LUMPKIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE
PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

Lumpkin County Administration Building
Commissioners' Boardroom
99 Courthouse Hill
Dahlonega, Georgia

September 13, 2016
7:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER Chairman Dockery

II. PUBLIC HEARING

- Notice of Property Tax Increase
  - The Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners has tentatively adopted a millage rate, which will require an increase in property taxes over the rollback rate by **14.33 percent** in Unincorporated Lumpkin County, and **13.22 percent** in Incorporated Lumpkin County.
  - All concerned citizens are invited to the three public hearings on this tax increase. The public hearings will be held **September 13, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., September 15, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.** and **September 20, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.** in the Boardroom of the Lumpkin County Administration Building, 99 Courthouse Hill, Dahlonega, Georgia.

IV. ADJOURN Chairman Dockery

LUMPKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING NOTES

September 13, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dockery called the Public Hearing to order at 7:07 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Lumpkin County Administration Building. Present were Rhett Stringer and Bob Pullen. Commissioners Sherrill and Shaw were absent from the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

The purpose of this public hearing is to discuss the Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners tentative adoption of a millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes over the rollback rate by 15.18 percent in Unincorporated Lumpkin County, 14.50 percent in Incorporated Lumpkin County, 3.89 percent in Unincorporated Lumpkin County Reservoir, and 7.36 percent in Unincorporated Lumpkin County Planning.

Chairman Dockery read aloud the purpose of the public hearing and the following paragraph:

All concerned citizens are invited to the three public hearings on this tax increase. The public hearings will be held September 13, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., September 15, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. and September 20, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Lumpkin County Administration Building, 99 Courthouse Hill, Dahlonega, Georgia.

Chairman Dockery then asked for questions and comments from the public. Although there were several citizens present no one asked to be heard. The Chairman then pointed out that there were copies of the 2017 Proposed Budget alongside other items and said he would give five minutes for citizens to familiarize themselves with the documents and then accept questions.

Following that pause, Katherine James spoke to the board, saying she wanted to know what the property tax increase or decrease has been over the past five years. County Manager Stan Kelley and Chairman Dockery each addressed her question. She then asked a question concerning what is included in "Miscellaneous Revenue".

Larry Martin then asked how the millage rate is computed and why the city and county rates are different. Finance Director Allison Martin addressed his question.

The Chairman then explained the purpose of the salary study and about the county's need to retain good people. Citizen Cheryl Hall then said she wanted to know exactly what the millage rate will be.

Referring to the budget handout, Lynn Youngblood asked what "airport $20,000" means. County Manager Kelley explained that it is revenue from tie-down fees and fuel. Ms. Youngblood then asked about the $875.000 on page 3, concerning Park & Recreation. Mr. Kelley explained that this is for all Park & Recreation Programs, and on page 5 shows all expenditures. Mr. Youngblood then stated her concern that businesses are not being brought into the county at SR400. She said this would take some of the burden off the taxpayers. She said we are being held back by variances, sign regulations, and billboards.

Chairman Dockery spoke about infrastructure, jobs and what it takes to get businesses into the county.

In answer to a question about water, Commissioner Stringer said that Lumpkin County Water & Sewerage has great maps on water.

ADJOURN

There being no further comments the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Dockery at 8:15 p.m.

Chris Dockery, Chairman
Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Kathleen C. Walker
Clerk, Lumpkin County