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Coweta Commission reduces pay for jurors

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Coweta's jurors will be getting 20 percent less for their service.

On Tuesday, the Coweta County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to reduce the rates for grand and traverse juries from \$50 per day to \$40 per day, as a way of cutting the county's expenditures.

A letter from Commission Chairman Paul Poole, included in the agenda packet from the meeting, stated that Coweta's rate was compared to that of several other counties in Georgia. The rates in those counties ranged from \$7 to \$50 per day.

In other meeting business:

- * The board accepted a deed from the city of Senoia for the future site of the Senoia Area Library.
- * The board recognized Wayne Kennedy, Coweta's director of development and engineering. Kennedy was recently named as a winner of the Portland Cement Association's Sustainable Leadership Award. The award is related to Kennedy's work on the "full depth reclamation" process for road resurfacing.

"I feel like this is just something that I'm accepting for the county," Kennedy said. "Without the support of the administration and the commissioners, we would never be where we are."

The county has completed between 70 and 80 miles of full depth reclamation work since 2006, Kennedy said.

"I feel like the process is not only saving the county money but it is adding, probably, a good 10 years to the life of the road before it needs to be resurfaced," he said.

- * The board voted to waive the \$10 Magistrate Court warrant fees related to the Coweta County School System's enforcement of the Georgia Compulsory School Attendance Law.
- * Recreation Director Carl McKnight gave a "spotlight" presentation on the Coweta County Recreation Department.
- * After a public hearing, the board voted to approve an amendment to the ordinance regarding performance bonds from developers.

The bonds ensure that, if something goes wrong with a developer-built road, the county won't have to pay to fix it.

With the economic downturn, the county has had to call in a few of those bonds.

And "the bonding agencies... are not willing to do things like silt fence removal, grassing of detention ponds, anything that is not related to the infrastructure of the road," Kennedy said.

The amendment won't increase the amount of the bonds, Kennedy said, "it just gives us the authority to ask that detention ponds or silt fence or whatever be removed."

* The board approved an agreement with Ross and Associates for amendments to the impact fee ordinance.

The agreement is for an amount some \$9,000 less than the original proposal, said County Administrator Theron Gay.

* The board approved moving forward with a request for qualifications for consulting services related to a future expansion of the Coweta County Jail and Sheriff's Office.

"When we started the justice center, it took four or five years," Gay said. Jail expansion will probably be considered for the next Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, so "we are recommending that we go ahead and move forward" with seeking consulting services. The consulting services will be paid for with impact fees, Gay said.

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