



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

November 4, 2025
4:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm. Present were Chairman Chris Dockery and Commissioners Tucker Greene, Bobby Mayfield, Rhett Stringer, and Jeff Moran.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Dahlonega-Lumpkin County Chamber of Commerce Presentation - *Chamber Director Robb Nichols*

Commissioner Mayfield commended the Development Authority for the excellent work they have been doing, and Chairman Dockery complimented Mr. Nichols on how he has the Chamber offices set up to allow the public to benefit from them. Commissioner Moran said he is greatly enjoying Leadership Lumpkin County, and he recommends signing up for the class.

2. Dahlonega-Lumpkin County Visitors Bureau Presentation (*Executive Director Sam McDuffie*)

Commissioner Stringer asked Mr. McDuffie how they calculate what percentage of money is spent by residents versus tourists. Mr. McDuffie said it is primarily obtained from credit card zip code data and things like Apple Pay. Commissioner Stringer asked why Blue Ridge seems to have so much more tourism than we do, and Mr. McDuffie said they have a large number of short-term rentals around the lake.

MINUTES

3. Board of Commissioners - Work Session - October 7, 2025 4:00 PM
4. Board of Commissioners - Work Session II - October 4, 2025 5:30 PM
5. Board of Commissioners - Regular Meeting - October 21, 2025 6:00 PM

RESOLUTIONS

6. 2025-55 Consideration of 2026 BOC Meeting Calendar (*County Clerk Melissa Witcher*)
7. 2025-56 Establish 2026 Lumpkin County Government Holiday Schedule (*Community & Employee Services Director Alicia Davis*)
8. 2025-57 Consideration of the Lumpkin County 2026 Budget Calendar for FY 2027 Budget (*Finance Director Abby Branan*)
9. 2025-58 Consideration of a Finance & Purchasing Policy (*Finance Director Abby Branan*)
10. 2025-59 Resolution Recognizing Eastern Band of Cherokee
11. 2025-60 Resolution Designating Auraria Road as Cherokee Heritage Parkway
12. 2025-61 Reappoint Member to Board of Health - *Bridgette Barker with a term expiring 12/31/2031*
13. 2025-62 Appoint Members to the Audit Committee - *Commissioner Moran to Seat 1, District 3 Commissioner Stringer to Seat 2, -- to Seat 3, Melissa Witcher to Seat 4, --- to Seat 5, County Manager to Seat 6, Finance Director to Seat 7, Budget/Grant Analyst to Seat 8, and Purchasing Agent to Seat 9 all with terms expiring 12/31/2026.*
14. 2025-63 Appoint Members to Lumpkin County Building Committee - *Wayne Marshall to Seat 8, Charles Trammell to Seat 9, -- to Seat 10, and Matt Cain to Seat 11 with terms expiring 12/31/2026*
15. 2025-64 Appoint/Reappoint Members to Lumpkin County Park & Rec Citizens Advisory Board - *Michael Shawn Boyd to Seat 1, Jessica Tardonia to Seat 3, and -- to Seat 5 all with terms expiring 12/31/2027*

CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

16. 2025-113 Display Case in Senior Center - Dahlonge's Military Heritage Museum (*County Clerk Melissa Witcher*)
17. 2025-114 Stryker ProCare Maintenance Agreement (*EMS Director David Wimpy*)
18. 2025-115 AirGas Service Agreement (*EMS Director David Wimpy*)
19. 2025-116 Native American Park Landscaping & Engineering Contract - Breedlove Land Planning (*County Manager Alan Ours*)
Commissioner Mayfield said we should stop referring to it as a Native American Park or First Nations Park and call it Cherokee Heritage Park.
20. 2025-117 Tek84 Body Scanner Annual Service Contract (*Sheriff Stacy Jarrard*)
21. 2025-118 Halls Mill Enterprises LLC d/b/a Chestatee River Adventures c/o Rhett Stringer – Canoe Launch Sublease Renewal (*County Clerk Melissa Witcher*)
Commissioner Stringer abstained from any discussion on this item.
22. 2025-119 Canoe Georgia, Inc. d/b/a Appalachian Outfitters c/o Ben LaChance – Canoe Launch Sublease Renewal (*County Clerk Melissa Witcher*)
Commissioner Stringer abstained from any discussion on this item.
23. 2025-120 Classic Cleaners – 2026 Lease (*County Clerk Melissa Witcher*)
24. 2025-121 Tax Commissioner New Tax Software - Assurance Tax Software (*Tax Commissioner Mike Young*)
Commissioner Mayfield asked if the passage of House Bill 581 caused some of the issues with the tax software this year. Mr. Young said he thinks they are just falling behind the times. About one-third of Georgia's counties will have their 2025 tax bills due in 2026 because of the software delay. Commissioner Stringer asked how the price of the new software compares to the current program we use, and Finance Director Abby Branan said the new software's yearly maintenance fee will be anywhere from \$1,000 to \$4,000 more

than the current fee. There is an initial setup fee of \$27,000. Chairman Dockery said the funding source will need to be discussed prior to the next meeting.

25. 2025-122 Energy and Construction Services Contract - Schneider Electric Buildings Americas, Inc (*County Manager Alan Ours*)

Commissioner Stringer said there are several exclusions listed, and he would like clarification on those. The Chairman asked Mr. Ours if he could prepare a list of explanations for the exclusions.

26. 2025-123 Request to Consider First Responder PTSD Insurance (*Community & Employee Services Director Alicia Davis*)

Commissioner Mayfield asked if the County pays for this, or if the affected employees are required to pay. Alicia Davis said this is a renewal of the insurance that the State requires as of last year. The affected employees do not pay for this.

27. 2025-124 2026 Pictometry International Corp. Aerial Photography MOU - City of Dahlenega, UNG, & Lumpkin County (*County Clerk Melissa Witcher*)

Commissioner Mayfield asked for more clarification on this contract. Vanessa McGrath, Community Development Director, explained that this contract produces our GIS imaging. Chairman Dockery asked Ms. McGrath if she had checked with the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission because they do offer aerial photography services, and it might be cheaper. Ms. McGrath said this renewal is the last of three renewals, so they will check with GMRC next year about their aerial imaging.

OTHER ITEMS

28. Request from the Georgia Cycling Association (*County Manager Alan Ours*)

Chairman Dockery clarified that this is a temporary agreement and does not mean that the property at Blackburn Park will be used for trails in perpetuity, as the land might be needed for the Park & Rec program or other purposes in the future.

29. City of Dahlenega Annexation - Bryan Bergstein Property (*County Clerk Melissa Witcher*)

30. 2026 SPLOST 2025 Work Plan Amendment (*Finance Director Abby Branan*)

COUNTY MANAGER

ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER & DEPARTMENT HEADS

COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Specific)

Gilbert Wilson, resident of Old Leathers Ford Road, said that trucks and tractor-trailers have been using the road as a thruway and sometimes get stuck because the road is so tight with ditches on either side. Mr. Wilson said from a safety standpoint, it would be better to close off the entrance to the road close to the water treatment plant and only have one entrance open. Chairman Dockery said Charles Trammell and Chris Thomas can take a look at it. We will need to consider the needs of emergency vehicles and the opinion of any neighbors that might be affected, he said.

Karolyn Jarrard, representative of the Georgia Cycling Association, thanked the BOC for their support of the Trail Rangers youth bike program by allowing them to use the trails at Blackburn Park. She said it is a growing sport, and more people want to be out in nature.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 pm.

Date

Chris Dockery, Chairman
Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Melissa Witcher
Clerk, Lumpkin County