

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 05, 2006 AT 6:30 P.M.

Board Member 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

The regular board meeting was called to order by Chairman Mitch Bowen at 6:30 P.M.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to approve the August 2006 minutes. Commissioner Noah Strickland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

JOHN ED SMITH - The Pierce County Board of Commissioners presented a plaque to County Extension Agent, John Ed Smith for his twenty-three (23) years of service to Pierce County. Chairman Mitch Bowen pointed out that he was the only surviving county commissioner from 1983 who appointed John Ed Smith County Extension Agent. Mr. Smith is taking a position in Bacon County to work with the blueberry growers.

PIERCE COUNTY COURTHOUSE RENOVATION PROJECT: Rusty McCall of McCall & Associates, stated that work is continuing on the courthouse and that the inmates are wrapping up their work, but are leaving several sub-contractors to finish such work as the fire alarm system and the elevators. Mr. McCall stated that he believe that \$400,000 to \$450,000 will be left in the budget. Mr. McCall presented two proposal from two landscaping company to the commissioners for comparison. Commissioner Aldeen Davis wanted to know if the County was going to stay with the bid from Wright's Landscaping & Irrigation, Inc. Mr. McCall stated that Wright's Landscaping bid was in line with other bids. Mr. McCall pointed out that Mr. Wright's bid did not include the pavers around the flagpole. Mr. Wright stated that he could install the pavers around the flagpole. Mr. Wright had a question on the number of plants required for the project. The plans call for over 900 plants, but Mr. Wright stated that he counted only 591 plants. Commissioner Neal Bennett stated that the county needs to go ahead with this project and get an accurate count on the plants for Mr. Wright.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION PROJECT-AUGUST 2006 INVOICES: The August 2006 invoices for the Courthouse project totaled \$19,377.60. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to approve the August 2006 invoices totaling \$19,377.60. Commissioner Noah Strickland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MICHAEL JACOBS, SOUTHEAST GA RDC-REQUEST ADOPTION OF THE JOINT PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PLAN RESOLUTION: Michael Jacobs reported to the Board that Pierce County had received a \$25,000.00 grant to develop a pre-disaster mitigation plan. He stated that the plan has been submitted to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and they would like to have this resolution adopted as of September 12, 2006. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to adopt the Joint Pre-Disaster Mitigation Resolution as of September 12, 2006. Commissioner Noah Strickland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION-REZONING REQUEST-OWENS ROAD: Amy Hitt, Acting Community Development Director, presented a request from Danny Herrin to rezone 16.789 acres on Owens Road from Agriculture/Forestry to Commercial. County Attorney Franklin Rozier stated that a plat had been recorded in the Clerk of Court's office in 2005. Mrs. Hitt stated that she could not find a record as to where the property has been rezoned from Ag/Forestry to Single Family. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to rezone 16.789 acres on Owens Road from Ag/Forestry to Commercial upon the vacated plat being submitted. Commissioner Noah Strickland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION-REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE FINAL PLAT FOR COBBLESTONE ESTATES PHASE II: Amy Hitt, Acting Community Development Director, presented a request from Kirby Malone for approval of the final plat for Cobblestone Estates Phase II. Mrs. Hitt stated that the County Engineer, Sonny Bland, has approved the roads in the sub-division and that the Planning Commission has recommended that the Board approve the final plat, but they have not received all the paperwork on the roads. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to approval the final plat on Cobblestone Estates Phase II, but not the roads. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CIRCUIT PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE OF WAYCROSS CIRCUIT-ADDENDUM TO THE GEORGIA INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES AGREEMENT: Nicole Wood, County Administrative Supervisor, stated that the Mr. Clayton Culp of the Waycross Judicial Circuit Defender's Office has requested that the Pierce County Board of Commissioners adopt an addendum to the Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement. Mr. Culp stated that this is a change in the accounting of the agreement. The Administrative Office of the Courts will no longer administer and manage the funds, but the service will be taken over by the Georgia Public Defenders Standards Council. Mrs. Wood also stated that in FY 2007 the administrative fee for personnel expenses will be reduced from 10% to 7% and the operating expenses' fee will remain at 5%. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to adopt the addendum to the Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

