

**PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, PUBLIC MEETING,
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 04, 2007 AT 6:30 P.M.**

The purpose of the public meeting is to receive input from the citizens of Pierce County pertaining to setting the 2007 millage rate.

Board Members Present: James Dennison, Chairman
K. Neal Bennett, Board Member
Mike Streat, Board Member
Aldeen Davis, Board Member

News Media Present: The Blackshear Times
Pierce County Press

The Pierce County Board of Commissioners announced its intention to increase the property taxes it will levy this year by 1.22 percent for the unincorporated areas of the county over the rollback millage rate. The gross M&O millage for the unincorporated area will be 11.500 percent with the rollback of 5.210 percent for a net M&O millage of 6.290. The gross M&O millage for the incorporated area will be 11.50 percent with the rollback of 3.400 percent for a net M&O millage of 8.100 percent. The millage rate will remain at 11.50 percent.

Having no input for the citizens present, Chairman James Dennison closed the Public Hearing on the setting the 2007 millage rate at 6:40 PM.

**PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, PUBLIC MEETING,
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 04, 2007 AT 6:30 P.M.**

The purpose of this meeting is to receive input from the citizens of Pierce County pertaining to setting the FY 2008 budget.

Board Members Present: James Dennison, Chairman
K. Neal Bennett, Board Member
Mike Streat, Board Member
Aldeen Davis, Board Member

News Media Present: The Blackshear Times
Pierce County Press

County Clerk Mollie Howard gave an overview of the FY 2008 Budget.

General Government Revenues: Set at \$8,193,505.

General Government Expenditures: Includes Commissioners-Governing Body, Chairman, County Administrative Supervisor/Clerk, Elections, Financial-Accounting, Financial-Budget, Financial-Purchasing, Debt Administration, Legal Council, IT support, Tax Commissioner, Tax Assessor, Risk Management, Buildings-Courthouse, Strickland Ave Annex, Nichols St Annex, and General Administration Fees FY 2008 Budget - 1,524,385.

Judicial: Includes Superior, State, Magistrate, Probate and Juvenile Courts, Clerk of Court, District Attorney, Solicitor General and the Public Defender's Office. FY 2008 Budget-\$832,374.

Public Safety: Includes Sheriff Administration, Criminal Investigation, Vice Control-Drug Task Force, Deputies, Jail Operations, Sheriff Training, Fire Department, EMS, EMS Station 2, Coroner, Animal Control, EMA and the Emergency Services Building. FY 2008 Budget-\$3,351,818.

Public Works: Includes Road Department-Administration, Paved and Unpaved Streets, Road Maintenance and Shop, Solid Waste Disposal and Closure/Post closure Landfill. FY 2008 Budget \$1,175,310.

Health & Welfare: Includes Health Department Administration and Building, Welfare-DFACS, Senior Citizens Center, Pierce Transit and the NFC Building. FY 2008 Budget-\$430,196.

Culture & Recreation: Includes Recreation Commission and Library Administration. FY 2008 Budget-\$165,500.

Housing & Development: Includes Conservation Administration, County Agent, Forest Resources, Fish & Game Resources, Agriculture Building, Planning & Zoning and Economic Development. FY 2008 Budget-\$416,168.

Other Financing Uses: Includes Other Financing uses and Contingency. FY 2008 Budget-\$297,754.

E 911 Budget Summary:	Total charges for Services-	\$235,896
	Total Investment Income-	\$ 132
	Total Financial Sources-	<u>\$137,097</u>
Total E 911 Revenue:		\$373,125

Expenditures:

Total Public Safety:	\$373,125
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Having no comments from the citizens and no further discussion from the Board of Commissioners, Chairman James Dennison closed the Public Hearing on The FY 2008 Budget at 6:50 PM.

**PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, PUBLIC MEETING,
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 04, 2007 AT 6:50 P.M.**

The purpose of this called meeting is to set the 2007 millage rate, adopt the FY 2008 budget and approve the millage rate of the Board of Education.

Board Member Present: James Dennison, Chairman
K. Neal Bennett, Board Member
Mike Streat, Board Member
Aldeen Davis, Board Member

News Media Present: The Blackshear Times
Pierce County Press

Chairman James Dennison called the Called Meeting to order at 6:50 P.M. to set the 2007 millage rate, to adopt the FY 2008 budget and to approve the millage rate of the Pierce County Board of Education's budget.

Consider approval of the 2007 Millage Rate: The Pierce County Board of Commissioners announced its intention to increase the property taxes it will levy this year by 1.22 percent for the unincorporated areas of the county over the rollback millage rate. The gross M&O millage for the unincorporated area will be 11.500 percent with the rollback of 5.210 percent for a net M&O millage of 6.290. The gross M&O millage for the incorporated area will be 11.50 percent with the rollback of 3.400 percent for a net M&O millage of 8.100 percent. The millage rate will remain at 11.50 mills

Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to set the FY 2007 millage rate at 11.5 mills
Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye.
Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Consider approval of the FY 2008 Budget: The Pierce County Board of Commissioners announced that the FY 2008 General Fund Budget has been set at \$8,193,505 and the E 911 Budget at \$373,125.

Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to set the FY General Fund Budget at \$8,193,505 and the E 911 Budget at \$373,125. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Consider approval of the Pierce County Board of Education Millage Rate:
Chairman James Dennison read a letter from the Pierce County Board of Education stated

that at called meeting on the Pierce County Board of Education set the following Millage rate for the 2007-2008 FY.

For maintenance and operation of schools-15.5 mills, based on a tentative net digest of \$370,661,534.

Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to adopt the Pierce County Board of Education's Millage rate of 15.5 mills. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Having no further business, Chairman Dennison closed the called meeting at 6:45 P.M.

PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 04, 2007 AT 6:30 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 September 04 Regular Monthly Meeting to order at 6:47 P.M.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Baxter, Pierce County Historical Society: Mr. David Baxter, President of the Pierce County Historical Society, presented a portrait of President Franklin Pierce to the Pierce County Board of Commissioners to hang in the Courthouse. Franklin Pierce served as President from 1853-1857. Pierce County was formed in 1857 and named in honor of President Franklin Pierce.

Debra Bowers/Ricky Youmans: Debra Bowers and Ricky Youmans presented a request to the Pierce County Board of Commissioners addressing the problem of junky property on Phillips Road in the St. Johns area. Ms Bowers stated that "I am ashamed of how it looks and I want something done about it." Ms Bowers and Mr. Youmans stated that neighbors have brought in old junk cars and old trailers. Mr. Youmans said that the old trailers have been stripped of their aluminum siding. Also of concern to Ms. Bowers

and Mr. Youmans was that the area has become a safety hazard with snakes and rats. Mr. Youmans wanted the county to take a bulldozer to the area or have the prison work detail clean up the area.

Chairman James Dennison said the county's options were limited, since the county is not allowed on private property. Commission Mike and Chairman Dennison asked Community Development Director Mary Clifton for guidance.

Mr. Clifton explained that there are procedures for cleaning up junk properties, but the process is lengthy. Mr. Clifton stated that the Code Department could send out letters asking the owners to clean up the property, but most of the time the owners do not respond.

The Board of Commissioners took no action on the request, but did promise to have Mr. Clifton look into ways to address this problem.

CONTRACTS, INVOICES & REQUESTIONS

NFC Building/Multipurpose Facility/Library Project: Chairman James Dennison reported that the GA Department of Correction is scheduled to arrive to put up fencing around the perimeter at the end of September. The Food Pantry, Clothes Bank, and Quilters Club have been moved to the Strickland Avenue Annex. The Senior Center will relocate to the Nichols Street Annex later this month.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Kenneth Justice, EMA Director: Purchase of 1980 Pirsch fire truck with 1990 Pierce 750 gallon fire truck bed. Mr. Justice stated that the Fire Department had purchase a 1980 Pirsch fire truck with 1990 Pierce 750 gallon fire truck bed at a cost of \$8,800.00. This is a FY 2007 budget item. Mr. Justice stated that this will give the county a Class A pumper in all stations except one. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to purchase the fire truck at a cost of \$8,800.00. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Mollie Howard, County Clerk-Scrap Tire Eradication: Ms. Howard announced that Pierce County has received funding up to \$8,250.00 from the GA Department of Natural Resources for a scrap tire eradication program. Ms. Howard stated that tires will be accepted from both the county and city residents. The tires will be accepted at the Pierce County Road Department for a period of two weeks, September 27 through Sept 28, 2007. No heavy equipment tires, road grader or skidder tires will be accepted and there will be a limit of five (5) tires per individual. Commissioner Neal Bennett stated that this program should generate at least 1,000 scrap tires, but that to make the program work, the county must have good participation. Commissioner Bennett stated that "without good participation, the EPD probably won't give us another grant."

ELECTED OFFICIALS

City of Blackshear: City of Blackshear requesting \$1,072.50 from 2003 SPLOST funds to pay a portion of an invoice from EMC Engineering Services, Inc for services associated with the construction of SW Central Avenue. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the request from the City of Blackshear for an invoice in the amount of \$1,072.50 from EMC Engineering Services, Inc. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

BIDS

Insurance Brokers: County Clerk Mollie Howard announced that insurance broker bids had been received until 2:30 PM September 04, 2007. Ms. Howard stated that she had received four (4) bids and that the information will be reviews and presented to the board for a decision at the October 2007 board meeting.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES & DEEDS

