



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

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 AT 6:00 PM
T. PAGE THARP BUILDING
OPAL CANNON AUDITORIUM
WWW.LEE.GA.US

MEETING MINUTES
Work Session

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

The Lee County Board of Commissioners met in a work session on Tuesday, April 8, 2025. 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 Luke Singletary, Commissioner Dennis Roland, and Commissioner George Walls. Staff in attendance were County Manager Christi Dockery, County Clerk Kaitlyn Good, and County Attorney Jimmy Skipper. Vice-Chairman Chris Guarnieri and Commissioner Billy Mathis were absent. The meeting was also streamed on Facebook Live. Chairman Singletary called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **INVOCATION**

A) Reverend Anna Miller, First United Methodist Church of Albany, to lead the invocation.

Reverend Anna Miller led the invocation.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A) Consideration to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2025 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2025 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Singletary voting yea.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Singletary and the Board recognized Lt. Grady Barfield with Lee County Fire and EMS for the completion of his Fire Chief Officer Certification at the Georgia Fire Chief's Conference. Chairman Singletary thanked him for his dedication and hard work.

7. **PUBLIC HEARING**

8. **DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS**

A) Planning, Zoning & Engineering - Review of the minutes of the March 6, 2025 Planning Commission meeting.

The minutes were reviewed as presented.

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

10. **COUNTY MANAGER'S MATTERS**

A) Updates on County projects.

County Manager Christi Dockery provided updates to the following County projects: (1) Great American Cleanup/ Amnesty Day had a great volunteer turnout this past weekend; and (2) the 2025 LRA (supplemental LMIG funding) application has been submitted and subsequently approved by GDOT for Ledo Road resurfacing.

B) Consideration to authorize staff to put out a bid for a video surveillance system for County buildings.

County Manager Christi Dockery summarized the need for an updated camera system as well as the desired locations. Funding for this project could come from either ARPA funds, Facilities, or SPLOST. The bid, when published, would list the buildings separately should one need to be pulled.

Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to authorize staff to put out a bid for a video surveillance system for County Buildings. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Singletary voting yea.

C) Discussion of a speed hump policy.

Public Works Director Mike Sistrunk summarized the proposed policy and procedure for speed humps, stating once a request is received, he would like to place a speed trailer (the County owns two) at the location for a set period of time to gauge need and then a petition containing signatures from the majority of property owners (60%) would be collected. This process would be much more organized and streamlined than it stands currently. Data from the speed trailers would include traffic counts as well as vehicle speed and times. The Sheriff's Office could also benefit from this data as they can use it to know when extra patrol may be beneficial in an area.

Mr. Sistrunk stating that there were currently 46 speed humps out around the County, valued at approximately \$2,500.00 per set. Commissioner Roland asked about permanent speed bumps, to which Mr. Sistrunk stated a bid was put out for them several years ago, with pricing being obtained for both asphalt and concrete options. They are very expensive and much more difficult to install and remove.

Commissioner Roland suggested that every district be allotted a certain number of speed humps, with the commissioner getting to decide where they go. This item will be brought back to the Board at the next meeting, when all commissioners have time to review.

11. **COMMISSIONER'S MATTERS**

12. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

13. **COUNTY ATTORNEY'S MATTERS**

A) Consideration to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Chehaw Park Authority relating to the expenditure of hotel-motel tax funds received by the County under Title 48 of the Georgia

Tax Code.

An updated agreement and additional handout were provided to the Board. County Attorney Jimmy Skipper summarized the agreement, stating that per the current statute, hotel/motel funds must be spent on tourism and currently, the County's only real option is Chehaw Park. In the future, the legislation could be rewritten to involve the recreation projects on the 100 acre property. The presented agreement would be until June 30 (end of fiscal year) and would then renew for another fiscal year (July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026).

Lee County, Georgia, pursuant to O.C.G.A. 48-13-50, is authorized to collect a 7% hotel/motel occupancy tax. In past years, this has been a relatively small amount due to the fact there is only one motel in the County. Recently, with the growing number of short-term rentals throughout the County, this amount has increased. To be compliant with O.C.G.A. 48-13-51 (a) (4.4), the County is required to expend 28.58% of the hotel/motel tax collected annually for the purpose of “either marketing or operating a community auditorium or theater facility or a community convention or trade center of which the theater or auditorium is a part”.

Since a large portion of Chehaw Park is in Lee County, and they operate the Creekside Center, they qualify for up to 28.58% of the County’s hotel/motel funds. These funds must be spent by June 30 of each fiscal year. This contribution is estimated to be approximately \$8,500.00 each fiscal year.

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

15. **PUBLIC FORUM**

Chairman Singletary asked if anyone would like to speak.

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

16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A) The next meeting of the Lee County Board of Commissioners will be April 22, 2025 at 6:00pm.

B) Offices of the Lee County Board of Commissioners will be closed **Friday, April 18, 2025** in observance of Good Friday. Residential garbage collection services will not be affected.

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:29PM.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK