



LUMPKIN COUNTY Board of Commissioners

Work Session Minutes
99 Courthouse Hill
Dahlonega, GA 30533

January 6, 2026
4:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm. Present were Chairman Chris Dockery and Commissioners Tucker Greene, Bobby Mayfield, Rhett Stringer, and Jeff Moran.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Jackson EMC Veterans Cemetery Donation
David Lee and Lee Chapman, representatives from Jackson EMC, presented a \$10,000 donation to the Lumpkin County Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

MINUTES

2. Board of Commissioners - Work Session - December 2, 2025 4:00 PM
3. Board of Commissioners - Public Hearing - December 16, 2025 5:20 PM
4. Board of Commissioners - Work Session II - December 16, 2025 5:30 PM
5. Board of Commissioners - Regular Meeting - December 16, 2025 6:00 PM

RESOLUTIONS

6. 2026-01 Reappoint Member to Airport Authority - *Jackie Lee to Seat A, with a term expiring 02/19/2030*
7. 2026-02 Reappoint Members to Hospital Authority - *Leland Cox to Seat 5, and Jill Holman to Seat 6, both with terms expiring 03/01/2030*

8. 2026-03 Reappoint Member to Public Building Authority - *Ross Shirley to Seat 5, with a term expiring 02/21/2029*
9. 2026-04 Resolution to Increase the Number of Members on Park & Recreation Citizens Advisory Board, Remove Term Limits, & Approve Revised By-Laws
Commissioner Greene said he thinks increasing the members from five to seven will create some challenges. It will be difficult to fill seven seats. Commissioner Moran asked why the increase in seats is being proposed, and Chairman Dockery said it might make it easier to get a quorum for their meetings. The Chairman said he thinks this recommendation came from the Park & Rec Citizens Advisory Board, but he will support whatever they want. He said staff should communicate with the Park & Rec Citizens Advisory Board to find out what they actually want to do, since there seems to be some confusion, and then they can bring that before the BOC.
10. 2026-05 Reappoint Member to Development Authority of Lumpkin County - *Henry Davis to Seat 1, with a term expiring 03/07/2030*
11. 2026-06 Resolution to Adopt Roque Drive within the Magnolia @ Belle's Landing Subdivision (*Community Development Director Vanessa McGrath*)
12. 2026-07 Set Qualifying Fees - Candidate Seeking Election to Certain Offices (*Assistant County Manager Ashley Peck*)

CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

13. 2026-001 Agreement Between Lumpkin County & Georgia Cycling Association for the use of Blackburn Park for Mountain Bike Training and Practice (*County Manager Alan Ours*)
14. 2026-002 Mowing of Certain Right of Ways Hall County MOA (*County Manager Alan Ours*)
15. 2026-003 Aquatic Consulting & Equipment Maintenance Services Contract Renewal - Pinetree Recreation Center (*Pinetree Recreation Center Manager Jared Ray*)

16. 2026-004 Native American Park Bid Award - Colditz Trucking (*Special Projects Manager Charles Trammell*)
17. 2026-005 Tourism Service Contract with the Dahlonega-Lumpkin County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Inc. (*Finance Director Abby Branan*)
18. 2026-006 CJCC VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) - MOA (*Finance Director Abby Branan*)
19. 2026-007 Ambulance Billing Services Contract Renewal (*Finance Director Abby Branan*)
20. 2026-008 Yahoola Creek Park Multipurpose Field Turf Proposal (*Assistant County Manager Ashley Peck*) **Ratify**
Commissioner Mayfield asked if the remaining dollar amount could be used for things associated with that field, such as bleachers. Ms. Peck said we can use the additional funds if it fits within the scope of work, but for now, we are holding it for contingency in case we hit rock during the work.
21. 2026-009 Field 5 Concession/Bathroom Contract - Design Phase (*Assistant County Manager Ashley Peck*)

