Presiding Commissioner Bob Cirtin delivered an overview of the first two chapters of "The Great Game of Business" by Jack Stack.

Over the last few years, we at Greene County have been transforming the Great Game of Business into the Great Game of Government. Bob noticed that there is no mission statement in Jack Stack's book to describe the Great Game, so he challenged today's huddle attendees to put together a mission statement for our Great Game huddles. Trysta Herzog wrote down some suggestions put forth by members of the audience.

Chapter 1: "Why We Teach People to Make Money". Jack goes on to say in the chapter that the biggest barrier is ignorance. People are told what to do, but no one ever shows them. For example:

1. The ignorance of top management assumes that people down the ladder are incapable of understanding its problems and responsibilities.
2. The ignorance of the people on the shop floor usually means they have no idea why managers do what they do, and chalk up every mistake in the company to a combination of greed and stupidity.
3. The ignorance of the middle managers means they are constantly torn between the demands of top management and those of the work force.

The Great Game forces people to look at the business from the other guy's shoes.

Chapter 2: "Myths of Management". Some of the common myths within an organization are:

- Don't tell people the truth.
- Nice guys finish last.
- A manager's job is to come up with answers.
- It's a big mistake to promote people too quickly.
- Don't worry about the big issues, just do your job.

Commissioner Cirtin asked the question "How does leadership apply to our playing of the Great Game?" He shared with us that he has a long term vision for Greene County. "It's going to take courage and perseverance to get where we are going", he said. Some of the commissioner's favorite quotes from a Chamber of Commerce leadership trip to Huntsville, Alabama:

"The sky is NOT the limit."

"Punch above your weight."