



Lumpkin County, Georgia

Date: February 26, 2016

Agenda Item: ADA Mitigation – Building Modifications Under \$20,000

Item Description:

Request permission to expedite ADA Mitigation building modification projects that cost \$20,000 or less.

Facts & Historical Information:

Lumpkin County is under a Settlement Agreement with the Department of Justice's Project Civic Access. This Settlement Agreement requires the county to modify almost all county-owned buildings and exterior areas in order to provide better building or program access. County staff are working on developing plans and processes to make these mitigation efforts efficient, at the lowest realistic cost. The Settlement Agreement has specific deadlines for mitigation efforts. Many of these requirements are manageable, such as lowering coat hooks, moving grab bars, etc. and can be accomplished by staff. Other requirements are much larger endeavors such as moving plumbing, re-grading and re-paving parking lots, etc. and may require outside contractors, temporary closings of certain areas, or other more major efforts.

The majority of building modification projects pass through the Building Committee, which then issues a recommendation to the BOC. Because the clock is ticking on our DOJ deadlines, multiple extra Building Committee meetings and Special Called Meetings of the BOC could become necessary. In an effort to improve efficiency and avoid multiple Special Called meetings, staff are requesting to be allowed to make *only DOJ related modifications that cost \$20,000 or less* without going through the Building Committee and the BOC. All mitigation efforts will be vetted through the County Manager and, per county policy, all projects requiring a contract will still be subject to BOC approval.

Potential Courses of Action:

- A. Approve staff request to move forward in mitigation efforts that cost \$20,000 or less.
- B. Deny staff request.

Compare and Contrast:

Approving staff's request to move forward in mitigation efforts that cost \$20,000 or less should allow faster action for mitigation efforts and be helpful in managing DOJ deadlines. Choosing not to approve staff's request may lead to a more cumbersome process that results in missed deadlines and/or the need for multiple extra meetings.

Budget Impact:

Neither choice should change budget needs.

Staff Recommendation:

Course A.