

**LUMPKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL CALLED JOINT WORK SESSION**

February 15, 2011

Commission Chairman Raber began the Joint Work Session at 4:01 p.m.

Present: BOC Chairman John Raber, Commissioner Bill Scott, Commissioner Tim Bowden, Commissioner Clarence Stowers, Commissioner Clarence Grindle, County Attorney K.C. Horne, Mayor Gary McCullough, City Councilman Gerald Lord, City Manager Bill Lewis, Public Works Director Larry Reiter, and several NGCSU students.

**WELCOME**

Chairman Raber welcomed everyone and thanked the NGCSU students for their attendance. Mayor McCullough and Stephanie Harmon from the GDOT Regional Commission distributed material regarding HB 277.

**PURPOSE OF MEETING**

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the joint role of the City and County in HB277

Chairman Raber explained that Mike Berg is the representative for White, Lumpkin and Dawson Counties to the 13-member regional commission. The Chairman of the round table is Commissioner of Union County Lamar Paris and Steve Gooch is Senate Representative Chairman.

Ms. Harmon explained that there needed to be a plan that had been approved in a public meeting. She suggested that everything be submitted for approval even if the City and County are not sure there is enough money for it. The projects to be submitted should have a regional impact in order to be chosen for completion. The better the explanation of how the project benefits the region will mean it has a better chance of approval. Ms. Harmon said the board can submit any road that goes to a school, medical center, or that may have an abundant impact on traffic or travel time. The projects that are chosen are decided by a regional vote. She stressed that this next year needs to be dedicated to developing a plan because there will be a project deciding vote in July 2012. These projects must be submitted by April 13, 2011. Ms. Harmon said if the Comprehensive Plan or other documents need to be amended in order to include the projects that this should be done.

Ms. Harmon stated that if they cannot agree on a project it would have an effect on the amount of money received. She said if no agreement is reached on a project there can be no reapplication until after completion of a two-year waiting period. The projects that are submitted are the only ones being funded within the next ten years. Those roads submitted do not have to be state roads but can be any road that will be of benefit regionally. She also explained that 75% of the funds will be distributed strictly for repaving and the other 25% will be distributed evenly throughout the region. This can be for used on anything that will benefit the roads whether that is resurfacing, striping, etc. She said the reason for this tax is to replace LARP money.

Commissioner Stowers said his question concerns if a state road is placed on the list and is repaired with T-SPLOST funds who would maintain it thereafter? Ms. Harmon stated she was not sure but she would find out and report back. Commissioner Stowers said he is also concerned about the expense of utilities in the right of way having to be relocated. Ms. Harmon said the first 75% of funds could not be used to pay for this but the remaining 25% would be an option. The purchase of the right of way could possibly use a great deal of money.

The city would like to have the by-pass and Torrington Road added to the list. They are currently having a study completed from Barlow Road to Morrison Moore and Highway 52 East, however, the results will not be completed by April 13.

Ms. Harmon said to make the case of the City and County to Mike Berg and to the public. Chairman Raber noted that Lanier Technical School is starting a campus at Lumpkin County High School and traffic produced from that needs to be considered. Ms. Harmon said there would be two public meetings held. Comment was also made about the anticipated growth of North Georgia College & State University and how this could be tied to the regional aspect needed.

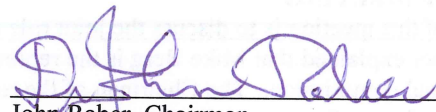
There was further discussion of the public hearings and how that may be used to identify what projects are of most interest to citizens. Since the City has already identified their major project a suggestion was made that Bill Scott, Clarence Stowers, Stan Kelley and Larry Reiter work together to identify County projects.

Mayor McCullough said the City is interested in knowing if the County is amenable to the City looking at Blackburn Park as a future water source. He said it is too early to discuss the possibility of using Blackburn Lake for a future water source. There was the discussion on the possible sources for water in addition to the reservoir.

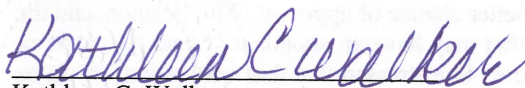
**ADJOURN**

There being no further discussion Chairman Raber ended the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

March 15, 2011  
Date

  
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John Raber, Chairman  
Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

  
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Kathleen C. Walker  
Clerk, Lumpkin County