

COUNTY MEETING ON FEMA AND GEORGIA FLOODPLAIN MAPPING

There will be a second hearing on Floodplain maps on Thursday Jan. 21, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. in the Courthouse

Georgia's Floodplain Mapping Program is an agreement between Georgia and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the development and updating of Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM).

During the first hearing at a County Meeting it was established that the maps have erroneously listed many homes and properties, especially around the lake, as being in the flood zone that clearly are several feet above the flood zone.

The Commissioner's office is providing services through the Towns County 911 mapping (706-896-5792) to any citizen who wishes to come in and determine if the proposed FEMA map has your home or property listed in the floodplain by error.

Towns County is required to adopt the new digitally formatted flood maps in order for citizens to receive the lower insurance rate afforded by the Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

Commissioner Kendall stated it is of the utmost importance that the most accurate data possible be used in order to keep property out of the flood map zone because of mapping errors. To have citizen's property erroneously listed in the flood zone could lead to higher cost of insurance and diminished property value.

The Commissioner is exploring the feasibility and cost to the County of providing more accurate data to FEMA if they will agree to use it to adopt new and more accurate maps. Citizens are urged to come out to this meeting, familiarize yourself on this matter and have input into resolving these issues.

Anyone having questions on this matter may call 706 896-2276.