

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,
TUESDAY, MAY 02, 2006 AT 6:30 P.M.**

Board Members Present:

Mitch Bowen, Chairman
K. Neal Bennett, Board Member
Noah Strickland, Board Member
Aldeen Davis, Board Member

News Media Present:

The Pierce County Press
The Blackshear Times

Chairman Mitch Bowen called the regular monthly meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

Commissioner Aldeen Davis gave the invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 2006 MINUTES: Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to approve the April 2006 minutes. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CRAIG SMILEY ANIMAL CONTROL- Mr. Smiley addressed the Board on approximately 15 stray dogs in his neighborhood that are causing a problem and wanted the Board to be aware that Pierce County should try to adopt a animal control ordinance. Chairman Mitch Bowen stated that the county was looking into the matter.

OLD BUSINESS

BEAVER TAIL BOUNTY- Commissioner Noah Strickland made a motion to table the discussion until the proposed regulations could be studied. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SATILLA COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD- Chairman Mitch Bowen stated that he had a name of a person to appoint to the Board and that he should know if the person will take the appointment in two weeks.

TRAFFIC CONTROL ON COUNTY FARM ROAD- Superintendent Joy Williams stated that they had received an official estimate from EMC Engineering of Valdosta to do the traffic study for a cost of \$11,000. Ms. Williams stated that they will proceed with the study based upon the Board of Commissioners agreement to pay for ½ of the cost. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to give the Pierce County Board of Education permission to proceed with the traffic study on County Farm Road with the Board of Commissioners agreeing to pay ½ of the study. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CONTRACTS, INVOICES & REQUISITIONS

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION PROJECTS - Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to approve the courthouse renovation invoice in the amount of \$91,260.99. Commissioner Noah Strickland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ON WIRE FOR THE NFC/MULTIPURPOSE FACILITIES/LIBRARY -Wire price has gone from \$50,000.00 to \$108,684.97 and if the Board wants to lock this price in they must act. Commissioner Neal Bennett wanted to know where the county would store the wire and how many bids were received on the wire. County Administrative Supervisor Nicole Wood stated that the wire would be stored in the construction trailer at the Courthouse. Mrs. Wood stated that Wendell Sikes, Construction Manager, had only faxed her one bid. Commissioner Neal Bennett made the comment that he was not happy with a 24 hour notice and made a motion to table the bid for further study. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

VETERANS MEMORIAL - The Exchange Club would like a place a 36' long, free standing veteran's memorial at the courthouse. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to allow the Exchange Club to proceed with the Veterans Memorial with a location to be determined at a later date. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

COURTHOUSE FOUNTAIN - Chairman Mitch Bowen presented the plans for a fountain to be placed in front of the courthouse. He stated that the fountain would cost around \$5,000 and would be 16' in diameter and about 2' off the ground with about 1' of water in the fountain and most of the plumbing

Stafford:	Hyundai 210LC-7	
	Unit Bid Price	\$129,700
	Maint Cost	\$ 1,500
	Buy Back	\$ 58,500
	Trade In	\$ 8,500
	Net Total Bid	\$ 64,200

Yancey Bros:	Caterpillar 320CL	
	Unit Bid Price	\$ 154,573
	Maint Cost	0
	Buy Back	\$ 79,800
	Trade In	\$ 8,000
	Net Total Bid	\$ 66,773

FRONT END LOADER - Three bids were received and are as follows:

Industrial Tractor:	John Deere 544J	
	Unit Bid Price	\$114,600
	Buy Back	\$ 53,000
	Net Total Bid	\$ 61,600

Stafford:	Hyundai 740-7	
	Unit Bid Price	\$ 94,416
	Buy Back	\$ 37,000
	Net Total Bid	\$ 57,416

Yancey Bros:	Caterpillar 928GZ	
	Unit Bid Price	\$ 108,264
	Buy Back	\$ 49,600
	Net Total Bid	\$ 58,664

Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to form a committee to study the bids and present a recommendation to the Board at a later date. The committee will consist of Chairman Mitch Bowen, Commissioner Aldeen Davis and Road Superintendent Ronnie Harris. Commissioner Noah Strickland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PATCHING VARIOUS ROADS - The Board received one bid on patching various roads and no bids on curbs, gutters and patching at the Courthouse. Burke Paving Company bid \$150.00 per tons for the patching on various county roads. The total bid was \$31,200. Commissioner Aldeen Davis stated that he had several roads that he would like to add to the list. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to table the discussion until the paving list can be revised. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CURBS, GUTTERS & PATCHING AT THE COURTHOUSE – No bids were received. County Administrative Supervisor, Nicole Wood will re-bid the curbs, gutters and patching for the Courthouse renovation project.

