

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, TUESDAY, MARCH 06, 2007 AT 6:30 P.M.

Board Members Present:

Jim Dennison, Chairman
K. Neal Bennett, Board Member
Mike Streat, Board Member
Randy Dixon, Board Member
Aldeen Davis, Board Member

News Media Present:

The Blackshear Times
Pierce County Press

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Jim Dennison called the meeting to order at 6:37 P.M.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Neal Bennett gave the invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2007 MINUTES: Chairman Jim Dennison called for the approval of the February 2007 minutes. Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to approve the February 2007 minutes. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Pierce County Health Department-Tony Sapp-The Pierce County Board of Health requested in writing permission from the Board of Commissioners to charge appropriate fee for service as approved by the Pierce County Board of Health without having to come before the Board for final approval. The Board of Health is represented by an appointed member of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to approve the Pierce County Board of Health's request for automatic approval of fee increases without having to come before the Pierce County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

B.C.T. Recycling Center-Charles Broady-At this time, Mr. Broady was not at the meeting. Chairman Jim Dennison made a motion to table the discussion on the recycling center. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION:

Courthouse Fountain Committee- Janie Broome, Marilyn Waters, Helen Brantley, Serge Strickland, Joey Walker and Bobby Wright, members of the Pierce County Commemorative Fountain Committee, made a presentation on the fountain project. Mrs.

Broome spoke first and said that the committee was started on September 07, 2006 with the following committee members: Janie Broome and Joey Walker-co-chair, Helen Brantley, secretary, Marilyn Waters, treasurer, Serge Strickland, spokesperson and committee members Billy Cochran and Bobby Wright. On September 14, 2006 the first meeting was held and the brick project was selected as the fund raiser with a price of \$40.00 per brick. Marilyn Waters stated that the committee has sold over 1,550 bricks and the sales have generated approximately \$63,000. Mrs. Waters told the commissioners that brick orders have come in from all over the southeast and from as far away as Canada. She stated that they had also received a contribution of \$5,000 to be used to recognize people who have no one to honor them. Mrs. Waters, Broome and Brantley will soon begin the process of proofing the brick orders to make sure they are correct. Bricks-R-Us of Miami, FL will be engraving the bricks. Mr. Serge Strickland thanked former Chairman Mitch Bowen, Chairman Jim Dennison, volunteers Emma Dean Knowlton and Lynn Barber, The Blackshear Times and WKUB for their assistance with the fountain project. He also wanted to thank the 20-22 businesses that placed in brick applications in their stores. Mr. Bobby Wright said that he is waiting for the final sign-off on the landscaping before he proceeds with the final fountain plans.

Chairman Jim Dennison commended the Fountain Committee stating that "I am so proud of this citizen committee and all the hard work they have put into this project". Chairman Dennison asked for a standing ovation from the commissioners and the audience.

Courthouse Invoices for February 2007-The invoices for February 2007 totaled \$26,248.25. This included \$20,748.25 for the ELMO System and a change order from Sutton Christian for chairs for a deposit amount of \$5,500.00. These chairs are for the jury box, witness stand and chairs for the attorney's tables. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to approve the February 2007 courthouse renovations invoices for the amount of \$26,248.25. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor Tom Davis-Mayor Davis addressed the board on the subject of funding an animal shelter in Pierce County. Mayor Davis stated that the City of Blackshear currently has \$100,000 in SPLOST funds earmarked for the construction of an animal shelter. Mayor Davis stated that "if the county will help us out and if Patterson will assist us, then we can build a bigger building to house the animals". Chairman Jim Dennison said he feels the commissioners need more information before making a decision. Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to table the discussion. Commissioner? seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Tom Davis-Mayor Tom Davis came before the board to request the board's assistance with funding the Industrial Park's water and sewage. Mayor Tom Davis asked for assistance with the City of Blackshear's \$300,000 to \$400,000 portion of the project. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to table the discussion until the board had

time to study the issue. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Tom Davis-Mayor Tom Davis requested in-kind support for a CDBG grant the City of Blackshear is applying for to improve drainage by excavating approximately 805 linear feet of land on portions of Cherry, Yeomans, Lee and Tuck Streets. Chairman Jim Dennison agreed to loan the city the equipment for the excavation and the city will provide a worker for the equipment. The value of the in-kind labor will be approximately \$14,000. Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to furnish a letter pledging in-kind support to the City of Blackshear for drainage improvements on Cherry, Yeomans, Lee and Tuck Streets. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

