



LUMPKIN COUNTY Board of Commissioners

Work Session Minutes
99 Courthouse Hill
Dahlonega, GA 30533

April 7, 2026
4:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm. Present were Vice Chairman Jeff Moran and Commissioners Tucker Greene and Bobby Mayfield.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Ninth District Presentation - *Marilyn Smiley*

PROCLAMATIONS

2. Joint Proclamation to Recognize April as Child Abuse Awareness Month ***Regular Meeting***
3. Proclamation of Recognition Lumpkin County Indians 12U Girls Basketball Team State Champions ***Regular Meeting***

MINUTES

4. Board of Commissioners - Work Session - March 3, 2026 4:00 PM
5. Board of Commissioners - Appeal Hearing - March 17, 2026 4:30 PM
6. Board of Commissioners - Work Session II - March 17, 2026 5:30 PM
7. Board of Commissioners - Regular Meeting - March 17, 2026 6:00 PM

RESOLUTIONS

8. 2026-18 Resolution Creating a Filming Permit Policy & Procedure (*County Clerk Melissa Witcher*)

Commissioner Greene asked where the \$125 per day permitting fee came from. Ms. Witcher explained that they researched various counties and municipalities around the state to come up with the proposed fees. The County Attorney, Ms. Edelberg, added that these permits can create a lot of extra work and coordination with staff, so the fees are intended to help offset some of the pressure. Ms. Witcher said the fees vary widely among local governments; some charge fees based upon what resources the film agencies use, some charge by the month, and some charge by the day. They sometimes implement extra fees for things such as road closures, for example.

Commissioner Moran asked if this ordinance would require permits for filming done on private property. Ms. Edelberg said the draft ordinance, in its current form, would require a permit for any filming within the unincorporated County, barring a few specific exceptions. Part of the reason for requiring permits is to help our law enforcement and Emergency Services be aware when filming activity is happening in case an issue arises. Sometimes there are hazardous special effects or stunts, or a film crew might try to close a road without informing us, she explained.

9. 2026-19 Reappoint Member to LC W&S Authority - *Vic Dover to Seat 5, with a term expiring 05/31/2030*
10. 2026-20 Reappoint Members to Yahoola Creek Reservoir Property Study Committee - *Tom Lamb to Seat 1, Ben LaChance to Seat 2, Martie Heaton to Seat 3, David Payne to Seat 4, Steve Gooch to Seat 5, Wyman Walden to Seat 6, and DeEnna Walters to Seat 7, all with terms expiring 05/15/2027*

Commissioner Mayfield asked when was the last time this committee met? Mr. Ours said they meet as needed, typically when issues relating to the trails around Yahoola Creek Reservoir arise. He said the last time they met, it resulted in the creation of the future Native American park.
11. 2026-21 Appoint Member to Airport Authority - *Steve Widincamp to Seat C, with a term expiring 02/19/2030*
12. 2026-22 Appoint Member to Library Board of Trustees - *Kirk Bradley to Seat 1, with a term expiring 06/30/2030*

13. 2026-23 Appoint Member to AVITA Board of Directors - *Bobby Mayfield to Seat 2, with a term expiring 12/31/2028*
14. 2026-24 Amend Membership Requirements & Appoint Member to Lumpkin County Veterans Affairs Committee - *Kevin Connell to Seat 9, with a term expiring 04/14/2027*
15. 2026-25 Adopt South Hampton Subdivision Roads - Surrey Court, English Court, and Candover Court into County Road System (*Special Projects Manager Charles Trammell*)
Commissioner Greene thanked Mr. Charles Trammell for his work on this, and said it has made some citizens very happy.
16. 2026-26 April Surplus Items List (*Finance Director Abby Branan*)
17. 2026-27 GDNr Recreational Trails Program Second-Level Application Resolution
(*Finance Director Abby Branan*)
18. 2026-28 Appoint Member to Planning Commission - *Derek Runyon to Seat 4, of an unexpired term ending 08/27/2026*
19. 2026-29 Create and Appoint Members to Comp Plan Committee - *Mac McConnell to Seat 1, David Woodward to Seat 2, Ken Akins to Seat 3, Don Becker to Seat 4, Steven Smith to Seat 5, and Derek Leonard to Seat 6, all with terms expiring 07/31/2027*

CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

20. 2026-032 Six Remnant Defendants Opioid Settlement (*County Attorney Joy Edelberg*)
21. 2026-033 GMRC Agreement – GDNr Recreational Trails Program Second Level Application Preparation (*Finance Director Abby Branan*) **Ratiofy**
22. 2026-034 Community Center Design Fee Proposal (*Assistant County Manager Ashley Peck*)

Vice Chairman Moran asked if the BOC would get to look at the designs, and Mr. Ours said it would be brought before the Board after the Building Committee meets and makes a recommendation.

23. 2026-035 Board of Regents/UGA & Lumpkin County MOU – Extension Service Office
(*Finance Director Abby Branan*)
24. 2026-036 IWorq Service Agreement (*Public Works Director Chris Thomas*)
25. 2026-037 Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of the Army (*County Manager Alan Ours*)
26. 2026-038 Wahoo Creek Road Repair & Pipe Installation Bid Award - JL Gaddis LLC (*Special Projects Manager Charles Trammell*)
Vice Chairman Moran said he received a call from a local business owner about one of the recent road closures, and he said he would have liked more advance notice of the closure. The business owner had only been notified 4 days in advance, so it could have negatively impacted a special event like a wedding. Vice Chairman Moran said he isn't sure what would be the best way to notify the public, but we should try to get input from local business owners before setting dates for road closures.
27. 2026-039 FY 2026 LMIG Safety Action Plan (SAP) GDOT Grant Application (*Public Works Director Chris Thomas*)

OTHER ITEMS

28. Special Event Permit - Dahlenega Lumpkin County Chamber of Commerce Inspire Event
(*County Clerk Melissa Witcher*) **Ratify**
29. Catered Special Event Permit - Sorority Gathering at the Views at Nimblewill (*County Clerk Melissa Witcher*) **Ratify**
30. Catered Special Event Permit - SigFest at Pine Valley (*County Clerk Melissa Witcher*) **Ratify**

31. Catered Special Event Permit - KC Bison Ranch Summer Jam (*County Clerk Melissa Witcher*)

32. Special Event Permit - KC Bison Summer Jam (*County Clerk Melissa Witcher*)

33. Position Request — New Code Enforcement and Soil & Erosion Control Inspector (*Community Development Director Vanessa McGrath*)

Commissioner Mayfield asked if this employee will be an office person, or if they will be out in the field doing inspections? Ms. McGrath said they will be going out and inspecting. Vice Chairman Moran asked if they would only do inspections for soil and erosion, and Ms. McGrath said that while they hope to cross-train them in the future, they will start out with just soil and erosion inspections. Mr. Ours said Planning is not in the General Fund, and their revenues typically exceed expenditures each year, so they have sufficient funding for this position.

34. Consideration of the 2026 SPLOST 2026 Work Plan Amendment (*Finance Director Abby Branan*)

Ms. Branan said staff is requesting consensus on these time-sensitive items. The ambulance stretcher loading system is urgent because the new ambulances cannot be placed into service until these are installed. The other item is the HVAC in the server room at the Justice Center. Consensus will help staff move forward with these items more quickly. The Commissioners were in consensus to move forward with funding the emergency HVAC repair at the Justice Center.

35. Scope Change Request: Multipurpose Field Turf Project (*Assistant County Manager Ashley Peck*)

The BOC was in consensus to move forward with this item.

COUNTY MANAGER

Mr. Ours said GMRC will be managing the comp plan for the County, and February 2027 is the final deadline for everything to be approved. He said there will be surveys, community meetings, and other opportunities for citizen input. Mr. Ours said he is trying to get a schedule from Adam Hazell at GMRC so we can begin to inform the public.

ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER & DEPARTMENT HEADS

Ms. McGrath thanked the BOC for considering her request for an additional position and for creating the Comp Plan Committee.

COMMISSIONERS

Vice Chairman Moran thanked Sheriff Jarrard for holding the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the R-Ranch.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Specific)**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm.

Date

Jeff Moran, Vice Chairman
Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Melissa Witcher
Clerk, Lumpkin County