

TUESDAY, MAY 01, 2007, WORKSESSION, PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AT 6:30 P.M.

Rusty McCall of McCall & Associates came before the board to discuss moving forward with the Library/NGC building project. Mr. McCall stated that the money would be available in July, but much work remains before construction can start. Mr. McCall stated that while using state funds will save the county money, a number of changes will have to be made. The main change will be that he will have to redraw the plans for the library. Mr. McCall stated "that the grant comes from the state and the state requires different things than the Rural Development loan." Mr. McCall pointed out that all the necessary government approvals will have to be obtained again, including a review by the state fire marshal.

Mr. McCall stressed that time is of the essence, but he noted that other decisions must be made in the meantime. He said he had spoken with the Georgia Department of Corrections and confirmed an inmate work crew will be assigned to Pierce County.

Chairman Dennison noted that there has been some discussion over whether the county should wait on the inmate crew or bid out the library work with a private contractor. He also stated that the inmate crew will still be used for the gym and NFC project.

Mr. McCall agreed construction of the library would be quicker using a private contractor versus inmate labor, but he fears the state grant and the county's \$750,000.00 in SPLOST funds might not be enough to complete the project. Mr. McCall stated that the library's design plans will have to be changed if a private contractor is used, since the heating and cooling systems of the library and NFC are lined in the current plans. The library may be built and have to set empty before the NFC renovations are complete.

Mr. McCall noted that the county will have to hire a contractor to remove asbestos from the NFC building before the inmate crews can begin work, but the crew will have plenty to do with putting up fences and preparing the ground work for the building. Also the offices that are presently housed in the NFC building will have to be moved to the Strickland Ave annex.

The Commissioners also determined that they must make arrangement with the recreation department to accommodate basket ball games, which are played in the gym.

PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING, TUESDAY, MAY 01, 2007, AT 7:30 P.M.

Board Members Present:

James 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 James Dennison called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:32 P.M.

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

APPROVAL OF APRIL 2007 MINUTES: Chairman James Dennison called for the approval of the April 2007 minutes. Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to approve the April 2007 minutes. Commissioners Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Rusty McCall-Request approval to go ahead with Library/NFC building project: Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to table the request to go ahead with the Library/NFC building project due to the information received from Rusty McCall at the work session meeting. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Ken Justice-EMA Director-Discussion on Firefighters Grant: Ken Justice, EMA Director/Fire Chief, came before the board requesting permission to apply for assistance to firefighters grant through Homeland Security in the amount of \$400,000.00. The grant would pay for a new fire truck, communication equipment and defibrillators and would require a 5% match from the county or about \$2,000.00. The money would come from the 2003 SPLOST account and would be allocated in the 2008 budget.

Ardelle Myles-Sutton-Request Red Fern Road be renamed to W.A. Myles Farm Road-citing they are the foundation of the key landowners: Ardelle Myles –Sutton came before the board to request a road name change. Ms. Myles-Sutton would like to have Red Fern Road renamed to W.A. Myles Farm Road in memory of her father. Ms. Myles-Sutton said that her family has lived on this road all their life and that they are the sole property owners. The Commissioners agreed to take the request under consideration if Ms. Myles-Sutton would go through the proper channels. County policy states that 80% of the landowners must agree to the name change by signing a petition. Also the 911 Director and the Code Director must sign off on the change.

Paul Davis-Address the Board of Commissioners concerning Pierce County's problems: Mr Paul Davis came before the board stating that he would like for Pierce

County to pull out of the Okefenokee Area Development Authority. Mr. Davis stated that “it is a total waste of money to send our hard-earned taxpayers dollars to Waycross.” Mr. Davis said that he feels he has been mistreated and undercut by the Okefenokee Area Development Authority. “They have undermined me, turned CSX against me and have stolen at least two prospects away from me,” he stated. Mr. Davis stated that five years ago he purchased land with a railroad spur in the old industrial park near downtown Blackshear with the intent of developing it. He said that he spent “huge amounts of money” to keep and maintain rail sidings on the property in good shape to bring business into the county. Mr. Davis stated that he had met with a representative from The Federal Regulatory Agency that oversees railroad operations. Mr. Davis stated that the representative met with him and two CSX officials and was told, after the inspection, that the tract was usable as it was, but it could be improved with a couple of safety measures.

