



LUMPKIN COUNTY
Board of Commissioners
Work Session II Minutes
99 Courthouse Hill
Dahlonega, GA 30533

October 21, 2025
5:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm. Present were Chairman Chris Dockery and Commissioners Tucker Greene, Bobby Mayfield, Rhett Stringer, and Jeff Moran.

MINUTES

1. Board of Commissioners - Work Session - September 2, 2025 4:00 PM
2. Board of Commissioners - Public Hearing - Character Area Amendment - September 16, 2025 4:30 PM
3. Board of Commissioners - Work Session II - September 16, 2025 5:30 PM
4. Board of Commissioners - Regular Meeting - September 16, 2025 6:00 PM
5. Board of Commissioners - Public Hearing - Proposed Budget - September 16, 2025 6:30 PM
6. Board of Commissioners - Special Called Meeting - Establish Millage Rate & Adopt Budget - September 30, 2025 4:30 PM

RESOLUTIONS

7. 2025-52 Resolution to Update Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance (*County Clerk Melissa Witcher*)

8. 2025-53 Resolution Appointing Members to Hospital Authority - *Reesa Crisson-Shedd to Seat 3, with a term expiring 03/01/2029, and Jill Holman to Seat 6, with a term expiring 03/01/2026*
9. 2025-54 Resolution for the Recreational Trail Program Grant Pre-Application Authorization Letter, Project Schedule, and Project Cost Estimate (*Rebecca Mincey*)
Mr. Ours informed the BOC that Rebecca Mincey recommends supporting the grant at the 40% level because it will be more competitive.

CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

10. 2025-099 Ninth District Opportunity Inc. Lease - Head Start Building (*Assistant County Manager Ashley Peck*)
11. 2025-100 Sandy Springs Vehicle Transfer to Lumpkin County Sheriff Department - 2 Sheriff Department Vehicles (*Fleet Maintenance Manager Randy Allison*)
12. 2025-101 Dawson County - Fire/EMS Automatic Aid Agreement (*EMS Director David Wimpy*)
13. 2025-102 E911 Central Square Additional Field Ops Licenses/Subscriptions Contract (*E911 Director Carlton Chester*)
14. 2025-103 Banking Services Contract (*Finance Director Abby Branan*)
15. 2025-104 Document Destruction Contract - A1 Shredding & Recycling (*Finance Director Abby Branan*)
16. 2025-105 Vendor & Bid Management Contract – Bidnet (*Finance Director Abby Branan*)
17. 2025-106 Mobile Communications Contract - Lumpkin County Radio Tower Dish Alignment (*E911 Carlton Chester*) **Ratify**

18. 2025-107 Display Case in Administration Building - Dahlonaga's Military Heritage Museum (*County Clerk Melissa Witcher*)
19. 2025-108 Legacy Link Contract for SFY 2026 (*Senior Center Manager, Marc Bottoms*)
20. 2025-109 Verida, Inc. SFY 2026 Sub-Contractor Coordinated Transportation Agreement (*Senior Center Manager, Marc Bottoms*)
21. 2025-110 Georgia Natural Gas – Natural Gas Agreement (*Finance Director Abby Branan*)
22. 2025-111 County Roads Safety Improvements Bid Award — Blount Construction Co. (*Special Projects Manager Charles Trammell*)
23. 2025-112 Enotah Public Defender Indigent Defense Contract – Four Counties (*Finance Director Abby Branan*) **Ratify**

OTHER ITEMS

24. Special Event Permit - The Highland Masquerade at Wimpy Farms - Etowah Meadery (*County Clerk Melissa Witcher*)
25. Transfer of Property at 120 Riley Road to LC Development Authority (*County Manager Alan Ours*)
26. Secure Rural Schools Act - Title III Money - Certification on Use of Funds (*Finance Director Abby Branan*)
27. Decision on Ramakrishnan Srinivasan for Character Area Map Amendment on Parcel 083 100 - Residential Growth to Gateway Corridor Overlay District (*Community Development Director Vanessa McGrath*) **Regular Meeting**

28. Request for ARPA Funding Allocation – Cane Branch WWTP Collection System Improvements (*W&S Authority Director Sean Phipps*)
29. Recommendation on Scope of Work for Energy Savings Project (*Assistant County Manager Ashley Peck*)
- Commissioner Greene said he and Commissioner Stringer had been meeting with the company regarding these projects, and after a lot of reprioritizing, they feel more comfortable about moving forward. Commissioner Stringer said they tried to narrow the projects down to whatever would affect operations most if it failed.

