

# **Dangerous Dog ordinance discussed at county meeting**

During the regular county meeting on Feb. 19, citizens brought up the issue of the recent dog attack that happened one week earlier.

On Feb. 13, Gail Eaton was attacked by four boxer bulldogs while walking down the road from her home. She was badly mauled by the dogs and received 18 stitches. The dogs will be euthanized after being held for ten days to see if they have rabies.

One man during the county meeting said, "It isn't the dogs' fault. It is the owner's fault."

A woman then began to ask if criminal charges could be brought against the owner of the dogs.

Kendall answered not according to the Georgia law. Sheriff Chris Clinton entered the meeting, and Kendall asked him to answer the woman's question.

Clinton said there had to be a show of malicious intent by the dogs' owner to prosecute a criminal case, but a civil case could be prosecuted.

One man said in the community he lives in, dogs running loose have been a problem for years.

Kendall said he is taking steps to hire an animal control person, to buy a van for animal control, and to build a three-pen building. In addition, Kendall said the county will have the first reading of the new dangerous dog ordinance next month. Responding to one citizen's question, Kendall replied the new ordinance will have some teeth in it.