Mr. Davis stated that MRCX, a rail cleaning operation, cited the need for more space as the as the reason for leaving and had planned to go to the pierce County Industrial Park. MRCX ended up in the industrial park in Waycross due to the lack of wetland delineation. Mr. Davis also stated that he had another prospect that would provide shipping pallets to a company in Wisconsin, but because he could not get the spur worked on, they went to Waycross. Mr. Davis again stated that he would like for Pierce County to pull out of the Okefenokee Area Development Authority and look out for its own affairs.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

City of Blackshear-Requesting SPLOST funds to pay an invoice from Statewide Engineering, Inc for services associated with construction of TE Streetscape Project, Phase I-engineering services in the amount of \$1,712.92. Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to approve the request from the City of Blackshear for SPLOST funds totaling \$1,712.92 for the TE Streetscape Project, Phase II to Statewide Engineering, Inc. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

CONTRACTS, INVOICES & RESOLUTIONS:

Courthouse Renovation Invoices: The April 2007 invoices for the courthouse project totaled \$ 20,773.58. Chairman James Dennison made a motion to approve the April invoices totaling \$20,773.58. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Inmate Detail Contract-Georgia Department of Correction-Work Detail Agreement for FY 2008 will remain at \$3,125.00 per month/\$37,500.00 per year. This is the same as the FY 2007 agreement. Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to approve the Work Detail Agreement for FY 2008 at \$37,500.00 per year. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Satilla Community Services-County Participation Contract FY 2008 in the amount of \$7,500.00 to participate in costs of personnel, travel and variable expenses for the Satilla Community Services. Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to approve the Satilla Community Services contract for FY 2008 for the amount of \$7,500.00. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

BIDS:

Courthouse Groundskeeper and Courthouse Cleaning Services: Mollie Howard, County Clerk, presented three (3) bids for ground keeping services at the courthouse. They are as following:

Wright's Total Lawn Care Inc.-\$375.00 per month-mowing weekly
Day's Lawn Care: \$255.00 per month-mowing weekly
Dominy's Lawn Care: \$250.00 per month-mowing bi-weekly

Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to accept the ground keeping bid from Day's Lawn Care for \$255.00 per month. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

No bids were received for the Courthouse cleaning service.

APPOINTMENTS:

Pierce County Department of Family & Children Services-The term of Alvin Ratliff will expire on June 30, 2007. The Board must appoint a successor within 90 days after vacancy occurs. The newly appointed person will serve a term extending through June 30, 2012. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to table this appointment until Mr. Ratliff confirms that he will serve again. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

PLANNING & ZONING:

Bond Release-Request to release the bond posted by John James and Joey Rimes known as JEA Development LLC for construction at Fairways Estate. All construction has been completed and a letter of completion has been sent to the Community Development Director, Marty Clifton by the County Engineer Sonny Bland. Marty Clifton stated that this is not a county road and has not been deeded to the County. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to release the bond posted by JEA Development LLC for construction at Fairway Estate. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

Chairman James Dennison stated that the Pierce County Board of Commissioners must make a motion to move the offices of the Clerk of Court, Magistrate Court and Probate Court to the courthouse located at 3550 Highway 84 W. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to move the offices of the Clerk of Court, Magistrate Court and Probate Court to the courthouse located at 3550 Highway 84 W. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. All Commissions voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Dennison also stated that the Georgia Forestry Commission is asking all Georgia residents to postpone outdoor burning until the current severe wildfire situation has diminished. Burn permits are not being issued due to the drought conditions and the continued risk of wildfires.

Having no further business, the regular monthly meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

James Dennison, Chairman

K. Neal Bennett, Board Member

Mike Streat, Board Member

Randy Dixon, Board Member

Aldeen Davis, Board Member