

Lumpkin County Library Task Force

A Task Force appointed by the Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners in May 2016 to recommend a plan to provide a library facility adequate to the needs of the Dahlonega/Lumpkin County Community.

DATE: August 24, 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR: Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Lumpkin County Library Task Force:

Senator Steve Gooch, District 51, Georgia State Senate

Stan Kelley, County Manager, Lumpkin County

Frank J. "Mac" McConnell, Senior Vice-President for Business and Finance, University of North Georgia

Larry Odom, President, Dahlonega United Community Bank

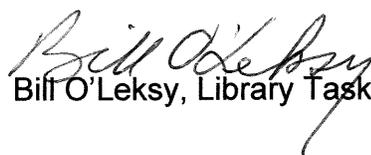
Bill O'Leksy, Friend of Lumpkin County Library

Background: The 2008 SPLOST included \$2 million for a match of an equal amount from the state to help build a much needed library facility. As a result of the economic downturn which began in 2008 the library allocation was reduced to \$700,000 for its share of the infrastructure to support the planned Justice Center/Library/Public Health Building complex.

Considerations: The TF explored the possibility of using the \$0.7M as a credit toward a new construction match. It could be added to the \$1M designated funds in the 2014 SPLOST that must be used for the "library." Mr. Nate Rall, who manages construction projects for Georgia Public Library Service, met with the TF on June 22. He asked that the county provided documentation of the infrastructure costs but was optimistic that we could credit the amount spent from the 2008 SPLOST allocation toward a new match. The documentation was provided by the County Manager's office and we have received word that Lumpkin County will be able to use that \$700,000 toward a match.

Given this assurance, the way is open to use the property previously planned for a new library off Riley Road and use the \$700,000, plus the designated \$1 million in the 2014 SPLOST, toward a state construction match. This is an advantageous option not available in any of the other alternatives explored by the TF for a new library building.

Recommendation: It is the unanimous recommendation of the TF that the BOC make a renewed commitment to use that property previously identified with 2008 plans to construct a new library building. Confirmation of site selection on county owned property is a necessary step toward assuring a place on the state list of needed library construction to provide our community with adequate library service.


Bill O'Leksy, Library Task Force Secretary