

**LUMPKIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL WORK SESSION AGENDA
Lumpkin County Administration Building
Conference Room
99 Courthouse Hill
Dahlonega, Georgia**

**March 7, 2011
7:00 P.M**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Raber

II. MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR

- Lumpkin County Boards, Authorities & Committees

III. OTHER ITEMS

- Reports from Authorities, Commissioners, Public Works Director

IV. ADJOURN

Chairman Raber

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

March 7, 2011

Chairman Raber called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Building. Present were John Raber, Bill Scott, Tim Bowden, Clarence Stowers and Clarence Grindle.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Quentin Woomer, nominee for the Lumpkin County Hospital Authority Board

Joanne Taylor, candidate for the Joint Development Authority of Dawson, Lumpkin, and White County

Clark J "Jack" Thompson, candidate for the Joint Development Authority of Dawson, Lumpkin, and White County

Chairman Raber explained that the Joint Development Authority of Dawson, Lumpkin and White Counties has been dormant for some time. He said that Lumpkin County needs to utilize all resources in this very difficult time to assist the citizens. Commissioner Scott spoke of the importance of members of any board having time available for the meetings. He said this is to give the members the ability to keep current information and to make informed decisions. Commissioner Scott asked Mr. Thompson if he thought he had enough time to dedicate for such a great responsibility. Mr. Thompson responded that he was retired so he could dedicate plenty of time. Mr. Thompson said he is committed to the idea of growth for jobs and then gave an overview of things he thinks could be done to achieve this.

Commissioner Stowers then asked Mr. Thompson what brought him to the county and what was keeping him here. Mr. Thompson said he is a native of Georgia and is retired from the military. When he was in the military he and his family had to move away but they always wanted to come back to where they called home.

Commissioner Bowden suggested that both candidates for the Joint Development Authority contact Chris Dockery of the Development Authority of Lumpkin County and also the Dawson County Development Authority to see if they had any suggestions for the appointees. Commissioner Stowers said he would like to dedicate 0.25 of a mill every year for development. Chris Dockery then spoke about the importance of tax abatement such as that being offered to Toyo. Mr. Dockery stated that the quality of life and the quality of the work force are the main reason people want to come to this area. Commissioner Bowden suggested Mr. Thompson speak with Chamber President Amy Booker about the work force.

Commissioner Scott reviewed Ms. Taylor's resume and questioned if she would have enough time to dedicate to the Authority. Ms. Taylor agreed she was involved with many organizations but pointed out that there are a lot of needs in the county. She said her retirement gave her the time needed to try and assist the best way she can. Commissioner Stowers commented that, as appointees, they needed to always be looking at ways to increase growth for the county while being mindful of the college. He pointed out that the college generates the greatest amount of revenue. Ms. Taylor said she thinks technology would have the greatest impact. She said she has researched many different development authority websites within the state and believes that, with her background and knowledge in this field, she will greatly assist the county.

Commissioner Scott asked Mr. Woomer if he has the time to dedicate to the Authority. Commissioner Scott explained that the authority had been dormant for some time and they really needed someone who could get it active again. Commissioner Stowers asked Mr. Woomer why he lives here and what is keeping him here. Mr. Woomer said he had moved to Lumpkin County to be closer to his grandkids and he wants to give back to the community he has grown to love. He said that with the economy being so poor now, this is the time his background and skills could help make the difference. Mr. Woomer explained that he was employed with Texas State Government for about 15 years during which time he served at the Governor's Office as the Director of the Medicaid Program. He worked directly with Citibank, JP Morgan, and Chase Banks to create an EBT credit card system that replaced the old voucher system. That new system is used in most of the United States.

The commissioners thanked the volunteers for being dedicated and for their willingness to donate their valuable time to the county.

REPORTS

The Chairman had requested that the Lumpkin County Water & Sewerage Authority, the Development Authority of Lumpkin County, and the Public Works Director give a report to the Board of Commissioners.