B & D ESTATES-Request approval of final plat for B & D Estates, Phase III. Also, accept road warranty and road ROW for Duward Street. Community Development Director Marty Clifton stated that the subdivision's base and paving had been installed according to Pierce County specs and that the county will receive a three (3) year warranty and a right-of-way deed. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the final plat on B & D Estates, Phase III. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Review Purchasing Ordinance: County Clerk Mollie Howard raised the question of having the purchasing order requested raised from \$25.00 to \$50.00. Ms. Howard stated that most purchase orders requested are over the \$25.00 limit and was causing a lot of paperwork. She suggested that the amount be raised to \$50.00. Chairman Dennison wanted to know when the policy was put into effect. Ms. Howard stated that the policy had not been changed since 2/07/1983. Commissioner Mike Streat stated that maybe \$100.00 would be a better limit. After some discussion, Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to admen the Pierce County Code-Purchasing to state that all purchased made by Pierce County employees or other authorized persons over the amount of \$100.00 must obtain a purchase order from the Commissioners' Office. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

Chairman James Dennison announced that the commemorative bricks for the courthouse foundation were being placed around the fountain.

Chairman Dennison stated that Doug Ware would like to address the board regarding the closure of Boatright Lane.

Mr. Doug Ware stated that the other property owners were upset about the closure. Mr. Ware stated that he was under the impression that if a one property owner was against the closure then the board should not vote for the closure. Mr. Ware is concerned that the closure of Boatright Lane will have an impact on the school buses that have to travel into Bacon County around the closure. Mr. Ware also stated that the petition the Metts presented to the board did not have proper signatures, had friend and relative, not property owners. Mr. Ware again asked the board to reconsider their votes to close Boatright Lane.

Commissioner Neal Bennett stated that Ms. Julie Wilson would like to address the board on the stray dog problem.

Ms. Julie Wilson stated that Pierce County had a major stray dog problem. She said that she lives in the Sandy Bottom area and there is a problem with people abandoning dogs and cats in that area. Ms. Wilson stated that the City of Blackshear will not accept the dogs and the Okefenokee Humane Society charged \$25.00 per animals. Ms. Wilson shared comments from other citizens in Blackshear and Patterson. All the residents stated that they have problems with stray dogs.

Commissioner Neal Bennett asked Ms. Wilson what would you like to see the county do. Commissioner Bennett stated that this issue comes around every few months in a cycle.

Ms. Wilson mentioned that maybe the county could contract with the Okefenokee Humane Society to take some of Pierce County's stray animals or better yet, keep the money in Pierce County and build an animal shelter here in conjunction with the City of Blackshear.

Chairman Dennison stated that the board would do more research on the stray animal issue and bring it back up at the October meeting.

Having no further business, Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to adjourn the September 04 meeting at 7:40 P.M. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

James Dennison, Chairman

K. Neal Bennett, Board Member

Mike Streat, Board Member

Randy Dixon, Board Member

Aldeen Davis, Board Member

PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, SEPTEMBER 25, 2007 AT 6:30 P.M., SCHEDULED WORK SESSION

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

The purpose of this work session is to discuss Noise Ordinance, Property Management and Animal Control.

NOISE ORDINANCE: The board discussed the proposed noise ordinance and decided to exclude some of the section and to refined some sections and to let Sheriff Richard King look over the ordinance before the board will act on it.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT: Mary Clifton, Community Development Director, presented several area of concern that the Code Department is looking into now. Mr. Clifton stated that the Code enforcement Department does not have the manpower to cover all of the complaints. They are working mostly on abandoned mobile home and burning at construction sites.

ANIMAL CONTROL: Ms. Julie Wilson discussed the stray animal problems and the HARP representative discussed their efforts to get grant monies to help with spading and neutering of dogs.

Chairman James Dennison stated that he will set up an appointment with Mayor Tom Davis to discuss the issue of an animal shelter in Pierce County.

Chairman Dennison adjourned the work session at 7:40 P.M.

PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, SEPTEMBER 25, 2007 AT 6:30 P.M., CALLED MEETING

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

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman James Dennison called the called meeting to order at 7:50 P.M.

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

RESOLUTION: Adopt Resolution of the Solid Waste Management Plan. This is required by the State of Georgia in conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan. Chairman Dennison read the resolution to the board and audience. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the Resolution of the Solid Waste Management Plan. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

INSURANCE BROKER-Discuss brokers to represent Pierce County for health coverage. Several county employees spoke out on the concerns about the problems with the county's present insurance.

Commissioner Mike Streat reminded the employees and the board that they were discussing an insurance broker and that the broker would present the best insurance for the county employees.

After several minutes of discussion, Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to table the discussion until the present insurance broker could present insurance information. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. Commissioners Neal Bennett, Randy Dixon and Aldeen Davis voted aye. Commissioner Mike Streat voted nay. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Having not further business, Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to adjourn the called meeting. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

James Dennison, Chairman

K. Neal Bennett, Board Member

Mike Streat, Board Member

Randy Dixon, Board Member

Aldeen Davis, Board Member