



LUMPKIN COUNTY
Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
99 Courthouse Hill
Dahlonega, GA 30533

February 17, 2026
6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm. Present were Chairman Chris Dockery and Commissioners Tucker Greene, Bobby Mayfield, Rhett Stringer, and Jeff Moran.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

***Motion:** Commissioner Mayfield moved to approve the agenda with the addition of a proclamation after item 3. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene, which was approved unanimously.*

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Specific)

PRESENTATIONS

1. Recognition of Winter Storm Employees

PROCLAMATIONS

2. Proclamation Recognizing February as Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education Month

***Motion:** Commissioner Stringer moved to approve the proclamation and was seconded by Commissioner Mayfield. The motion was approved unanimously.*

3. Dahlonega Sunrise Rotary Club The Wimpy Weekend Joint Proclamation **Ratify**

***Motion:** Commissioner Greene moved to approve the proclamation and was seconded by Commissioner Mayfield. The motion was approved unanimously.*

4. Proclamation in Recognition of Chairman Chris Dockery

***Motion:** Commissioner Moran moved to approve the proclamation and was seconded by*

Commissioner Stringer. The motion was approved unanimously.

MINUTES

Motion: *Commissioner Moran moved to approve the minutes by acclamation. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Greene, and it was approved unanimously.*

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

RESOLUTIONS

11. 2026-09 Resolution Adopting the Parks & Recreation Department Tournament/Field Request & Approval Procedures (*Parks & Recreation Interim Manager Ahmad Kamara*)
Motion: *Commissioner Stringer moved to approve the resolution and was seconded by Commissioner Greene. The motion was approved unanimously.*
12. 2026-10 Resolution to Update the Lumpkin County Fee Schedule (*Finance Director Abby Branan*)
Motion: *Commissioner Moran moved to approve the resolution and was seconded by Commissioner Stringer. The motion was approved unanimously.*
13. 2026-11 Resolution to Amend the Finance & Purchasing Policy (*Finance Director Abby Branan*) ***Ratify***

Motion: Commissioner Stringer moved to approve the resolution and was seconded by Commissioner Greene. The motion was approved unanimously.

14. 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

Motion: Chairman Dockery moved to appoint Scott Lord to seat 4, and his motion was seconded by Commissioner Moran. The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion: Chairman Dockery moved to appoint Hank Haynes to seat 5, and Commissioner Stringer seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

REPORTS

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Chairman Dockery invited City of Dahlonega Mayor Sam Norton to speak. Mayor Norton said regardless of what you may read in the newspaper, he and Chairman Dockery have always had a great working relationship. He said all of the Commissioners are veterans at the job, and they are very proficient at what they do. He said all of us are in this for the right reasons, and it is too small of a community to have imaginary lines. Mayor Norton said Chairman Dockery will be missed, and he wished him well in his future endeavors.

County Surveyor John Gaston said it has been a joy to work with Chairman Dockery all these years.

CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

15. 2026-010 Georgia Transmission Utility Encroachment Agreement - Blackburn Road - Lumpkin County Veterans Cemetery **Ratify**

Motion: Commissioner Greene moved to approve the agreement and was seconded by Commissioner Mayfield. The motion was approved unanimously.

16. 2026-011 Disaster Debris Removal and Disposal Contract - Southern Disaster Recovery (Roads Superintendent David Robinson)

Motion: Commissioner Mayfield moved to approve the agreement and was seconded by Commissioner Moran. The motion was approved unanimously.

17. 2026-012 Disaster Debris Removal & Disposal Contract - Ceres Environmental (Roads Superintendent David Robinson)

Motion: Commissioner Mayfield moved to approve the agreement and was seconded by Commissioner Greene. The motion was approved unanimously.

18. 2026-013 Disaster Debris Monitoring Contract - Thompson Consulting Services (Roads Superintendent David Robinson)

Motion: Chairman Dockery moved to approve the agreement and was seconded by Commissioner Mayfield. The motion was approved unanimously.

19. 2026-014 Disaster Debris Monitoring Contract - DebrisTech (Roads Superintendent David Robinson)

Motion: Commissioner Mayfield moved to approve the agreement and was seconded by Commissioner Moran. The motion was approved unanimously.

20. 2026-015 CorrectHealth Inmate Medical Renewal (Sheriff Stacy Jarrard)

Motion: Commissioner Greene moved to approve the agreement and was seconded by Commissioner Stringer. The motion was approved unanimously.

