LUMPKIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JOINT SPECIAL CALLED MEETING AGENDA
Lumpkin County Park & Rec Community Center
Conference Room
365 Riley Rd
Dahlonega, Georgia

March 19, 2015
6:00 P.M.
~ AS AMENDED ~

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

II. **IMPACT OF HB 170** *(Commissioner Doug Sherrill)*

III. **ECONOMIC DEV CHALLENGES** *(Chairman Dockery)*

IV. **INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES** *(Chairman Dockery)*

V. **UNDERSTANDING EACH OTHER'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

VI. **VIDEO STREAMING OF MEETINGS** *(Chairman Dockery)*

VII. **COUNTY, CITY, AND SCHOOL FUTURE FUNDING CHALLENGES** *(Shrinking Tax Digest/Senior Exemption, L.C. Chief Appraiser Danny Ziemer)*

VIII. **OTHER ITEMS**

IX. **ADJOURN**

LUMPKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED JOINT WORK SESSION

March 19, 2015

Present were the following members of the Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners: Chris Dockery, Doug Sherrill, Rhett Stringer and Bob Pullen. Also present at this joint meeting were members of the Dahlonega City Council, and Lumpkin County Board of Education. Commissioner Steve Shaw arrived 6:15 pm

WELCOME

Board of Commissioners Chairman Dockery called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Chairman Dockery welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked City Council and Board of Education members for attending the meeting.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

Impact of State of Georgia H.B. 170

Commissioner Sherrill gave a PowerPoint presentation which provided an overall summary of how H.B. 170 will impact the county and it citizens.

Economic Development Challenges

Chairman Dockery discussed businesses interested in locating within the county. He explained problems various grocery stores have encountered when they considered doing business within Lumpkin County, and what subsequently caused them to be unable to do so.

Infrastructure Challenges

Then discussed were the challenges and the investment needed, to install water and sewer within the county. Lumpkin County Water & Sewerage Director Sean Phipps discussed the issues involving water and sewer development around the 400 Corridor. Director Phipps explained that the water system being installed on Blackburn Road is to support the proposed fire station in that area. He then reviewed the progress that the Water & Sewer Authority has made in the past few years. Chairman Dockery commended Director Phipps for his hard work and dedication to the Authority.

Understanding Each Other's Vision For The Future

Chairman Dockery suggested that if each participating group in the evening's meeting joined in a group effort to combine use of the same recreational facilities it would provide cost savings in providing these services to the citizens. There was discussion on how the groups might approach this and other issues by working together as a united front. Mayor Gary McCullough stated that there must be a plan, and pointed out that the City has a Master Plan currently in place.

Superintendent Dewey Moye declared that the school systems goal is to have a 100% graduation rate. He asked how informational industries could be brought into the county for the upcoming graduating classes. Councilman Roman Gaddis said he thinks everyone needs to meet quarterly and that the University Regents Board should also be included. He acknowledged the need for the boards and council to remain focused on what industry could be accommodated. Commissioner Doug Sherrill stated that the college was the key for bringing in educated individuals to work in the positions that will be brought to the county. Councilman Michael Clemons asked that everyone not forget tourism and the wineries that support and sustain the county. Councilman Sam Norton commented on the changing demographics in the community, with older communities, and tax exemptions.

Downtown Development Authority Director Joel Cordle, Commissioner Bob Pullen, and Board of Education Board Member Craig Poore will schedule a meeting on visioning for the county. The City will schedule the next joint meeting to be held around June 18, 2015.

Video Streaming of Meetings

Chairman Dockery stated that the county has looked into the various options that are available regarding the recording of meetings. He asked if the City or Board of Education were interested in working together to cover the cost for doing this. Board of Education Chairman Bobby Self said that they were not interested in spending money on video streaming until they are able to afford to return the three days' pay back for their teachers. Chairman Dockery explained that citizens had asked him to address this issue. Everyone was in agreement that there were more important things that needed to be addressed at this time.

County, City, and School Future Funding Challenges

Lumpkin County Chief Tax Appraiser Danny Ziemer, made a presentation explaining the L3 exemption, which is commonly referred to as the senior exemption. He said there is an increase in these exemptions of about 150 households per year. Following the presentation there was discussion of what solution there is for the exemption. Steve Shaw, Sam Norton, and Lynn Sylvester will schedule a meeting to discuss how to best address the exemptions.

Other Items

Chairman Dockery then asked if there was any public comment.

Citizen Gerald Lewey commented on the senior exemption, stating it is a tax shift and that changing it would not fix the problem.

Tax Commissioner Rachel Pruitt stated that the problem was the combination of both L2 and L3exemptions.

Citizen Frank Gilkeson identified UNG as being the problem because they are tax exempt. He asked that they look into other areas that have had the same problem with exemptions like these, to see how they were addressed.

Citizen Paul Von Ward questioned why the schools are impacted more than the city and county by the exemptions.

When public comment concluded, each member of the three groups present expressed their thoughts on the usefulness of the meeting. They thanked the public for attending, and extended their gratitude to each other for meeting and working together.

ADJOURN

Board of Commissioners Chairman Dockery adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

24 Apr 2015
Date

Chris Dockery, Chairman
Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Melissa Z. Rich
Deputy Clerk, Lumpkin County