KENNETH L. JUSTICE, EMA DIRECTOR: APPLICATION OF A FORESTRY GRANT WITH A 50/50 MATCH FOR FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT-Kenneth Justice, EMA Director, came before the Board to requesting permission to apply for a volunteer fire assistance grant through the Georgia Forestry Commission. Mr. Justice stated that this would be a 50/50 match grant for \$20,000, with the County providing 50% of the grant, which would be \$10,000. This grant will be used to purchase firefighting equipment to be paid from the 2007 General Fund Budget. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to approve the application of a volunteer fire assistance grant from the Georgia Forestry Commission. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

BILL ROZIER, CHIEF APPRAISER: BID REQUEST ON GIS PARCEL DATA ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT-Bill Rozier, Chief Appraiser, present three bids for the GIS parcel data maintenance contract to the Board. The University of Georgia bid \$12.75 per split, The SE GA RDC bid \$30.00 per split and \$15.00 for each additional parcel split and James W. Small Company bid \$5,311 for twelve months. Commissioner Neal Bennett wanted to know how many parcels he had. Mr. Rozier stated that in 2005 the number was 180 and in 2006 they are going to figure on 200 parcels. Mr. Rozier recommended that the Board go with The University of Georgia. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to accept the bid from The University of Georgia. Commissioner Noah Strickland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FRANKLIN D. ROZIER, COUNTY ATTORNEY: DISCUSSION ON ADOPTION OF THE TIMBER OPERATIONS ORDINANCE -Franklin Rozier, County Attorney, presented the Timber Operations Ordinance to the board. Mr. Rozier stated that the ordinance was for establishing rules for timber operations in Pierce County. Mr. Rozier stated that the permit did not require any fees and the Tax Assessors office will issue the permits. The ordinance also requires the timer operators to report what county roads will be used by their trucks to transport the timber. Mr. Rozier also stated that the timber operators who fail to obtain their permit will be taken to Magistrate Court and could be fined up to \$1,000 per day. Commissioner Neal Bennett stated that this was a start to recovering loss revenue on timber harvesting in Pierce County. Commissioner Neal Bennett wanted to know if the effective date of starting the permits should be when the quarter starts or January 01, 2007. County Attorney Franklin Rozier stated that he thought that the permits should start October 2006 and Chairman Mitch Bowen and Commissioner Aldeen Davis expressed their opinions for January 2007. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to adopt the Timber Operations Ordinance. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to have the applications for timber operations permits to start on January 01, 2007. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PIERCE TRANSIT SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY: ADOPTION OF CHANGES TO KEY CONTACTS ON POLICY-Nicole Wood, County Administrative Supervisor, stated that

after the State had reviewed the Policy, Chairman Mitch Bowen and she had been left off the system contacts on the Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy for Pierce Transit. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to adopt the changes to the System Contract on the Pierce Transit's Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy. Commissioner Noah Strickland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION-DR. JOY WILLIAMS: Discussion on Land Swap - Dr. Joy Williams asked to speak to the Board on Pierce County's intentions on the land swap for the land that the county received on College Avenue. The Board of Education gave the County the land adjacent to the NFC for a new library. Dr. Joy Williams stated that the Board of Education would like to request acreage across from the County Farm or another tract in that area. Chairman Mitch Bowen stated that the county had made an offer of eight acres of land across the road from the Pierce County High School. Dr. Williams stated that the Board of Education has not received anything in writing. Chairman Bowen said that he would see if he could find anything in writing for the Board of Education.

