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Official: Dig 'really deep'

Invite to feds will include all departments

By Frank Reddy

Staff Writer

It's not clear when, or if, federal officials will take the Forsyth County commission up on its offer to look into the local elections office.

Regardless, Chairman Charles Laughinghouse said further investigation is necessary "for the integrity of our county government."

"When an issue is raised like this by an accountant, then it's in the best interest of the county to put that issue to bed once and for all ... to have an outside agency involved," he said.

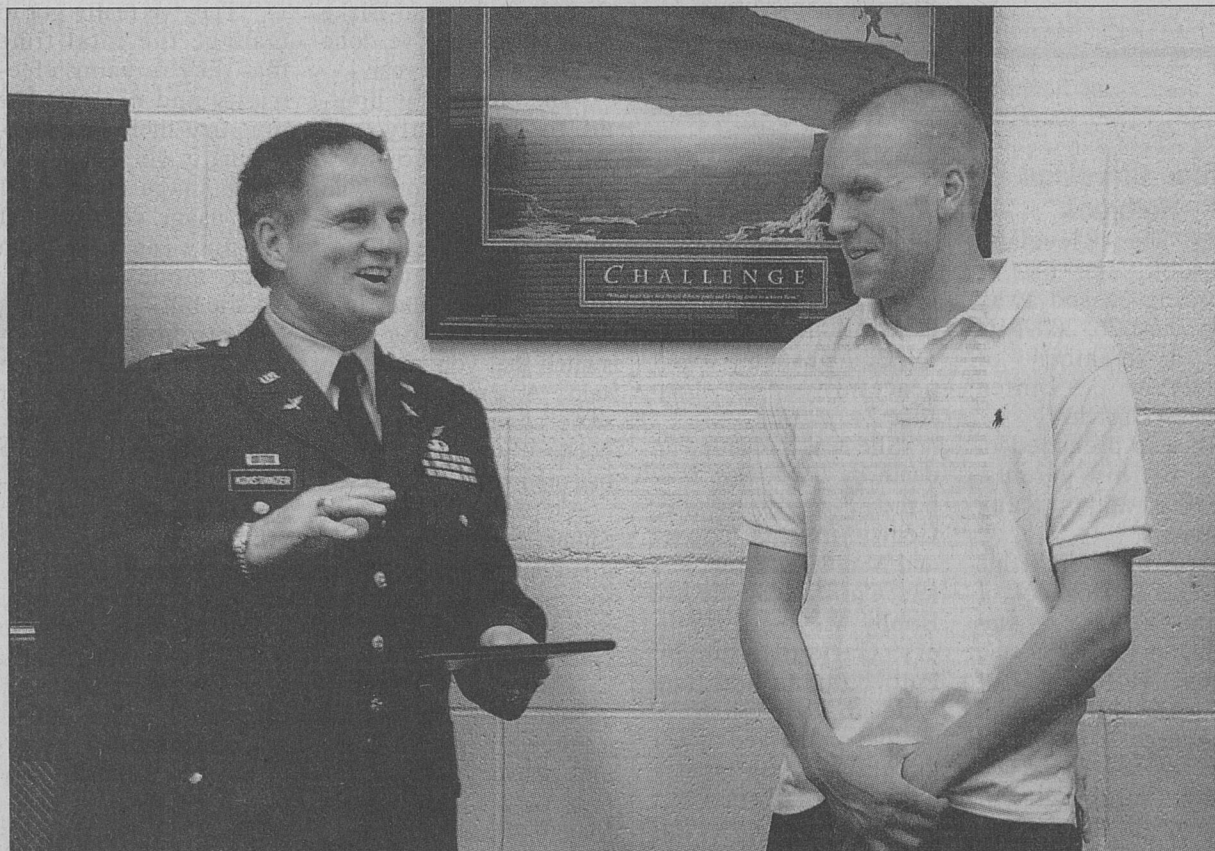
The internal controls review, begun last year by Sawyer & Co. of Dawsonville, was made public at Tuesday's commission work session. The commission then voted 5-0 to ask the U.S. Department of Justice for "further

fact finding" in a section addressing the elections department.

Issues raised in the report included 113 "significant deficiencies," or items to monitor, and four "material weaknesses," which Chief Financial Officer Bill Thomas said are the most severe risks in the report.

Two of the weaknesses were in the elections department. The

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Photos/Emily Saunders

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The future of Forsyth County, is to review her c

Big for

Mixed-homes,

By Julie Arrin
Staff Writer

A large development of about 240 acres in Forsyth is expected to reach the County commission next month.

Paces Bartlett wants to develop the site on the site between Middle and Castleberry roads. The agricultural