PLANNING AND ZONING:

Stanfield Subdivision Phase II-Code Inspector Amy Hitt submitted a final plat from R. L. Stanfield for approval of Stanfield Subdivision Phase II, containing 32.312 acres of lots and 3.348 acres of paved roadway. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to accept the final plat on Stanfield Subdivision Phase II. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to accept 3.348 acres of paved roadway. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Sonny Bowen-Rezoning request-Code Inspector Amy Hitt presented a request from Sonny Bowen to rezone 15.971 acres on Youmans Chapel Road from Ag/Forestry to Single Family for the purpose of developing a subdivision. Ms. Hitt reported that all requirements had been met and that the Public Hearing had no opposition. Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to approve the request of Sonny Bowen to rezone 15.971 acres on Youmans Chapel Road from Ag/Forestry to Single Family for the purpose of developing a subdivision. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

BIDS:

Chairman Jim Dennison announced that the Board of Commissioners will be accepting bids on polyethylene & metal pipe, fuel, lubricant, servicing fire extinguishers, and pest control. The bids will be accepted until 2:00 P.M. on April 03, 2007 and will be opened at the April 03, 2007 regular board meeting.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES & DEEDS:

Resolution to submit application to obtain 2007 Community Development Block Grant-Consider approval to submit an application to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for the 2007 CDBG. This is a resolution for the intent to apply for a \$420,000 CDBG for the Woodland Heights Subdivision. The money will be used for

street and drainage improvements in the area. The commissioners will have to agree to increase the county's in-kind share by \$10,000 to a total of \$45,000 to improve the chances for receiving the grant. The dead line for this year's application is April 02, 2007. Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to approve the resolution to submit an application for the 2007 Community Development Block Grant and to increase the in-kind funds by \$10,000. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

Discuss solutions for beaver control-Chairman Dennison stated that he is receiving daily complaints on the beaver problem in Pierce County. Commissioner Aldeen Davis stated that the county advertised last year for trappers. He also stated that he has talked to Bacon County and Appling County to see what method they use for beaver control. He will talk to some trappers and will work out some guidelines and present them to the board at the April meeting.

B.C.T. RECYCLING: Mr. Charles Broady asked to address the Board. Chairman Dennison called for a vote to remove the discussion from the tabled vote. Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to rescind the table motion. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried. Mr. Broady then made a request for the county to serve as a pass through agency for government funding for a recycling center. Mr. Broady gave a presentation to the commissioners about his project and stated that he has set up a recycling center on Owens Road to accept cardboard, plastic, glass, aluminum, newspapers and other recyclables. Mr. Broady has been in business for approximately 2 ½ years at this location. He stated that he would like to set up a Christian Center for the youth of Pierce County. Also, Mr. Broady has applied for the Christmas tree chipper program for 2007. Mr. Broady stated that he would like to help Pierce County reach a 25% reduction in the waste that is in the landfill. Commissioner Mike Streat wanted to know if Mr. Broady had talked to Southland Waste Systems about this project. Commissioner Streat didn't want to do anything that might harm or compete with Southland Waste Systems, since they have the contract for residential waste disposal. Chairman Dennison made a motion to table the discussion until the board can study this request more. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Personnel

Chairman Jim Dennison called for a motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss personnel issues. Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 7:50 P.M. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

The regular monthly meeting was reconvened at 8:35 P.M. by Chairman Jim Dennison. Chairman Dennison announced that no action had been taken on personnel. Chairman Dennison stated that the board is working on the issue of salaries for county employees.

Having no further business, the regular monthly meeting was adjourned at 8:37 P.M.

James Dennison, Chairman

K. Neal Bennett, Board Member

Mike Streat, Board Member

Randy Dixon, Board Member

Aldeen Davis, Board Member