

**LUMPKIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Public Hearing Agenda

Lumpkin County Park & Recreation Community Center

Heritage Room

365 Riley Road

Dahlonega, Georgia

July 8, 2010

6:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Raber

II. PUBLIC HEARING

- Proposed 2011 Lumpkin County Budget
 - Allocation of funds among the various county offices, departments and services.

IV. ADJOURN

Chairman Raber

**LUMPKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING NOTES**

July 8, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Raber called the public hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Park & Recreation Community Center Heritage Room. Present were John Raber, Bill Scott, Tim Bowden and Clarence Grindle. Clarence Stowers was absent.

PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed 2011 Lumpkin County Budget

Allocation of funds among the various county offices, departments and services.

The Chairman explained the purpose of the public hearing and the background of budget preparation this year. He said that he had developed a form for citizen input which he had shown the County Attorney. He said that if a citizen says he thinks a county job or jobs should be cut then he is asking that they go before the person or persons whose jobs they are willing to cut and explain their reason for wanting to do away with that person's job.

Commissioner Scott said he did not think that a person making a suggestion about a possible cut in spending should have to appear before the person it would affect and explain it to them. He said he thinks that they need only make a suggestion for the board to consider.

The Chairman then asked that anyone wanting to speak come to the podium and identify themselves.

Citizen Katherine James asked if they are looking to cut budgets what are "we", as a group, doing to cut expenses. Commissioner Scott answered by saying there had been no salary increases for the past four years, that county employees pay part of their insurance, and that there is no where else to cut. She asked if those who would potentially lose their jobs had been offered the 401(k) and retirement. Budget Analyst Mark French explained that the county does not have a 401(k) but does have the governmental equivalent. She said that "we may have a way to help with this". Human Resources Director Fran Sullens explained how the county 401(a) works. Ms. James said that the company she works for selected to eliminate the company 401(k) match and avoid layoffs. The Chairman gave Ms. James some examples of where the county avoided increasing expenses.

Citizen Tonya Holtzclaw, a participant of the Drug Court Program said she wanted to know if the court was going to be funded. The Chairman explained how it would be funded and the funding had actually increased \$2,000.00.

Tax Commissioner Rachel Pruitt explained what will occur if we choose not to go with the proposed millage rate that has been advertised. She pointed out that if there is a delay that the county will be penalized for the digest being delivered late to the state.

Commissioner Bowden said he thinks there is another option for not increasing the millage rate by using a modified form of option three. He then spoke of the Drug Court saying that \$12,000.00 will be coming out of contingency and \$15,000.00 out of fund balance. He said he would like to see the \$12,000.00 go to the Juvenile Drug Court and explained his reasons.

Citizen Karen Bowden said she does have a question about Option 3. She asked that it be explained to the public how it works and how it would benefit the public. Commissioner Bowden said this would be two furlough days per month for hourly employees and 3.29% salary reduction per month for salaried employees.

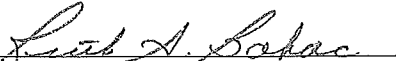
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The Chairman asked if there were any more comments. Human Resource Director Fran Sullens asked Commissioner Bowden how he would modify Option 3.

Sharon Hall from The Nugget asked if the millage rate was not going to be raised would it still have to be re-advertised. It appears that it would still have to be advertised again.

ADJOURN

There were no further public comments so the Chairman ended the public hearing ended at 6:30 p.m.


Ruth A. Bohac
Clerk, Lumpkin County