21. 2026-016 Contract Renewal for ESRI for ArcGIS Products (Community Development Director Vanessa McGrath)

Motion: Commissioner Mayfield moved to approve the agreement and was seconded by Commissioner Moran. The motion was approved unanimously.

22. 2026-017 Bluebeam Studio Subscription Service Renewal Agreement (Community Development Director Vanessa McGrath)

Motion: Commissioner Moran moved to approve the agreement and was seconded by Commissioner Greene. The motion was approved unanimously.

23. 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**

Motion: Commissioner Mayfield moved to approve the agreement and was seconded by Commissioner Moran. The motion was approved unanimously.

24. 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**

Motion: Commissioner Mayfield moved to approve the agreement and was seconded by Commissioner Greene. The motion was approved unanimously.

25. 2026-020 Mauldin & Jenkins – Audit Engagement Letter ***Ratify***
Motion: Commissioner Stringer moved to approve the engagement letter and was seconded by Commissioner Mayfield. The motion was approved unanimously.

26. 2026-021 2026 LMIG Asphalt Resurfacing Bid Award — C.W. Matthews (*Special Projects Manager Charles Trammell*)
Motion: Commissioner Greene moved to approve the agreement and was seconded by Commissioner Mayfield. The motion was approved unanimously.

27. 2026-022 2026 TSPLOST Asphalt Resurfacing Bid Award - Colditz Trucking (*Special Projects Manager Charles Trammell*)
Motion: Commissioner Stringer moved to approve the bid award and was seconded by Commissioner Greene. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Moran commented on some of the recent repairs to Town Creek Church Road. He said they seemed wavy and low quality, and he asked if there was a way to address that. The Chairman said he also heard a few complaints about that work, and he asked Charles Trammell if anything could be done. Mr. Trammell said we usually put a top surface over it after the shoulder work is done. The only way to fix it may be paving. He said the length is about three miles, which would be a few hundred thousand dollars. Chairman Dockery asked him if we could repave it in the future, and Mr. Trammell said he could add it to the TSPLOST paving list if there are funds left.

The Board agreed to put it on next month's agenda for the road to be considered for the TSPLOST paving list. Commissioner Stringer asked Mr. Trammell to score the road to see where it places on the paving list.

28. 2026-023 Sandy Springs Vehicle Donation - K9 Police Pursuit Vehicle (*Fleet Manager Randy Allison*)
Motion: Commissioner Greene moved to approve the vehicle donation, and he was seconded by Commissioner Moran. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Mayfield asked Fleet Manager Randy Allison for some clarification on what equipment was in this vehicle that was different from the other pursuit vehicles. Mr. Allison explained the equipment is for the kennel that goes in the back of the vehicle, which normally costs around \$13,000 to \$14,000.

29. 2026-024 Amendment to 2025 LMIG Contract - Colditz Trucking (*Special Project*

Manager Charles Trammell)

Motion: *Commissioner Greene moved to approve the contract and was seconded by Commissioner Mayfield. The motion was approved unanimously.*

OTHER ITEMS

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

Motion: *Commissioner Moran moved to ratify the permit and was seconded by Commissioner Mayfield. The motion was approved unanimously.*

31. 2014 SPLOST 2026 Work Plan (Finance Director Abby Branan)

Motion: *Commissioner Greene moved to approve the work plan and was seconded by Commissioner Mayfield. The motion was approved unanimously.*

32. 2020 SPLOST 2026 Work Plan (Finance Director Abby Branan)

Motion: *Commissioner Mayfield moved to approve the work plan and was seconded by Commissioner Stringer. The motion was approved unanimously.*

33. 2023 TSPLOST 2026 Work Plan (Finance Director Abby Branan)

Motion: *Commissioner Greene moved to approve the work plan and was seconded by Commissioner Mayfield. The motion was approved unanimously.*

34. 2026 SPLOST 2026 Work Plan (Finance Director Abby Branan)

Motion: *Commissioner Greene moved to approve the work plan and was seconded by Commissioner Stringer. The motion was approved unanimously.*

35. National Opioid Settlements 2026 Projects (Finance Director Abby Branan)

Motion: *Commissioner Stringer moved to approve the settlement and was seconded by Commissioner Greene. The motion was approved unanimously.*

