



**LEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
T. PAGE THARP GOVERNMENTAL BUILDING  
102 STARKSVILLE AVENUE NORTH, LEESBURG, GEORGIA 31763

Tuesday, August 27, 2024 AT 6:00 PM  
T. PAGE THARP BUILDING  
OPAL CANNON AUDITORIUM  
[WWW.LEE.GA.US](http://WWW.LEE.GA.US)

MEETING MINUTES  
Voting Session

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**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Luke Singletary, Chairman, District 2  
Chris Guarnieri, Vice-Chairman, District 4  
Dennis Roland, Commissioner, District 1  
Billy Mathis, Commissioner, District 3  
George Walls, Commissioner, District 5

**COUNTY STAFF**

Christi Dockery, County Manager  
Kaitlyn Good, County Clerk  
Jimmy Skipper, County Attorney

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The Lee County Lee County Board of Commissioners met in a voting session on Tuesday, August 27, 2024. The meeting was held in the Opal Cannon Auditorium of the Lee County T. Page Tharp Governmental Building in Leesburg, Georgia. Those present were Vice-Chairman Chris Guarnieri, Commissioner Dennis Roland, and Commissioner George Walls. Staff in attendance were County Manager Christi Dockery, County Clerk Kaitlyn Good, and County Attorney Jimmy Skipper. Chairman Luke Singletary and Commissioner Billy Mathis were absent. The meeting was also streamed on Facebook Live. Vice-Chairman Guarnieri called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **INVOCATION**

A) Pastor Robin Chaplin, Victory Baptist Church, to lead the invocation.

Pastor Robin Chaplin led the invocation.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A) Consideration to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2024 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2024 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

A) Mike Talley, Stormwater Engineer with Flint River Consulting, to provide an update for the NPDES Stormwater Permit.

Mike Talley, Flint River Consulting, summarized that this is an update they are required to do two times a year for the NPDES stormwater permit. This permit is required by the State of Georgia and the Environmental Protection Division for Lee County to implement. This permit is renewed every five years by the State based on renewal by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, then the

local jurisdiction has to update their stormwater plans to comply. Mr. Talley stated that this was submitted in June 2023; the City of Leesburg has received their comments and staff is anticipating Lee County's comments soon. He stated the 2023 annual report was submitted in February and does not believe we will hear anything until the end of the year or next year. Mr. Talley stated they are currently working to find a new Environmental Protection Division reviewer for the County.

Mr. Talley discussed maintenance logging in the County, stating he is working with Public Works and Director Mike Sistrunk to work on logging digitally. This system is GIS based and will greatly help with completing the annual reports. Mr. Talley stated that he is also currently working with Public Works to update the inventory on the ponds and merging their information. Inspections of the stormwater system should begin in October and the outfall inspections have been completed. Mr. Talley stated once we receive the letter from EPD, the consultant will work on going over the comments and will use the contract that was approved last year. He informed the Board that Leesburg and Lee County's reports are similar and therefore should receive the same type of comments. As of right now, the consultant does not see anything problematic.

Commissioner Guarnieri asked if Mr. Talley foresees any problems with getting this permit from EPD, to which Mr. Talley answered that he does not. If we are not told what is wrong with the 2023 report, then the 2024 report will look the same. Last time this took place, four years of annual reports had to be updated within 30 days. Mr. Talley stated that the County has good programs that are working, such as Rivers Alive and Great American Clean Up.

7. **PUBLIC HEARING**

8. **DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS**

A) **Fire & EMS - Consideration to award the bid for the purchase of Turn Out Gear.**

County Manager Christi Dockery stated that this is a bid done every year and is a budgeted item. She stated that there was only one vendor who bid, Municipal Emergency Services, who the County has worked with for seven years. Commissioner Walls asked if this was for the whole department. Ms. Dockery stated that they stagger the replacements on a rotation when they expire; this bid is for 15 to be replaced.

Commissioner Walls made the **MOTION** to award the bid for the purchase of Turn Out Gear to Municipal Emergency Services, Inc. for \$51,925.35. Commissioner Roland seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.

9. **CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS & GOVERNMENTAL BOARDS/AUTHORITIES**

10. **COUNTY MANAGER'S MATTERS**

A) **Updates on County projects.**

County Manager Christi Dockery discussed ongoing projects in the County, including: (1) Rivers Alive event to be held on September 21, 2024 - Collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce, Public Works, River Keepers, and Code Enforcement; (2) Georgia Department of Transportation is continuing to work on the Westover Road Project, which is scheduled to be completed in December 2024; (3) Georgia Department of Transportation plans to begin repairing the Smithville Road Bridge in October 2024; (4) a new Speed Limit Ordinance has been submitted for the permit to allow the Sheriff's Office to issue citations; (5) the Callaway Lakes, Pirates Cove, and Springdale parks are nearing completion, only currently awaiting details such as picnic tables; and (6) Windstream is

continuing to progress with their project.

B) Discussion of the First Amendment to the Intergovernmental Contract for the Joint Provision of Services with the City of Albany.

County Manager Christi Dockery summarized the amendment with the City of Albany. They currently run fiber and gas lines through the County. This amendment will extend the contract to December 31, 2024. In addition to the original intergovernmental agreement, paragraph three has been added to include limits to the permitting. These limits will allow staff to have ten days to respond to permits due to short staffing and the number of permits issued each week. Ms. Dockery stated that within the next four months the City of Albany would like to renegotiate a new contract.

Commissioner Walls stated that even though the County gives the City permission, they still need to ask permission from private subdivisions and roads before installing anything. Ms. Dockery stated that any utilities going into private subdivisions or roads need permission. Staff has created a list of all private subdivisions and roads; they will notify applicants that permission is needed. However, that is not listed in the agreement as this is just an amendment to the original contract, all that has been added is the limit to the number of permits each week and the timeline. Vice-Chairman Guarnieri asked if they get permission in writing or a copy of it. Ms. Dockery answered that they do and the permits are issued through the Planning Department.

11. COMMISSIONER'S MATTERS

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

13. COUNTY ATTORNEY'S MATTERS

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

15. PUBLIC FORUM

Vice-Chairman Guarnieri asked if anyone would like to speak.

With no comments or questions from the audience, the Public Forum was closed.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A) Offices of the Lee County Board of Commissioners will be **closed Monday, September 2, 2024** for Labor Day. Residential garbage collection will be delayed one day beginning Monday. Commercial garbage collection will remain on schedule.

B) The next regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting will be held **Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 6:00pm.**

C) The Lee County Rivers Alive annual clean-up event will be **Saturday, September 21, 2024 from 9:00am to 1:00pm.** There will both be on water and on land opportunities to volunteer. A Waiver must be signed for participation. Please contact the Lee County Chamber of Commerce at (229) 759-2422 for more information.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:42PM.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY CLERK