

Cumming GA August 2, 2011:

Forsyth County Cancels 2nd Public Meeting Due To Failed Notice

For the second time in five months, Forsyth County canceled a public meeting because someone failed to properly post a public notice of that meeting.

County officials called off Tuesday night's scheduled meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals after they received a complaint that the agenda for the meeting had not been posted in the correct location and that sufficient access had not been provided.

Board Chairman Jim Kinsey made the announcement that a complaint had been filed and that the meeting would be rescheduled.

Notice of the meeting was posted more than 24 hours in advance in the planning department, but the doors to that department were locked at 5 p.m. and the meeting was scheduled to start at 7 p.m.

County Attorney Ken Jarrard said, "It wasn't a matter of getting it posted somewhere else," he said. "It was a matter of whether there had been an uninterrupted availability of the agenda at the site."

A planning commission meeting in March was called off following a similar complaint.

Jarrard said the county doesn't concede there was a violation of the Open Meetings Act, but that officials are taking extraordinary steps to ensure that every complaint is addressed.

Wednesday morning, the county announced the Zoning Board of Appeals would hold a special called meeting at 4 p.m. today in the planning department conference room to consider a date to hear the items that were delayed as a result of the canceled meeting.