

**HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
MARCH 8, 2011 – 5:30 P.M.**

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Commissioners Meeting on March 8, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in the courtroom of the Heard County Courthouse. In attendance at the meeting were District 1 Commissioner Karen Isenhower, District 2 Commissioner Jacob Cammon, District 3 Commissioner Gwen Caldwell, District 4 Commissioner Frank Crook, District 5 Commissioner Sandi Allen, and County Attorney Jerry Ann Conner. Commission Chair Jackson was absent. District 5 Commissioner Sandi Allen, serving as Vice Chair, called the meeting to order.

**Agenda Item # 2 – Executive Session** – Vice Chair Allen and County Attorney Jerry Ann Conner asked for an Executive Session to discuss real estate. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Isenhower), the Board unanimously voted to go into Executive Session to discuss real estate. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Cammon), the Board unanimously voted to return to Open Session. Vice Chair Allen stated that real estate was discussed in Executive Session.

**Agenda Item # 3 – Welcome, Invocation, and Pledge to the Flag** - Vice Chair Allen welcomed everyone present. Mr. Randy Chestnut gave the invocation.

**Agenda Item # 4 – Approval of Minutes** – On motion (Isenhower) and second (Cammon), the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from February 22, 2011 as presented.

**Agenda Item # 5 – Amend Agenda** – Vice Chair Allen asked for an amendment to New Business to add “c” – “Discuss Loan Backing for Heard County Development Authority and PPI, Inc.”. On motion (Cammon) and second (Isenhower), the Board unanimously approved this amendment.

**Agenda Item # 6 – Public Comments** – Vice Chair Allen opened public comments and reviewed the public meeting rules and regulations, regarding public comments. There were no public comments.

**Agenda Item # 7 – Old Business – a. Discuss Arena Guidelines** – County Attorney, Jerry Ann Conner presented amendments and changes to the arena guidelines that were discussed in a work session on February 22, 2011. She explained that the changes and/or additions are highlighted in red for the Board’s approval. She explained that Sammy Noles, Arena Director had reviewed and approved the guidelines. Commissioner Isenhower stated that she had several phone calls regarding the conditions at the arena. She stated there were several concerns about the 4 hour minimum, that it was not affordable to a lot of people. She stated it had been suggested to drop to a 2 hour minimum to get more people and more funds to the facility. She suggested that there be more public input from the citizens regarding these guidelines. On motion (Isenhower) and second (Cammon), the Board voted 3 to 2 to hold a public hearing to discuss the arena guidelines. Commissioner Isenhower, Commissioner Cammon and Commissioner Caldwell voted for the motion. Commissioner Crook and Commissioner Allen opposed the motion. Jerry Ann Conner stated that this could be done at the next commissioners meeting and no advertisement of the public hearing is necessary.

**Agenda Item # 8 – New Business – a. Discuss Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan** – Vice Chair Allen stated that Chief Scott Blue received three bids on the pre-disaster mitigation plan. Chief Chris Cumbie stated that the bids were submitted to a bid committee for their review and recommendation. After the committee reviewed each bid the committee’s recommendation was to go with PMC, Inc. from Marietta, Georgia. Chief Cumbie asked

the Board to award the contract to PMC, Inc. in the amount of \$20,100.00. He explained that this contract will be paid with pre-disaster mitigation grant funds the County recently received. On motion (Isenhower) and second (Cammon), the Board unanimously approved this request.

**b. Approve U.S. Highway 27 Association Resolution** – Vice Chair Allen asked the Board to approve a resolution dedicating the Georgia portion of U.S. Highway 27 as The Scenic Hometown Highway. She explained that each county along the U.S. Highway 27 corridor has been asked to approve this resolution. She read the resolution into the minutes. On motion (Crook) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously approved this request.

**c. Discuss Loan Backing for Heard County Development Authority and PPI, Inc.** – Commissioner Isenhower made a motion to move forward to pledge the full faith and credit of Heard County to back a loan to be obtained by the Development Authority of Heard County under the following conditions:

- Said loan is to be used to construct a building for PPI, Inc. which the Development Authority of Heard County will lease to PPI, Inc.;
- Loan amount shall not exceed 1.2 million dollars;
- Heard County Board of Commissioners shall have approval of all draws and subcontractor releases shall be executed prior to approval of the draws on the loan;
- The county auditor shall review the financials of PPI, Inc. and confirm to the county that PPI, Inc. has the financial ability to make the lease payments;
- PPI, Inc.'s personal property and equipment being stored in Whitesburg shall be collateral for the loan during the period the county backs the loan;

- The Bank where the loan is obtained will waive its requirement that the construction project have a general contractor, payment and performance bonds;
- The county backing will only be during the period of construction and shall terminate upon completion of the construction;
- The Development Authority of Heard County verifies that it has the financial ability to make the loan payments during the period the county backs the loan and agrees should PPI, Inc. fail to make its lease payments, the Development Authority of Heard County would be obligated to the county to make the loan payments; and
- The construction cost estimates will be reviewed by the county's consultant engineer and said engineer will confirm that the costs estimates are reasonable and should be sufficient to complete the project.

Commissioner Cammon seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Commissioner Caldwell stated for Jerry Ann to put in this contract that the Development Authority has stated they do have the funds to make these payments. Jerry Ann Conner stated, yes, but the Development Authority will have to vote on this issue. She also stated that a contract will need to come back to the Board for approval contingent on the conditions in the motion.

There being no further business, on motion (Caldwell) and second (Crook) the Board unanimously voted to adjourn.