36. Create Additional Athletic Coordinator Position (County Manager Alan Ours)

Motion: *Commissioner Greene moved to approve the work plan and was seconded by Commissioner Mayfield. The motion was approved unanimously.*

COUNTY MANAGER

ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER & DEPARTMENT HEADS

COMMISSIONERS

The Commissioners expressed their thankfulness to Chairman Dockery for his 13 years of leadership and service to Lumpkin County. Chairman Dockery said serving Lumpkin County has been one of the greatest honors of his life. He said that the County staff have always amazed him with their dedication and their ability to do more with less. When obstacles arise, you always find a solution in the best interest of the County, he stated. He said the staff truly are the backbone of the organization, and that he considers them all not just employees, but friends.

To Mr. Ours, he thanked him for being a sounding board and sometimes a (metaphorical) punching bag, which he handles well. Chairman Dockery said we have five laypeople serving on the Board, and they depend on the County Manager's professionalism and expertise to know how to run things properly. He said Mr. Ours demonstrates his passion not just through his job, but all over town by volunteering and supporting local businesses and organizations. To the County Attorney, Ms. Edelberg, he thanked her for her sound advice and guidance over the years. To the County Clerk, Ms. Witcher, he said she was truly the unseen glue holding everything together behind the scenes, and he said she has never been afraid to give him honest feedback.

To his fellow Commissioners. Chairman Dockery said one of his favorite quotes is from General George Patton: If everyone is thinking alike, then someone isn't thinking. He said he respects them all, even when they disagree. He said we shouldn't always agree, but to always disagree with respect and dignity. He said to always listen to the constituents, even when it stings to hear. One thing he has never done is limited how many citizens can address this Board, and he has never limited how long they can speak. He encouraged the Board to continue to do that, and to always let the citizens have a voice. Listen to them objectively, and do not make up your mind before they are at the podium. Do what is right, not what is popular, and make decisions based on facts. As it relates to ethics, Chairman Dockery said his saying has always been, "If you are asking yourself whether something is ethical, then you already know the answer."

Effective tonight at midnight, Chairman Dockery tendered his resignation from the Board of Commissioners to pursue Georgia House District 9's seat.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Charles Trammell said he wanted to also recognize Randy Allison for his work during the winter storms. He said Mr. Allison was at the shop at the crack of dawn and was working hard to make sure everyone's vehicles were running smoothly.

Mayor Norton humorously asked Chairman Dockery to remember all of us working folks when he makes it to the Gold Dome.

Fire Chief David Wimpy asked everyone to keep firefighter Paul Northrop and his family in

their prayers after he lost his son this week.

Citizen Jesse White, 425 Homer Edwards Road, said he is one of the admins of the newly-formed Preserve Johnny B's Society. He said an icon of the community, and 30 jobs, will be lost because the college is buying the property. He said he is sending a proposed resolution to the Commissioners that he hopes they will consider adopting. He wants them to reach out to our state legislators to see if there is anything they can do to prevent Johnny B's from closing.

Citizen Jeremy Sharp, 91 Housley Drive, also came to support Johnny B's. He said the BOC does a wonderful job, and the County is in good hands. He said he helped write the proposed resolution that will be sent to the Commissioners, and that Johnny B's has been an anchor in the community for 50 years. There has been a community petition that now has around 4,000 signatures. Mr. Sharp said he understands that the Commissioners cannot override the University System Board of Regents, and he is not asking them to violate their authority. This proposed resolution would require colleges and universities to provide advance notice whenever they make property purchases such as this. Potential solutions would be to require a 90-day waiting period or to create an oversight committee for the community to have input. Mr. Sharp said passing this resolution would send a message to the University Board of Regents. He said this would be an assertion of home rule, and he encouraged everyone to contact their state legislators about saving Johnny B's.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Personnel

***Motion:** Commissioner Mayfield moved to exit regular session and enter executive session at 7:24 pm. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.*

Executive session was conducted from 7:43 pm to 8:51 pm, and then regular session resumed.

***Motion:** Chairman Dockery moved to increase the County Manager's salary by 5% as of January 1st, 2026. Commissioner Greene seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.*

ADJOURNMENT

***Motion:** Commissioner Mayfield moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Stringer. The motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting ended at 8:52 pm.*

Date

Chris Dockery, Chairman
Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Melissa Witcher
Clerk, Lumpkin County