Lumpkin County Water & Sewerage Authority

Murl Jones and Dudley Owens were in attendance to represent the Water & Sewerage Authority. Mr. Owens said Development Authority Director Steve Gooch was arranging to get inmates for the remodeling of the Annex Building now that the Finance Department had moved to the Administration Building. Mr. Jones spoke about the new billing system and how beneficial it has been. He also pointed out that the SPLOST funds had helped tremendously to update technology for the Water Authority.

Development Authority of Lumpkin County

Development Authority Chairman Chris Dockery said he was told there will be 24 machine operators and 24 administrative jobs due to the Toyo plant expansion. He commented that the lease for the former Siemens Building ends in April and they are actively seeking another lessee. He then spoke about Agora Foods and the former Mohawk building, saying the new owner decided not to open there because of the economy.

Lumpkin County Public Works

Public Works Director Larry Reiter gave an update on the Road Department's Bridge Maintenance Program. He said GDOT has given an estimate on the cost for repairs of the bridges and he is happy to report there are no bridges in the county that are of danger to the citizens. Mr. Reiter said there are 9.3 miles of roads to be repaired throughout the county. We have met the requirement of what we must pay to the state. He then stated that the winter has been very hard on the roads and they are being repaired as quickly as possible with what funds are available.

Commissioner Stowers then commented that he had asked in the HB 277 meeting if the county had to pay to move utilities. He said he did not receive a straight answer, so he suspects the county was going to have to pay utility relocation. There was discussion of what improvements everyone would like to see. Commissioner Stowers said he would like the county to look at other ideas in addition to the improvement of Morrison Moore Parkway. This is because the cost for the relocation of utilities alone would consume most of the funding. He said there is only a limited amount of funding per year so the board needs to look at the overall county, not just within the city limits.

The discussion then moved to the bridge in Murray County that is being considered for Pink Williams/Rider Road. There are very strict guidelines on where they will allow the bridge to be located and Pink William/Rider Road meets those qualifications. Commissioner Bowden and Mr. Reiter said the bridge in Murray County is new. Mr. Reiter explained that there are no funds available for this project but that the road department could do in-kind work.

Chairman Raber called a break at 8:05 p.m. The Work Session resumed at 8:09 p.m.

Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Scott gave a status report on The McDonald House. The Rock and Mineral Show at Gold Rush donated all of their proceeds to fund the rebuilding of the House. They want a different location for the Show for this year's Gold Rush. Commissioner Scott said two paintings of the House are being displayed at different places throughout the city. The paintings will be auctioned off and all proceeds will benefit the House. Commissioner Stowers said the roof will be replaced. Both Commissioners Stowers and Bowden are volunteering their time and expertise to help with the project.

Commissioner Scott then announced that the Dog Park Committee is completing a master plan for the board to consider at the April Board of Commissioners meeting.

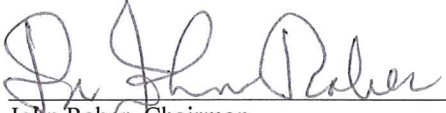
Commissioner Bowden reported that the Blackburn Park Citizen Survey is completed. He said he is happy to report that the response was double what it was for the reservoir survey. There was a great response from the citizens to pay more in taxes for the upkeep of the park. Commissioner Stowers stated that there are a few acres not being utilized and should be considered for some kind of use. There was discussion of the taxes on land, who it would impact and how.

County Manager Stan Kelley spoke about the email he had received from Chamber President Amy Booker stating the City said they would be willing to match whatever the county would fund for the expense of the July 4th Fireworks. The Chairman asked Mr. Kelley to find out the exact details and amount they are requesting for the fireworks.

ADJOURN

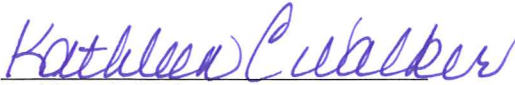
The Chairman ended the Work Session at 8:38 p.m.

19 April 2011
Date



John Raber, Chairman
Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners

Attest:



Kathleen C. Walker
Clerk, Lumpkin County