



LUMPKIN COUNTY Board of Commissioners

Work Session II Minutes

**99 Courthouse Hill
Dahlonega, GA 30533**

**February 17, 2026
5:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm. Present were Chairman Chris Dockery and Commissioners Tucker Greene, Bobby Mayfield, Rhett Stringer, and Jeff Moran.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Mauldin & Jenkins Assessment Presentation

Chairman Dockery said as everyone is likely aware, the County was a victim of ACH fraud last year. As a result, the BOC ordered an independent audit of the Finance Department by Mauldin & Jenkins to see if there is anything we overlooked or can improve. They are here tonight to present an update on the audit.

Kate Russell of Mauldin & Jenkins gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining how the audit was conducted and the results. She said they started by looking over the County's financial processes, including all policies, instructions, and ordinances. Then they interview staff to hear how they do things in their own words, and they shadow the staff as they conduct their normal work to identify if there are any discrepancies between the policies and what the staff actually does. They reviewed how the Finance Department documents transactions, and they reviewed our ACH and vendor management. Ms. Russell said the County has already implemented a lot of the recommended best practices. Ms. Russell outlined some additional steps that the County could take for even better management, such as updating the vendor form to require the use of physical or verified electronic signatures, requiring vendors to disclose any conflicts of interest, and requiring banking information to be provided on bank letterhead. Ms. Russell stated that overall, the County has well-developed internal controls and maintains good documentation, and there are opportunities to develop additional County-wide policies and review steps to enhance standardization and consistency. Ms. Russell said the Finance Department was wonderful to work with, and they were extremely helpful and cooperative with Mauldin & Jenkins. The department is mature, operating quite efficiently and effectively, but also has opportunities to continue to enhance its processes and practices, she said.

Commissioner Mayfield said he noticed there are still a fair number of vendors who use paper checks, but perhaps they will modernize and switch to ACH payments. The BOC asked Ms. Russell if they found anything alarming with how the Finance Department conducts their day-to-day business, and Ms. Russell said no. The County has already implemented a lot of good practices, and you took action fairly immediately once you

realized something was wrong, Ms. Russell stated. The employees in Finance were very welcoming and forthcoming with information, she noted. Commissioner Mayfield commended our staff, and he said they were just as victimized by this incident as the rest of the taxpayers. Commissioner Greene asked Ms. Russell if Mauldin & Jenkins had witnessed this type of fraud occurring in other governments, and she gave an emphatic yes. They have recently seen this exact scam carried out upon a similarly sized local government. Commissioner Mayfield said it seems this type of fraud is on the rise, because it is much easier to deceive humans than computers.

PROCLAMATIONS

2. Proclamation Recognizing February as Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education Month
3. Dahlonga Sunrise Rotary Club The Wimpy Weekend Joint Proclamation ***Ratify***

MINUTES

4. Board of Commissioners - Work Session - January 6, 2026 4:00 PM
5. Board of Commissioners - Work Session II - January 20, 2026 5:30 PM
6. Board of Commissioners - Regular Meeting - January 20, 2026 6:00 PM
7. Board of Commissioners - Public Hearing - January 20, 2026 4:20 PM
8. Board of Commissioners - Appeal Hearing - January 20, 2026 4:30 PM
9. Board of Commissioners - Retreat - January 30, 2026 9:00 AM

RESOLUTIONS

10. 2026-09 Resolution Adopting the Parks & Recreation Department Tournament/Field Request & Approval Procedures (*Parks & Recreation Interim Manager Ahmad Kamara*)
11. 2026-10 Resolution to Update the Lumpkin County Fee Schedule (*Finance Director Abby Branan*)
12. 2026-11 Resolution to Amend the Finance & Purchasing Policy (*Finance Director Abby Branan*) **Ratify**
13. 2026-12 Appoint/Reappoint Members to Parks & Recreation Citizens Advisory Board - *Scott Lord to Seat 4, of an unexpired term ending 12/31/2026, and Hank Haynes to Seat 5, with a term expiring 12/31/2027*

CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

14. 2026-010 Georgia Transmission Utility Encroachment Agreement - Blackburn Road - Lumpkin County Veterans Cemetery **Ratify**
15. 2026-011 Disaster Debris Removal and Disposal Contract - Southern Disaster Recovery (*Roads Superintendent David Robinson*)
16. 2026-012 Disaster Debris Removal & Disposal Contract - Ceres Environmental (*Roads Superintendent David Robinson*)
17. 2026-013 Disaster Debris Monitoring Contract - Thompson Consulting Services (*Roads Superintendent David Robinson*)
18. 2026-014 Disaster Debris Monitoring Contract - DebrisTech (*Roads Superintendent David Robinson*)
19. 2026-015 CorrectHealth Inmate Medical Renewal (*Sheriff Stacy Jarrard*)

20. 2026-016 Contract Renewal for ESRI for ArcGIS Products (*Community Development Director Vanessa McGrath*)
21. 2026-017 Bluebeam Studio Subscription Service Renewal Agreement (*Community Development Director Vanessa McGrath*)
22. 2026-018 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Right of Entry Form - Yahoola Creek Park Streambank Restoration Project (*W&S Authority Director Sean Phipps*) **Ratify**
23. 2026-019 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Authorization to Act as an Agent Form - Yahoola Creek Park Streambank Restoration Project (*W&S Authority Director Sean Phipps*) **Ratify**
24. 2026-020 Mauldin & Jenkins – Audit Engagement Letter **Ratify**
25. 2026-021 2026 LMIG Asphalt Resurfacing Bid Award — C.W. Matthews (*Special Projects Manager Charles Trammell*)
26. 2026-022 2026 TSPLOST Asphalt Resurfacing Bid Award - Colditz Trucking (*Special Projects Manager Charles Trammell*)
27. 2026-023 Sandy Springs Vehicle Donation - K9 Police Pursuit Vehicle (*Fleet Manager Randy Allison*)
28. 2026-024 Amendment to 2025 LMIG Contract - Colditz Trucking (*Special Project Manager Charles Trammell*)

OTHER ITEMS

29. Special Event Alcoholic Beverage Permit - KC Bison Ranch Inaugural Winter Dinner (*County Clerk Melissa Witcher*) **Ratify**

30. 2014 SPLOST 2026 Work Plan (*Finance Director Abby Branan*)
31. 2020 SPLOST 2026 Work Plan (*Finance Director Abby Branan*)
32. 2023 TSPLOST 2026 Work Plan (*Finance Director Abby Branan*)
33. 2026 SPLOST 2026 Work Plan (*Finance Director Abby Branan*)
34. National Opioid Settlements 2026 Projects (*Finance Director Abby Branan*)
35. Create Additional Athletic Coordinator Position (*County Manager Alan Ours*)

COUNTY MANAGER

ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER & DEPARTMENT HEADS

COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Mayfield said Cindy Hunsinger, who was here to receive the CTAE Month proclamation, has done an outstanding job with those students. He also commended the City of Dahlonega for their work on the new sidewalk by the middle school.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Specific)

Katherine James, resident of 37 Blueberry Hill, said she did not hear any mention of cybersecurity during the audit presentation, and she said the BOC should consider doing "penetration testing," which is a simulated attack on the network to identify any vulnerabilities. Commissioner Mayfield said our IT vendor, ACNS, does a great job of staying on top of our cybersecurity. They even gave a cybersecurity presentation at the most recent GEMA conference.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 pm.

Date

Chris Dockery, Chairman
Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Melissa Witcher
Clerk, Lumpkin County