COUNTY MANAGER

Mr. Ours said the recycling center had its first cardboard pull, and it was about 6,000 pounds. The compactor has greatly reduced the number of trips needed, as previous loads were only about 1,100 pounds. The site attendants are also helping to greatly reduce the amount of contaminated recyclables, so everything is working as it should. Chairman Dockery said we now accept glass, and glass recycling can be used in some very creative ways. Union County, for example, can pulverize recycled glass and use it in asphalt.

ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER & DEPARTMENT HEADS

COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Greene suggested that we could hand out flyers with a QR code during the first few months of recycling in order to survey customers for their feedback.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Specific)

Melvin Turner, resident of Alonzo Cain Road, made some comments regarding an incident last Saturday and early Sunday morning. Mr. Turner said there is an AirBnB near his house on his road, and there was a large party being hosted there that night. He said there were dozens of people and dozens of cars blocking the road, and he said many of the people looked like illegal immigrants and were trespassing all over his property. Mr. Turner and several of his neighbors called 911, and deputies responded multiple times, but Mr. Turner was very dissatisfied with the Lumpkin County Sheriff's Office's response to this situation. Mr. Turner said a deputy informed him that if he chased people off of his property, he could be charged with assault, and he said he has the right to defend his property according to state law. He claimed the LCSO is failing to uphold the laws and the ordinances, and his neighbors were terrified. Mr. Turner said there was also a missing juvenile at this party who left with an adult. He stated we need more regulations for short-term rentals, such as a three or five-day minimum. Mr. Turner said he spoke to Sheriff Jarrard on Monday and he apologized for the errors made by the LCSO that night, but things need to change because our sheriff's office consistently falls short. He also commented on the reports and bodycam footage that he obtained from an Open Records Act request, saying it was

the sloppiest police work he has ever seen. He said he cannot trust the LCSO, and claimed that they are allowing this county to be a sanctuary county for illegals. Mr. Turner also complained that he e-mailed the Board of Commissioners about the situation, and none of them responded.

Chairman Dockery said he is aware that the County Manager, Alan Ours, did respond to Mr. Turner. He asked Mr. Ours if he had anything to add. Mr. Ours said Planning & Development looked into the matter and sent a certified letter to the owner of the short-term rental informing them that the incident this past weekend was a violation of the short-term rental ordinance. Failure to comply will result in citations and possibly a suspension of their license.

Sheriff Jarrard said his officers did get some things wrong during this incident. They had some confusion about whether the situation was a problem with the noise ordinance or a disorderly house, and they initially thought Alonzo Cain was a private road. He said the officers have been counseled and instructed on what to do differently in the future. The Sheriff said most of the 911 callers on that night did not want to meet with deputies to file a report, though there were also calls about a juvenile out of Forsyth County and some missing keys. The officers did start making vehicles move out of the road the third time they responded to the property. Sheriff Jarrard also said that there were far more 911 calls about the house in question before it became a short-term rental in 2021. Since then, there have only been two 911 calls before last weekend's incident. He said he was not happy with how his officers responded that night, so he does apologize. He said humans make mistakes, but he is doing everything he can to make sure it doesn't happen again, including having special training this week regarding the noise ordinance and disorderly houses. He said he does think we have a professional Sheriff's Office; we have been certified with the Georgia Sheriff's Association for 17 years and counting. Regarding Mr. Turner's records requests, some of the info could not be released due to Open Records Law exemptions, and the ORA officer at the LCSO could explain that in more detail. The Sheriff also clarified that while he is unaware if the party attendees were here legally or illegally, we are not a sanctuary county for illegal immigrants. His office has an agreement with the government to turn over any undocumented immigrants for deportation. The Sheriff also asked if the Planning Department could provide them with a list of all short-term rentals in the County so officers will be aware when they respond to calls. Chairman Dockery said that was an excellent idea.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 pm.

Date

Chris Dockery, Chairman
Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Melissa Witcher
Clerk, Lumpkin County