

**LUMPKIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Notice of Property Tax Increase

Public Hearing Agenda

Lumpkin County Park & Recreation Community Center

Heritage Room

365 Riley Road

Dahlonega, Georgia

July 15, 2010

5:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Raber

II. PUBLIC HEARING

- Notice of Property Tax Increase
 - The Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners has tentatively adopted a millage rate, which will increase property taxes by **4.74 percent** in Unincorporated Lumpkin County, **4.04 percent** in Incorporated Lumpkin County, **14.58 percent** in Unincorporated Lumpkin County Reservoir and **-76.16 percent** in Unincorporated Lumpkin County Planning.
 - All concerned citizens are invited to the three public hearings on this tax increase. The public hearings will be held **July 8, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**, **July 12, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.** and **July 15, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.** in the Heritage Room located in the Park & Recreation Community Center, 365 Riley Road, Dahlonega, Georgia.

IV. ADJOURN

Chairman Raber

**LUMPKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE
PUBLIC HEARING NOTES**

July 15, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Raber called the public hearing to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Park & Recreation Community Center Heritage Room Main. Present were John Raber, Tim Bowden, Clarence Grindle, and Clarence Stowers. Bill Scott was absent.

PUBLIC HEARING

Notice of Property Tax Increase

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Tax Commissioner Rachel Pruitt gave a presentation showing the causes for the difference between 2008, 2009, and 2010 taxes. She said the average increase of \$5.16 with a millage increase of 0.331, on a home valued at \$150,000.00 was computed using the basic homestead exemption only. Commissioner Stowers reminded everyone that there were an additional 200 seniors who signed up for the over 65 exemption which shifted more of the burden on to those not 65 or older. He said that this was already an "increase" for those under 65. The Tax Commissioner then answered several questions from the audience. She pointed out the loss of the state homestead grant on the 2009 tax bills and the smaller tax digest.

Budget Analyst Mark French presented the next portion of the presentation showing expenses and income over the past several years and projected into 2011.

Chairman Raber explained the procedure for public comment during this evening's public hearing. He pointed out to the audience that the commissioners will not vote for a tax increase.

First to speak was candidate Frank Gilkeson. He reiterated many of the comments he spoke of in the two previous public hearings. He said he thinks that creating the LOST line item was a policy decision on someone's part. He said he thinks the more transparency in government, the better.

Citizen Robert Edmondson thanked the board for not increasing taxes but said his taxes have been too high since 2001. He wants the board to consider reducing taxes in the future. He said one way to cut would be to go back to a sole commissioner instead of a board.

Citizen Kenneth Beasley congratulated all the county employees for doing with less. He said it bothers him that the board has the mindset to raise taxes with so many people living on the edge. He said the new buildings outside Park & Recreation bothered him and he doubts many local people were employed building them.

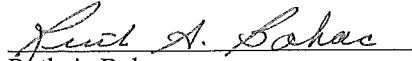
Citizen Harold Bolton said he moved here from Forsyth County in 2007. He said he appreciates that Lumpkin County voted for the senior exemptions but thinks we should pass an exemption so that seniors pay no school taxes at all, like Forsyth County. He said he wants to see taxes reduced and would vote for someone who ran on that kind of platform.

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Citizen George Powell thanked the board for allowing citizens to speak and for not voting for a tax increase. He said he wants the county to pay for critical items but wants the board to consider thinking about the other non-critical line items when considering what to cut.

ADJOURN

There being no further comments Chairman Raber ended the public hearing at 5:37 p.m.



Ruth A. Bohac
Clerk, Lumpkin County