

MINUTES OF THE LEE COUNTY COMMISSION, REGULAR TERM, AUGUST 11, 2025

The Lee County Commission convened in regular session at the Courthouse in Opelika, Alabama, Monday, August 11, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by an invocation by Judge Colley.

The Chairman declared a quorum and officially opened the meeting with the following members recorded as being present: Judge Jere Colley, Chairman, and Commissioners Doug Cannon, Ross Morris, Jeff Drury, Tony Langley and Richard LaGrand.

Lisa Bland addressed the Commission and thanked Commissioner Langley for speaking to her regarding issues with Lee Road 262. She also stated she was concerned about grass on roadways being killed by spraying as opposed to cutting. She said the current practice is damaging the roadways because it is causing erosion. She requested for any additional funds to go toward bush hogs and tractors and let the grass grow as opposed to killing it.

Judge Colley recognized the elected officials in attendance: Sheriff Jay Jones and Revenue Commissioner Oline Price. News media in attendance: Alex Husting with the Opelika- Auburn Nes and Hannah Goldfinger with the Opelika Observer.

Commissioner Morris recognized Auburn Parks and Recreation 2025 USSSA 11U All-Stars youth baseball team for its accomplishments. The team started the summer by going 4-0 and won the championship in the Honor Our Troops USSSA tournament in Millbrook; were undefeated in the USSSA Alabama Region 7 tournament in Wetumpka winning the championship going 4-0. The team earned a bid to the World Series by going 3-1 in the USSSA State Tournament in Oxford. At the World Series in Baton Rouge the team went 7-1 to win the USSSA Rec All-Stars World Series over teams from Louisiana, Mississippi and other teams from Alabama, finishing their season at 19-2 and outscoring their opponents 198-86. Team members are Rory Keane; Nate Kimbrow; Zach Knight; Boman Marshall; Malachi Maxwell; Owen McCay; Joseph Miller; Park Moore; Banks Murphy; Luke Oliver; Trey Pelham; and Benjamin Seagle. Coaches for the team are Andrew McCay, Head Coach; Ashley Miller; and Jerry Pelham.

Commissioner Drury recognized students from West Smiths Station Elementary BETA Team for its recent accomplishments. This summer the team competed at the National BETA Convention in Orlando. The team placed 4th in the nation in Engineering and had two students place in the top ten: Zander Place, 7th in Woodworking and Abigail Thomason, 10th in Drawing. Team members are: Grant Bodley; Izaiah Butler; Iyana Kennedy; Camden O'Steen; Porter Owens; Zander Place; Abigail Thomason; and Iona Kennedy.

Commissioner Langley recognized the Beauregard High School Varsity Cheer Squad for their recent accomplishments. At this summer's UCS Cheer Camp at Auburn University, the squad

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earned several honors including: Overall Gameday Camp Champs; Traditions Award; Spirit Routine - 2nd; Spirit Cheer - 2nd; UCA Spirit Stick; VEA Spirit Stick; and Gold Evaluation Ribbon. Three squad members were named All-American Cheerleaders (Brody Edwards, Drew Lott, and Aubrey Baker), and four members were recipients of the Pin It Forward Award (Ella Martin, Emberlee Hill, Ryleigh Bishop and Brody Edwards.) Squad members are: Aubrey Baker; Annabelle Perkins; Drew Lott; Brody Edwards; Sara Whatley; Emberlee Hill; Cara Griffith; Meredith Pike; Ryleigh Bishop; MaKenzie Denney; Ella Martin; and Gracie Whorton. The squad is coached by Joy Edwards.

Austin Bayles provided an overview of East Alabama Health EMS services and requested an increase in funding. He stated EMS is currently meeting all benchmarks with a current average response time in the county of 14 minutes. He said it is necessary to purchase new trucks, with two recently purchased with their cost increased dramatically. To purchase a new truck, provide maintenance and staff for one year runs close to \$1 million; salaries associated with the news trucks and labor costs are where a majority of the expenses come from. He shared that with the increase in funding, an additional 911 truck will be added bringing the total to eight 911 trucks running 24 hours a day.

The amount being requested for FY2026 by all entities is \$632,194, an increase from the previous amount which was \$447,780. He stated the requested amount is a breakeven point; however, if margins are more than 1% over, that overage will be shared back with each entity.

Commissioner Drury asked what other funding sources EMS has, with Mr. Bayles stating it receives funding from Auburn, Opelika, Lee County and insurance billing. Commissioner Cannon asked if the amount paid by each varied, with Mr. Bayles stating that all entities pay the same. No action was taken on the item.