JOEY WALKER - COURTHOUSE FOUNTAIN - Mr. Walker stated to the Board that he had received a call from Mrs. Jamie Broome on the courthouse fountain and that she stated to him that the citizens of Pierce County did not want the construction of a fountain to die. Mr. Walker said that Mrs. Broome would like to receive permission from the Board to contact businesses in Pierce County to see if they would be willing to contribute to a fountain fund. Mr. Serge Strickland also suggested that another idea might be to sell pavers that will be placed around the fountain.

BUDGET WORKSESSIONS: Nicole Wood, County Administrative Supervisor, told the Board that three public hearings had been scheduled on the Millage rate and the 2007 budget. The hearings will take place at 11:00 AM at 6:30 PM on Monday, September 18 and again at 6:30 PM on Thursday, September 28. A called meeting at 6:45 PM on Thursday, September 28 will be held to set the Millage rate and to adopt the 2007 budget. Mrs. Wood stated that the letter from the Board of Education for their budget should be and the Board could adopt their budget at the same time. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to adopt the dates for the public hearing and the called meeting for the Millage rate and to adopt the 2007 budget. Commissioner Noah Strickland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mrs. Wood also stated that the Request for Qualifications on the insurance brokers is due September 22, 2006 at 2:30PM.

Having no further business, the regular monthly meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Mitch Bowen, Chairman

K. Neal Bennett, Board Member

Noah Strickland, Board Member

Aldeen Davis, Board Member

PUBLIC HEARING, PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2006 AT 11:00 AM.

The Public Hearing was called to order at 11:00 AM by Chairman Mitch Bowen. The purpose of this hearing is to notify the public that the Pierce County Board of Commissioners has tentatively adopted a Millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 1.04% in the unincorporated areas of the County and 1.30% in the incorporated areas of the County.

Those in attendance included:

Mitch Bowen
Noah Strickland
Aldeen Davis
Nicole Wood
Lynn Altman

Jason Deal

Chairman Bowen asked the audience if there were any questions or comments on the millage rate. Having no questions from the audience, the public hearing was adjourned.

Mitch Bowen, Chairman

Noah Strickland, Board Member

Aldeen Davis, Board Member

PUBLIC HEARING, PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2006 AT 6:30 PM.

The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chairman Mitch Bowen. The purpose of this hearing is to notify the public that the Pierce County Board of Commissioners has tentatively adopted a Millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 1.104% in the unincorporated areas of the County and 1.30% in the incorporated areas of the County.

Those in attendance included:

Mitch Bowen
Franklin Rozier
Noah Strickland
Jim Dennison
William A. Rozier
Jason Deal
K. Neal Bennett
Aldeen Davis
Lynn Altman
Nicole Wood

Having no questions from the audience, the public hearing was adjourned by Chairman Mitch Bowen

Mitch Bowen, Chairman

K. Neal Bennett, Board Member

Noah Strickland, Board Member

Aldeen Davis, Board Member

CALLED MEETING, PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2006 AT 7:00 P. M.

Board Member Present:

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

News Media Present:

The Blackshear Times

Bill Rozier, Chief Property Appraiser, asked to speak to the Board concerning the cost of mailing personal property forms. Mr. Rozier stated that he had looked into the cost of his staff mailing the forms and the cost of Tailored Business Systems printing and mailing the forms. Mr. Rozier's cost would be \$1,428.19, which would cover \$632.19 for postage, \$290.00 for forms, \$476.00 labor and \$30.00 for supplies. Tailored Business Systems cost would be \$1,203.65, which would cover 1,621 forms at \$.65 for the forms, printing, postage and envelopes and

\$150.00 for the set up charge. Commissioner Neal Bennett stated that it should save the county money in the long run. Chairman Mitch Bowen stated that he thinks that the County should do this. The Board gave its approval for Bill Rozier to contact Tailored Business Systems for the mailing of the personal property forms.

Nicole Wood, County Administrative Supervisor, announced that the October 03, 2006 regular board meeting will be rescheduled to October 10, 2006.

Mitch Bowen, Chairman

K. Neal Bennett, Board Member

Noah Strickland, Board Member

Aldeen Davis, Board Member