

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

August 11, 2015

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Dockery called the Public Hearing to order at 6:05 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Lumpkin County Administration Building. Present were Chris Dockery, Doug Sherrill, Rhett Stringer, and Bob Pullen. Steve Shaw was absent from the meeting.

**2016 Budget**

The purpose of this public hearing is to discuss the proposed 2016 Lumpkin County Budget. This will include the allocation of funds among the various County Offices, Departments, and Services.

Citizen Patricia Turner expressed her concerns on the proposed increase in taxes, and asked for more clarification of the budget. She asked how much the county made on recycling and about North Georgia Resource Management (NGRMA).

Harold Bolton then asked how much the tax increase would be exactly. He stated he thought the percentage amount of the increase is extreme.

General Bill O'Leksy said that he understands the Commissioners are faced with a difficult job and that taxes have needed to be increased gradually for years. He stated that it appears that the board members are going to step up, hang tough and do what is needed.

Perry Abernathy said he understands the challenges facing the Board of Commissioners with the ADA requirements. He stated that, looking at the budget, he thinks that it will cost more than what is allocated. Mr. Abernathy said he wants people to know that the fines, if the County does not comply, could be greater than fixing the problems. He also pointed out how the BOC cut their own budget by \$35,000 from last year.

Commissioner Sherrill then spoke, clarifying the difference between the roll up rate and a tax increase. He said the roll up is ½ mill and the proposed tax increase is an additional 1 mill. He explained how the digest went up but that exemptions outweighed the increase in the digest.

Chairman Dockery said that the cost of services continues to increase each year, and only taking the roll up rate doesn't make up for those increases.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further comments the public hearing was adjourned by Chairman Dockery at 6:50 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Chris Dockery, Chairman  
Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

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Kathleen C. Walker  
Clerk, Lumpkin County