Commissioner Morris made a motion to move the Executive Session to the next item to be discussed. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion which passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

At approximately 5:28 p.m., Judge Colley announced the Commission needs to adjourn into Executive Session. Judge Colley said the exception to the Open Meetings Act is based upon the need to discuss personnel matters. Those expected to be in attendance included the Commission and County Attorney Tutt Barrett. Commissioner Morris made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Langley to adjourn into executive session. Judge Colley stated the session should last approximately 30 minutes and formal action is anticipated at the conclusion. The Commissioner reconvened at 5:58 with no action taken. The item will be placed on the next Agenda.

Copies of the items on the Consent Agenda sent to the Commissioners in their packets included: listings of claims to be approved and ratified, procurement card transactions listing,

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and a copy of the minutes from July 28, 2025. Also announced were three openings on the DHR Board. Commissioner Cannon made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda which was seconded by Commissioner Langley. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hardee presented the Lee Road 146 and 54 Roundabout bid. He stated that at the previous bid opening the project zero bids were received. The Commission granted approval to move forward as law allowed with informal quotes. He then asked Assistant County Engineer Patrick Harvill to discuss the results. Mr. Harvill stated that through the informal process, they reached out to seven different contractors and received two bids in return. Bids were received from Chris Clark Paving and Grading in Lanett and McElhenney Construction Company from Mobile. The low bid was received from Chris Clark for \$876,930, with McElhenney bidding \$971,032.59. Mr. Harvill requested the bid to be awarded to Chris Clark but wanted to note that, due to previous projects, the company could not start until after Thanksgiving, which would also mean construction would begin after football season, which could be beneficial. Commissioner LaGrand made the motion to award the bid to Chris Clark, which was seconded by Commissioner Drury. The motion passed unanimously.

Under New Business, Commissioner LaGrand discussed Christmas holidays. He stated he would like to reward county employees by having Christmas Eve off in addition to the previously approved holidays of Christmas Day and Dec. 26. He then made a motion to have the December holidays be Dec. 24, 25 and 26th. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Langley and passed unanimously.

Sheriff Jones presented a Special Events Retail license application for Premium Pours Bartending for a one-day event to be held at Twenty-One Acres on Friday, October 3. Commissioner LaGrand made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Langley to approve the following Resolution approving the Special Events Retail license application as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Lee County Commission hereby approves the special events retail license for Premium Pours for a one-day event on October 3 at Twenty-One Acres, located at 5535 Wire Road, Auburn, Alabama.

Sheriff Jones then presented the results of Bid 2025-08 for the acquisition of equipment to install in LCSO vehicles. Three bids were received from ProLogic in Acworth, Ga.; Mobile Communications in Columbus, Ga.; and Interceptor Public Safety in Forsythe, Ga. The low bidder was ProLogic IPS at \$19,659.12. He stated the bid was a budgeted item in the current budget and came in below what had been anticipated and requested the Commission to award the bid to ProLogic. Commissioner Cannon made the motion which was seconded by Commissioner LaGrand. The motion was approved unanimously.

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County Administrator Holly Leverette presented an approval request for a Commission Office intern. She stated information had previously been presented regarding the hiring of a Commission Office intern. That information included a list of 22 tasks and projects the intern could assist with over the next 18 months while he pursues his Master's in Public Administration at Auburn. She stated she is formally requesting approval for the hire, which would cost an estimated \$2,745 for this budget year and \$26,000 for the next budget year. Commissioner Langley asked if this was a budgeted item; Ms. Leverette stated it would be in addition, as interns are not included in the Commission's budget as placeholders. Commissioner Drury made a motion to approve the hiring of the intern, which was seconded by Commissioner LaGrand. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hardee presented a final plat for approval for 51 Place Subdivision, located in District 5. Mr. Hardee said it is creating three lots with the smallest being one acre. The development will utilize existing road frontage and has been reviewed and meets the minimum requirements of the Lee County Subdivision and Land Development Regulations. Mr. Hardee said the subdivision is located adjacent to AL Hwy 51 and a copy of the plat and location map were included in the packets. Mr. Hardee said adjacent property owner(s) were notified of the development via letters sent out July 23, 2025, so they may attend and voice their support, opposition, or obtain more information. Judge Colley asked if anyone in attendance wished to speak.

Mr. Daniel Dowling spoke and stated he owned property immediately to the North of the subdivision. He said his primary concern is the drainage of the property and wanted to ensure his property would not experience runoff issues. Mr. Hardee stated the Building Inspection Department would look at site construction work and ensure mitigation efforts were in place to prevent any adverse effects from happening. Should they do occur, the citizen and the Department could contact ADEM as no work done should negatively impact adjacent properties. Commissioner Drury asked if driveway pipe would need to meet Highway Department specs with Mr. Hardee stated that because it is connecting to AL Hwy 51 it would be ALDOT responsible for that as well as access management.

Commissioner LaGrand made a motion for approval with Commissioner Langley seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

A request to table the final item, the establishment of a pre-identified line item for county disaster expenses, until a COO is in place was made. Commissioner Langley made the motion which was seconded by Commissioner Cannon. The motion to table was unanimous.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.