consideration to award the bid for Landscaping of the Tharp Building and the Courthouse.**

Commissioner Guarnieri made the **MOTION** to award the bid for Landscaping of the Tharp Building and

the Courthouse, to include irrigation, to Lawn Barber Nursery for \$81,043.96 to come from Facilities Department budget funds. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Roland and Commissioner Singletary voting yea.

- (C) **Consideration to adopt a Resolution Urging the Governor and General Assembly of Georgia to Continue Efforts to Reform and Improve Mental Health Services for the Citizens of Georgia.**
Recommendation of ACCG.

Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to adopt a Resolution Urging the Governor and General Assembly of Georgia to Continue Efforts to Reform and Improve Mental Health Services for the Citizens of Georgia. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Guarnieri and Commissioner Singletary voting yea.

COMMISSIONER'S MATTERS

- (A) **Consideration to approve a Professional Services Agreement with Reliable Engineering for the Design and R-O-W Plat Generation of the Coston Road paving project.**

Chairman Mathis asked if this had been put out for bid, to which County Manager Christi Dockery stated that it had not. Commissioner Singletary asked how long Coston Road is and how many houses were on it, to which Commissioner Walls responded that it was 0.70 mile and approximately 14 houses. Commissioner Singletary added that that was a lot of money to pave this road.

Ms. Dockery stated that Brent Davis with Reliable Engineering had been to Superior Court and pulled the plats to examine the rights of way. Commissioner Walls thinks the property owners may donate their rights of way, but a survey still needs to be completed. Commissioner Roland added that staff might need to check with the property owners on the road to be sure they all want it paved. Commissioner Singletary suggested sending letters to the property owners.

- (B) **Consideration to approve a Professional Services Agreement with Reliable Engineering for the Design, Bid, and Construction Administration for the County roads resurfacing project.**

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to approve a Professional Services Agreement with Reliable Engineering for the Design, Bid, and Construction Administration for the County roads resurfacing project (including 2024 LMIG roads) for \$102,500.00 to come from TSPLOST funds. Commissioner Roland seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Guarnieri and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

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.

Bruce Fackler – RV in backyard on Pineridge Drive

Chairman Mathis asked if anyone else would like to speak. With no more comments or questions from the audience, the Public Forum was closed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(A) The next regularly scheduled County Commission Meeting is **Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 6:00pm.**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:18PM.

Facebook video link: <https://www.facebook.com/leecountyga/videos/696889305636696>

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.

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The meeting rooms and buildings are handicap accessible.