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Olde Mill Enterprises Rezoning Request - Community Development Director Sonny Bland stated that the Planning Committee recommended approving the rezoning request from AG/Forestry to SF. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to approve the rezoning request. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Fairways at Okefenokee County & Golf Club Preliminary Plat - Community Development Director Sonny Bland stated that the Planning Committee has approved the preliminary plat on Fairways at Okefenokee County & Golf Club with 219.509 acres and lots 1-152. Mr. Bland said that the subdivision would have a private water system and that a \$750,000 performance bond would be paid to the county if the roads did not meet the county specifications. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to approve the preliminary plat. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sapp Road - Final acceptance of Deed- Community Development Director Sonny Bland stated that Sapp Road had a 60' ROW and a 28' wide road bed and met all county specifications. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to accept the deed on Sapp Road. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Woodstone Subdivision - Release of bond on paving road. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to table the release of the bond on the roads in Woodstone Subdivision until the County receives a deed and a warranty on the roads. Commissioner Noah Strickland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Health Department Septic Tank Inspections-The Planning/Code Department will take the application and collect septic tank fees for the Pierce County Health Department with a \$10.00 administrative fee charged for this service. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to accept the request that the Planning/Code Department take applications and collect a \$10.00 administrative fee for the septic tank applications. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rolling Meadows Subdivision - Community Development Director Sonny Bland stated that the roadways exceed the county specifications, but the county needs to address the drainage problems. Kenneth Futch, attorney for owner Joel Spivey, stated that the drainage problem existed before Mr. Spivey brought the property and that the Code Enforcement Department had issued building permits on the property. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to grant a right of way easement in Rolling Meadows Subdivision. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

GEORGIA POWER - Bob Bowen Road line relocation - Chairman Mitch Bowen stated that he had sent a letter to Georgia Power on March 11, 2004 requesting right of way relocation for all poles on Bob Bowen Road. Mr. Bowen stated that he could not find any contract with Georgia Power stating that Pierce County will cover the cost of the relocation. Commissioner Neal Bennett stated that he had done some research from the prior administration and he could not find anything.

PIERCE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBERS- Letters were sent to William Wall, Dan Bennett, Sr., Frank Tanner, June Bennett and Bernard Pearson that their term on the PCID Board has expired and, if they wish to continue to serve on the Board, to let the Pierce County Board of Commissioners know.

COUNTY MILEAGE RATE – The current IRS guidelines state that the current mileage rate reimbursement for use of private vehicles is \$.445. The County has not raised its mileage to keep up with current standards. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to raise the mileage rate from \$.28 to \$.445. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN - Linda Carroll needs a list of five (5) names from each Commissioner who can serve on the comprehensive plan committee. She would like to have these names by the end of next week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL

Commissioner Noah Strickland made a motion to adjourn the meeting and go into executive session regarding personnel. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Regular monthly meeting reconvened at 9:40 P.M. Chairman Mitch Bowen stated that Sonny Bland has resigned as Community Development Director effective May 31, 2006. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to accept the resignation of Sonny Bland. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Mitch Bowen stated that Amy Hitt, Code Enforcement Officer will be appointed to serve as Acting Community Development Director. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to appoint Amy Hitt as Acting Community Development Director. Commissioner Noah Strickland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Having no further business, the regular monthly meeting was adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

Mitch Bowen, Chairman

K. Neal Bennett, Board Member

Noah Strickland, Board Member

Aldeen Davis, Board Member

CALLED MEETING PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2006 AT 6:30 P.M.

Board Members Present:

Mitch Bowen, Chairman
K. Neal Bennett, Board Member
Noah Strickland, Board Member
Aldeen Davis, Board Member

News Media Present:

Pierce County Press
The Blackshear Times

The purpose of this called meeting is to discuss bids, the renovation projects with Rusty McCall, Architect, and handle other County business.

Chairman Mitch Bowen called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

Commissioner Aldeen Davis gave the invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Discussion on Bids on Equipment-Road Department-Commissioner Aldeen Davis gave a report on the Excavator and Front End Loader bids. The bids were opened at the May, 06 regular monthly meeting and tabled until the machines could be studied by a committee composed of Commissioner Aldeen Davis, Road Superintendent Ronnie Harris and Chairman Mitch Bowen. Commissioner Aldeen Davis stated that he had talked to other people who praised both brands and could not find much difference between the brands. Commissioner Aldeen Davis stated that he had talked to Tim Tomberlin, who stated that he would give the county a warranty stating that if the machines are down and the county cannot get the parts within 48 hours he will put a new machine on our property. Road Superintendent Ronnie Harris stated that his employees favored the Caterpillar machines. Tim Tomberlin stated the he would give the County a written buy back agreement along with the written warranty. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to accept the bids from Stafford for the following prices:

Hyundai 210LC-7 Excavator	Hyundai 740-7 Front end Loader
Unit Bid Price \$ 94,416	Unit Bid Price \$129,700
	Maint. Cost \$ 1,500
Buy Back \$ 37,000	Buy Back \$ 58,500
	Trade In \$ 8,500
Net Total Bid \$ 57,416	Net Total Bid \$ 64,200

Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. Chairman Mitch Bowen voted nay. Motion carried.