OTHER ITEMS

22. Livestreaming Board of Commissioners Meetings (*County Clerk Melissa Witcher*)
County Clerk Melissa Witcher explained the proposed options to the BOC. Regardless of which option we choose, we will have to acquire a laptop, a camera, and equipment to handle the audio. She said the BOC will also have to consider if they want to livestream every meeting or only the ones in the Commissioners' Boardroom, because streaming in other locations will require additional equipment. Ms. Witcher said the CivicPlus livestreaming option is the most expensive, but it will coordinate well with our existing agenda software, and it offers time-stamping. For any of these options, we will also have to follow the local government retention schedule set by the Georgia Archives, which requires storage of livestreamed meeting videos for 5 years. If we do not use a service that stores the files, we will have to purchase hard drives to store the videos manually, Ms. Witcher explained. She also added that if we choose to purchase the livestream feature from CivicPlus, we may be able to split the cost with other boards or authorities that may want to

use it.

Commissioner Mayfield said you get what you pay for. If we use YouTube, we will have to designate an employee to manage it, which might be difficult when employees are already stretched thin. Considering the viewer statistics for other counties' livestreamed meetings, none of those are huge numbers, he observed. The only time they had viewership in the triple digits was for contentious topics. Ms. Witcher said one of the things that concerns her is that she will need to be able to easily access videos for Open Records Act requests.

Commissioner Moran said he is open to livestreaming the meetings, but it will be several thousand dollars for a handful of viewers. Chairman Dockery said if we are going to do it, we need to do it correctly. He has tuned in to other counties' livestreams, and they usually only have a few viewers at a time. We could consider streaming the meetings for a year and then assess if it is something we want to continue. He said we also need to ensure the proper archiving of the records. Ms. Witcher said YouTube currently offers unlimited free video storage, but FaceBook only keeps livestreamed videos up for 30 days. If we used FaceBook live, we would have to download and store the videos for five years. Hall County uses Vimeo, and they pay \$75 a month for video storage.

Commissioner Mayfield said that whether we use FaceBook or YouTube, the equipment we purchase will be critical. We need to ensure we have good-quality cameras and sound equipment, or there will be complaints. Chairman Dockery said another consideration is camera operation. Will we have multiple cameras for the BOC and the audience? If so, who will do the camera switching? He said it sounds simple until you start digging in.

23. Election of Vice Chairman

Chairman Dockery said he intends to nominate Commissioner Jeff Moran at the regular meeting.

24. Lifeguard Instructors Job Description - Pinetree Recreation Center (*Pinetree Recreation Center Manager Jared Ray*)

25. 2026 TSPLOST Paving List - Add Veterans' Cemetery Road (*Special Projects Manager Charles Trammell*)

26. New Alcoholic Beverage License (Farm Winery) - Blair Housley for Etowah Meadery Corp. d/b/a Etowah (*County Clerk Melissa Witcher*)

Chairman Dockery asked why this licensee is having to obtain a new license. Ms. Witcher explained that they are moving locations and did not renew their license for their previous location. Commissioner Mayfield said there might be issues with the location being near

Longbranch Elementary School.

COUNTY MANAGER

Mr. Ours gave an update on the county recycling program. To date, we have recycled over 100,000 pounds, and none of the loads have been contaminated. This is a huge improvement over the old system, which frequently had contaminated loads. He commended Randy Allison and the staff at the recycling center for their excellent job.

ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER & DEPARTMENT HEADS

COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Mayfield said he supports Etowah Meadery one-hundred percent, but he is aware that the previous location had issues with neighbors getting angry over loud music. Will that be an issue at the new location? Blair Housley, owner of Etowah, said he has no plans for music or even TVs at the new location. Commissioner Mayfield said he was relieved, and he complimented Mr. Housley's product.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Specific)

Citizen Pam Dietz strongly voiced her support for livestreaming the Commissioner meetings. She said it will be critical to accountability and open government, as well as accessibility for the disabled and those who cannot attend BOC meetings in-person due to other constraints. She also said that many people do not have FaceBook anymore, so we should consider a more popular platform. Commissioner Mayfield said that is a good point. Some platforms, like YouTube, even have apps you can download to your TV.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 pm.

Date

Chris Dockery, Chairman
Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Melissa Witcher
Clerk, Lumpkin County

