LUMPKIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING AGENDA
Lumpkin County Administration Building
Boardroom
99 Courthouse Hill
Dahlonega, Georgia

June 16, 2016
9:00 A.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER — Chairman Dockery

II. 2017 BUDGET

- Tax Commissioner
- Magistrate Court
- Superior Court
- Probate Court
- Clerk of Court
- Library

III. ADJOURN — Chairman Dockery

LUMPKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED WORK SESSION NOTES

June 16, 2016

CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Dockery called the Special Called Work Session to order at 9:12 a.m. in the Executive Conference Room of the Lumpkin County Administration Building. Present were Chris Dockery, Doug Sherrill, Steve Shaw, Rhett Stringer, and Bob Pullen.

2017 BUDGET
The purpose of this work session is to discuss the proposed 2017 Budget.

Tax Commissioner
Rachel Pruitt is requesting $6,000 for a new JetScan check and currency machine that is compatible with the tax system software. Chairman Dockery asked how this would benefit to her department. Ms. Pruitt answered that it would make the department run more efficiently. Commissioner Sherrill then asked if she had contacted the bank to see if it was something they would supply. Ms. Pruitt said she will check with the bank today and see if this is a possibility.

Ms. Pruitt then spoke about a contract the prior Tax Commissioner had with the City of Dahlonega to collect their property taxes. In 2010, Ms. Pruitt reviewed the contract and renegotiated the amount the City pays. Her office continues to collect City taxes, however, any additional requests they have are completed at no additional charge. There was discussion of again renegotiating the contract with the city. Ms. Pruitt then asked for an additional full-time employee and said she will offset her employee's salaries with the social security contributions from her office. She said there is a law in place that allows only her office to receive a return of their contributions. Those funds are currently being deposited back into the general fund.

Magistrate Court
Judge Randy Pruitt requested a part-time employee for Magistrate's front office who will work about sixteen hours a week. He explained some of the challenges of his office, due to the number of court cases they handle.

Commissioner Stringer exited the meeting at 10:17 p.m. and returned at 11:11 p.m.

Superior Court
Judge Murphy Miller said he had submitted the same budget as the year before. He stated that it seems to be sufficient for their needs. There was then discussion of each line item and some additional requirements that were added by the state, since last year.

Chairman Dockery called for a break from 11:41 p.m. – 1:14 p.m.

Probate Court
Judge Michael Chastain began by explaining how he could use his technology fee budget for equipment leases, additional copies, and the telephones. He is asking for an 8% salary increase for the two employees in his office.

Clerk of Court
Clerk Rita Harkins reviewed and discussed each budget line item with the Board.

Library
The Commissioners moved into the Boardroom for this portion of the meeting due to the number of attendees interested in the library. Chairman Dockery then began by explaining the intent of the meeting, the budget process, and the Commissioners expectations.

General Bill O'Leksy made a PowerPoint presentation requesting more funding for the Library.

The new Library Director, Leslie Clark, explained why they had amended their original budget request. She said their current request is for two additional part-time positions and more funds for operations. She said they need money for additional shelving as their shelves are very tall. She said she is also requesting a raise for their employees as well as assistance for the state-paid employees. Chairman Dockery suggested that Ms. Clark prioritize the list for the Board. Ms. Clark then said the first thing on her list would be salary equalization for Lumpkin County Library employees and the 3% salary increase. Second is an additional part-timer for an increase in the morning hours. The third priority is an additional part-time employee, fourth are additional books and materials, and fifth are building maintenance materials (cleaning supplies). The request for $5,000 for new shelving and a replacement for a 42" computer table will be removed since they can be funded by ADA.

Marlena Paris, from Friends of the Library, asked the Board to tell her when they were last in the library. The Commissioners responded to her question after which Ms. Paris stated that she thinks the amount the library is asking for is more of a patch than a solution to their situation.

Diane Bates, Chairman of the Friends of the Library, stated that this meeting went a lot better than last year and asked what other departments must have fundraisers for the items they need.

Discussion
Following the meeting with the Library, the commissioners discussed a number of the items brought before them. County Manager, Stan Kelley then joined the meeting and discussed the salary study. He commented on the potential cost of implementation and areas in which the budget committee had saved funds to go toward it.

ADJOURN
There being no further comments the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Dockery at 5:25 p.m.

Melissa Z. Witcher
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Deputy Clerk, Lumpkin County