Discussion on Renovation Projects: Courthouse - Rusty McCall of McCall & Associates gave a report on the revised drawing for the fountain that is to be placed in front of the courthouse. The fountain will spray up and fall down into the fountain. It will be 16 feet wide and 2 ½ feet deep, with a ledge around the fountain that can be used as a bench. He stated that the furniture that was taken out of the courthouse is not the same style or quality as the new furniture. Commissioner Neal Bennett stated that Mr. McCall should see who supplies benches and chairs for jury boxes. Mr. McCall stated that now was the time to start looking for equipment, furniture and fixtures to complete the courthouse.

NFC/Multipurpose Facility/Library - Rusty McCall of McCall & Associates advised the Commissioners that the County had an opportunity to receive a 1.6 million dollar USDA grant for the Library project and the county needs to proceed with the several steps required to apply for the grant. Mr. McCall said that timing was tight and there doesn't need to be any down time for the prison labor detail. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to apply for the 1.6 million dollar grant. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. McCall said that an appraisal will be needed before the project will be eligible for the grant. The County had received two bids for the appraisal; Childree Company for \$11,000 who can start in about 45 days and Real-estate Economics for \$20,000 who can begin in 8-10 weeks. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to approve the low appraisal bid from Childree Company for \$11,000.00. Commissioner Noah Strickland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. McCall stated that it could be August 2006 before the work crews could start on the NFC building and that everyone in the NFC building should be moved out by August 01, 2006. Mr. McCall said that the County needs to start taking sub-bids on projects that can keep the prison labor detail busy such as groundwork, cleaning the building, concrete slab work and plumbing. Mr. McCall said that it would be 2 ½ to 3 months before he can get all the bids backs to the Board. Mr. McCall said that a certified librarian would have to write the program detail with the interior layout of the Library and that this must be submitted to the State Library Board for approval. The cost of the project will be approximately \$4,000. The commissioners had a question on should the whole project, all three buildings, be bid out at one time

or should the project be bid out without the Library project. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to give authority to Rusty McCall to bid the entire project. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

County Attorney Franklin Rozier stated that he had been approached by the Exchange Club that wants to place the Veterans Memorial at the Courthouse. He stated that they wanted to know where the memorial would be placed. Mr. McCall stated that a 25' grassy area in front of the brick wall that is on the left side of the courthouse.

County Attorney Franklin Rozier noted that the NFC building is a voting district and though it can be used in the July elections and the special election, voting operations will have to be moved to another location for the November elections. Chairman Mitch Bowen stated that he was looking at two buildings in Patterson that one could be moved for a voting site. Commissioner Neal Bennett suggested that we ask the Board of Education if the County could use some of their rooms, since they are located at the same site rather than buy two buildings. Commissioner Aldeen Davis said that maybe we should make arrangements to move the voting site before the first election in July to avoid confusion. County Attorney Franklin Rozier said that maybe we could use Lakeview Golf Course's banquet room. Commissioner Neal Bennett put three options on the table: (1) Try to get all three elections at the Board of Education building, (2) have the July and special election at the NFC building and then move the November election to another location or (3) see if the county can use the banquet room at the Lakeview Gold Course. County Administrative Supervisor Nicole Wood will call School Superintendent Joy Williams to see if the county can use the BOE building.

Discussion - Bids on Asphaltic Concrete Paving, Sidewalks & Curbs-County Administrative Supervisor Nicole Wood opened two bids for paving, sidewalks and curbs at the Courthouse. S&S Seal Coating bid \$191,283.00 for the paving, sidewalks and curbs, but did not state that the county's bid specifications had been met. T & K Hick's bid was per square foot, not a lump sum as stated in the bid specifications. Rusty McCall stated that the county should not consider T & K Hicks' bid because they bid per square foot not the lump sum. Mr. McCall and Wendell Sikes, Construction Manager, will get with Warnie Stokes of S&S Seal Coating and clarify his bid. The Board took no action and will receive a report at the June 06, 2006 board meeting on S&S Seal Coating's bid.

Discussion - Bids on 2 Police Pursuit Vehicle - County Administrative Supervisor Nicole Wood opened two bids on the police pursuit vehicles.

Brannen Motor Company bid \$20,325.00 each. The vehicles are in stock.
Allan Vigil Ford bid \$19,980.00 each with a delivery date of July or August.

Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to accept the bid from Brannen Motor Company based on the availability of the vehicles and the fact that the Sheriff Richard King stated that he needed the vehicles as soon as possible. Commissioner Noah Strickland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Having no further business, the called meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Mitch Bowen, Chairman

K. Neal Bennett, Board Member

Noah Strickland, Board Member

Aldeen Davis, Board Member