

**LUMPKIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
*Special Work Session***

AGENDA

**Lumpkin County Administration Building
Main Conference Room
99 Courthouse Hill
Dahlonega, Georgia**

**December 3, 2010
9:00 A.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Raber

II. DISCUSSION OF 2008 SPLOST

III. ADJOURN

Chairman Raber

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

December 3, 2010

Chairman Raber began the Special Called Work Session at 9:07 a.m. John Raber, Bill Scott, Tim Bowden and Clarence Grindle were present. Commissioner Stowers was absent.

Chairman Raber then turned the meeting over to County Manager Stan Kelley who pointed out that this is the semi-annual update on SPLOST. Mr. Kelley said a couple of decisions are needed.

Discussion of 2008 SPLOST

County Manager Kelley said SPLOST numbers have shown some improvement near year's end so the year end numbers will come in a little better than projected in August 2010.

Mr. Kelley then turned the meeting over to Kevin Hamby who gave a progress update on funds spent to date. Mr. Hamby said there are some things that we will still have to pay for the Justice Center Project. However, we will be under budget on the project and the remaining funds can be moved into other things. There was some discussion of the Public Warning System. County Manager Kelley explained that a combination of sirens, weather radio, and a "Code Red" type system will be used. He said we have one grant already approved that will help and there is the possibility of an additional grant.

Mr. Hamby said that the next project is the Administrative Facilities Complex. He explained that \$500,000.00 of the money originally slated for the Administrative Facilities portion of the SPLOST was spent on the Health Department. He said there is less than \$1,000,000.00 remaining in the Administrative Facilities item. Funds already spent on the project include the design plan for space allocation and cost sharing with the Justice Center for fiber optic.

Estimates of income are still based on no growth, Mr. Hamby said, which is the most conservative approach. However, he pointed out that we appear to be on a slight upswing but we are continuing to be very conservative and frugal in our approach and purchases. He said the county is to be commended for this.

Staff gave their recommendation in August on how to spend the remaining SPLOST funds. Their recommendations are now based on current figures. One recommendation is to purchase the machinery that will properly do the road shoulders to avoid the type of problems the county had this past summer as we prepared roads for the LMIG program.

Staff now needs a decision concerning the recommended Proposed 2011 SPLOST program. This will be presented at the January Work Session for a decision. Most of the 2011 recommended projects are public safety or public works-related. Previously approved projects will be ongoing at the same time.

Mr. Hamby then gave an update on the phone and network system upgrades. He said the county will realize annual savings of about \$35,000 - \$40,000 due to the new systems and how they function. In addition as a utility provider the county can now re-bill the Health Department, the District Attorney and the Enotah Circuit. He said the rebilling will be done on the basis of phone, internet, licensing fees, management of the systems, and network data storage, for example. The cost will be divided on the basis of per unit charge (e.g. number of telephones).

The County Manager then spoke about the timing of the installation of the new phone system and how the luck of timing saved the county a great deal of money. He said that retaining a part-time person for financial administration duties will be required and the board will need to approve this. We currently have a top-notch graduate student in accounting performing these duties. However, that student is leaving for an internship. Kevin Hamby and Allison Martin explained how involved these duties are and said the regular finance department staff cannot take on this additional task. The cost for this part-time hire will be approximately \$25,000.00. That expense can be paid either out of SPLOST funds or out of the general fund. Kelley recommended continuing to fund this position from the General Fund using the savings from the new phone and network upgrades.

Mr. Hamby then announced the first meeting of the Administrative Complex Renovations Committee which will take place Wednesday, December 8 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Conference Room in the County Administrative Building. Other items he discussed included the E911 Power/Low Voltage Upgrades and the Communications Tower at Chestatee Regional Hospital. Kevin said the FAA should render their decision around the middle of December and, with hope, they will issue a favorable decision so we can move ahead. He then reiterated the items needing approval by the Board of Commissioners. These are: 1) the overall 2011 SPLOST Projects as presented and, 2) retaining a part-time person for financial management of SPLOST.

There being no further business Chairman Raber ended the special work session at 11:01 a.m.



Kathleen C. Walker
Deputy Clerk, Lumpkin County