

**HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
AUGUST 24, 2010 – 6:30 P.M.**

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Commissioners Meeting on August 24, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the courtroom of the Heard County Courthouse. In attendance at the meeting were Commission Chair June Jackson, District 1 Commissioner Karen Isenhower, District 2 Commissioner Lee Boone, District 3 Commissioner Gwen Caldwell, District 4 Commissioner Frank Crook, District 5 Commissioner Sandi Allen, and County Attorney Jerry Ann Conner. Commission Chair Jackson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. Chief Scott Blue gave the invocation.

Agenda Item # 3 – Approval of Minutes – On motion (Allen) and second (Crook), the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from August 10, 2010 as presented.

Agenda Item # 4 – Public Comments – Commission Chair Jackson opened public comments and reviewed the public meeting rules and regulations, item # 5, regarding public comments. Ms. Amy Byce, resident at 900 S. River Road, Apt. 1013, made comments regarding wrestling that was previously held at the Sports Complex. She asked the Board to consider continuing these events.

Agenda Item # 5 – Amend Agenda – Commission Chair Jackson asked for an amendment to Old Business to include “c – Discuss Resolution for Barr Farm Road”. On motion (Allen) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously approved this request. Commissioner Boone asked for an amendment to discuss item “b” under New Business before Old Business is addressed. On motion (Boone) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously approved this request.

Agenda Item # 7 – New Business – b. Discuss Request from Board of Tax Assessors
– **Mr. Johnny Kistler** – Mr. Johnny Kistler, Chairman of the Board of Tax Assessors

asked the Board to approve contracting with an accounting firm to conduct a personal property audit in Heard County. He stated that he had received three proposals for this service and after reviewing all three proposals he asked Mendola & Associates, LLC to explain this auditing process. Mr. Mendola explained that who was selected for an audit would be the County's responsibility. He explained that his company would then make an appointment with the business selected and compare what is on their personal property tax return with what should be on the return. He explained that his prices are based on all the current Heard County accounts but it is not practical to audit all businesses, some are too small for the audit to be cost effective. Therefore, the county would only be billed for the audits that have been completed and submitted that they chose. He stated that an individual audit, from start to finish, should be complete in a 90 day time frame.

Commissioner Boone asked Mrs. Janet Privett, Personal Property Appraiser, what is the percentage of compliance in Heard County now. She stated approximately 75 to 80% of the audits were returned on or before April 1, 2010. After further discussion, on motion (Crook) and second (Caldwell), the Board voted unanimously to table a decision on this until the September 14, 2010 meeting.

Agenda Item # 6 – Old Business – a. Decision on CDBG Grant Project Addendum –

Commission Chair Jackson asked the Board for their decision on the \$5,000.00 addendum to the CDBG grant project. After some discussion, on motion, (Crook) and second (Caldwell), the Board voted 4 to 1 to deny this request. Commissioner Boone, Commissioner Crook, Commissioner Caldwell and Commissioner Allen voted for the motion. Commissioner Isenhower voted against the motion stating she would like for Allen Smith Consulting to receive this payment.

b. Discuss Wrestling at the Heard County Sports Complex – Heard County Citizen,

Russell Massa – Mr. Russell Massa resident at 115 Sargent Circle, Franklin, Georgia

asked the Board to reconsider their decision to cancel wrestling at the Heard County

Sports Complex. Commissioner Boone explained to Mr. Massa that it was not the

Board's decision to start the wrestling and it was not their decision to cancel the

wrestling. That decision was made by Mr. David Julien, Recreation Director.

Commissioner Allen explained to Mr. Massa that the only money that Heard County was

receiving from this event was from the concessions that were sold and that money went

to the Heard County Little Braves Booster Club not into the Heard County general fund

revenues. She reviewed the deposits made from the concession sales from February to

July which total \$4,075.00. She stated that the power bill for the gymnasium alone for

the month of July was \$4,700.00. She explained to Mr. Massa that the Heard County

Arena was available to rent for these types of events if the wrestling promoter was

interested. Mr. Julien expressed his concerns to the Board that the gymnasium at the

Sports Complex was much too expensive to turn over to a group of volunteers. He

explained that the facility did require someone to be present when it is being used and he

does not have the staff for that during football season. Commissioner Allen,

Commissioner Crook, Commissioner Caldwell, and Commissioner Boone agreed with

Mr. Julien that the wrestling promoter was welcome to use the arena but not the

gymnasium at the Sports Complex.

c. Discuss Resolution for Barr Farm Road – County Attorney, Jerry Ann Conner

presented a resolution for the disposition of right of way of a portion of Barr Farm Road.

She explained which tracts of land are conveyed to the McCormick family and stated

they are spelled out in the resolution. (See attached). On motion (Caldwell) and second (Allen), the Board unanimously approved this resolution.

Agenda Item # 7 – New Business - a. Discuss Skate Park – County Attorney, Jerry

Ann Conner – County Attorney, Jerry Ann Conner presented a lease termination and transfer and assignment agreement to the Board regarding the skate park. She explained that this would release the City of Franklin from the skate park lease entered between the City and the County dated February 7, 2008, effective immediately. The skate park would then revert back to the County, if the Board accepts this agreement. On motion (Boone) and second (Allen), the Board unanimously approved this agreement giving consent to Commission Chair Jackson to sign this agreement on behalf of the Board.

c. Discuss Request from City of LaGrange for Approval of 700 MHz LTE Waiver -

Commission Chair Jackson asked Chief Scott Blue to explain this request from the City of LaGrange. Chief Blue explained that the City of LaGrange has contacted Heard County regarding a request for waiver to the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, DC to allow establishing a 700 MHz Interoperable Mobile Public Safety Broadband Network along with them and Troup County, Columbus Consolidated Government, Muscogee County, Coweta County, Fayette County, Harris County and Heard County. These governments are referred to as the West Georgia Consortium. This waiver would allow for deployment in the 763-768/793-798 MHz band under a spectrum agreement with the Public Safety Broadband Licensee. He explained that this system would provide an important addition to data communications systems in the event there is a natural or manmade disaster, criminal incident, or terrorist event. This system will quickly and securely allow public safety officials in the West Georgia Consortium area,

to access databases in the field and to transmit images among personnel and dispatch centers as needed for both prevention and response. This requested waiver will also allow the Consortium to pursue public funding and/or private partnerships to construct this system. He stated he felt this was much needed in our area and would recommend that the Board approve this request for waiver to the Federal Communications Commission. On motion (Allen) and second (Crook), the Board unanimously approved this request and approved Commission Chair Jackson to sign this waiver on behalf of the Board.

Agenda Item # 8 – Executive Session - Commission Chair Jackson asked for an Executive Session to discuss possible litigation. On motion (Boone) and second (Allen), the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session. On motion (Boone) and second (Allen), the Board unanimously voted to return to Open Session. Commission Chair Jackson stated that the Board discussed possible litigation in Executive Session with no decisions made.

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