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## News

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# Landfill to be on ballot

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The Canech County Commission voted Monday in a nearly empty meeting room to try and ask the citizens of that county how they feel about the proposed landfill with a referendum on the state primaries in February.

The commission went into an executive session after conducting regular business to discuss the "Courtthouse/Jail Lawsuit," the agenda said. The agenda indicated the commission would adjourn their meeting after coming out of the closed-door discussion.

Citizens who were at the meeting left when the executive session started, thinking no more business would be handled.

When the commission reconvened, though, the only person other than the commissioners and county administrator was a writer from The Evergreen Courier newspaper, who was called back to the meeting to "make it legal," one commissioner said.

But the commission chairman said the vote was legitimate and there was no wrongdoing.

"We didn't discuss it in executive session," Commission Chairman Hugh Barrow said in a phone interview Tuesday night. "The only thing we talked about was the lawsuit, which is why we went into executive session."

When asked why the idea wasn't mentioned prior to the executive session when there were still citizens at the meeting, Barrow said the issue didn't come up until after the session when one of the other commissioners mentioned it.

"We didn't have it in our plans," Barrow said. "Someone just brought it up. It didn't come up until that time."

The vote was to ask the state legislature if there was time between now and the primaries to put the issue on the ballot, Barrow said.

"This will not be a binding vote," he said. "This is strictly voluntary on the part of the commission to get public input. If the vote goes one way, we can still vote the other way."

The motion was passed 4-1, with Commissioner D.K. Bodiford, whose district includes the Repton area, as the lone dissenting vote.

"I voted no because my constituents are against it," Bodiford said. "I've said no to it all the time and I will continue to do so."

Johnny Andrews, chairman of the group standing in opposition to the landfill, said he doesn't see the purpose in the vote.

"This seems like an unnecessary move," Andrews said. "The commission knows that a majority of the county is against the landfill, so why trouble with polls when they know the answer?"

Only citizens in Canech County will be able to vote on the referendum in February.

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