

**PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, TUESDAY, JANUARY 06, 2009 AT 6:30 P.M.**

Board Members Present:

James Dennison, Chairman

K. Neal Bennett, District 1

Mike Streat, District 2

Randy Dixon, District 3

Aldeen Davis, District 4

News Media Present:

The Blackshear Times

Pierce County Press

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Dennison called the regular meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.

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

**APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2008 MINUTES:** Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to approve the December 2008 minutes. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**1. PRESENTATION TO BRENDA HOWARD:** Chairman James Dennison presented a plaque to retiring Probate Judge Brenda Howard for her loyal support and dedicated to the citizens of Pierce County for 16 years of service as Probate Judge.

**2. RANDY BASS, RECREATION DIRECTOR-**December 2008 financial statement and January to December 2008 Profit & Loss Statement. Review proposed plans of administration building and batting cages for county property. Discuss upgrade requirements of ball field and administration building.

Financial Statement-December 2008-Total income \$33,612.59

Total expense \$18,032.63

Net income \$15,579.96

2008 Profit & Loss

Total income \$269,347.90

Total expense \$265,428.72

Net income \$ 3,919.18

Mr. Bass also reported that 40 children had signed up for wrestling and the basketball program in Patterson had 50 children.

Mr. Bass discussed the construction of the administration building by wanting to place the building on the county owned property across the street from the recreation center. Mr. Bass also wanted to start seeking prices on upgrading the fences on two of the older ball fields that will be used for the upcoming tournaments. He also informed the board that the Recreation Department had received a grant for the batting cages and he had one year to have them in place.

**3. MARTY CLIFTON, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**-Update on changed flood areas within Pierce County. Mr. Clifton informed the board that the new flood maps are now available in the Community Development Office and he encourages all Pierce County citizens to go by the office to look at the new flood maps. The new maps have an effected date of September 2009 and will affect residents seeking flood insurance, mortgages and etc.

### **CONTRACTS, INVOICES & REQUISITIONS**

**4. NFC/MFC/LIBRARY PROJECT:** Review and approve December 2008 Invoices-Invoices for the NFC/MPC totaled \$2,939.93 and the invoices for the Library project totaled \$27,812.96 for a total of \$30,752.89 for the NFC/MFC and Library Project. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to approve the December 2008 invoices at a total of \$30,752.89. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

**5. E.C. STOKES, INC**-Final payment on HVAC at the Pierce County Courthouse for \$5,000.00. The \$5,000 is the retainer fee left owing on the project. Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to pay the final invoice from E.C. Stokes, Inc for the HVAC at the Pierce County Courthouse. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

### **APPOINTMENTS**

**6. OADA BOARD APPOINTMENT**-The term of R.D. Thomas expired December 31, 2008. The Authority requested that Mr. Thomas be re-appointed for another four year term. Mr. Thomas has agreed to serve. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to reappoint R.D. Thomas to serve on the OADA Board for another four year term. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

### **PLANNING**

**7. GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION-STIP PROGRAM-** Due to shortage of funds, the construction of Waycross East Bypass from US 84 Pierce to US 1/US 23 Ware Project #0002871 has been dropped from the STIP. County Clerk Mollie Howard stated that she had received a letter from the Georgia Department of Transportation stating that the department is shifting the construction of the project out of the STIP due to shortage of funding.

**8. PIERCE COUNTY AGRICULTURE BUILDING-**Consider improvements, including expansion to building to accommodate service offices located in building. Chad Scruggs, District Director of the Farm Service Agency asked the board to consider expanding the building. Mr. Scruggs stated that Pierce County has taken on several other counties that had to close their offices. Mr. Scruggs stated that the FSA services over 600 farms and took on about 300 more clients during the consolidation. He asked that the commissioners consider renovating the building to accommodate additional employees and to provide office, storage and filing space. Commissioner Aldeen Davis suggested that the county get a general contractor to look at the building. Chairman Dennison appointed Commissioner Aldeen Davis to oversee the project and to report back to the board at a later date.

## **CONTRACTS & RESOLUTIONS**

**9. PIERCE COUNTY TRANSIT SYSTEM-**Authorize Pierce County Transit System to file an application with the Georgia Department of Transportation and US Department of Transportation for a Public Transportation Assistance Grant. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to authorize Pierce County Transit System to file an application with the Georgia Department of Transportation and US Department of Transportation for a Public Transportation Assistance Grant. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

**10. WAYCROSS JUDICIAL CIRCUIT-**Approve 2009 budget for the Waycross Judicial Circuit Defender's Office for personnel and operating expenses. The 2009 budget includes \$44,593.28 paid in quarterly installments of \$11,148.32 for the personnel expenses and \$11,220.30 paid in quarterly installments of \$2,805.08 for operating expenses. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to approve the 2009 budget from the Waycross Judicial Circuit Defender's Office. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

## ELECTED OFFICIAL

**11. CITY OF BLACKSHEAR**-Requesting authorization to work in the County's existing right-of-way to provide public water service to a mobile home park on Sunflower Road. Also, requesting the County fund the cost of a fire hydrant on Sunflower Road to be installed by the City. The city had requested the county buy the hydrant since the land is located in the county. Commissioner Neal Bennett and Commissioner Randy Dixon both commented that the county is not in the sewer and water business. Commissioner Bennett suggested that the landowner, Pete Colbath, purchase the fire hydrant. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to give the City of Blackshear authorization to work in the County's existing right-of-way for installation of water lines and a fire hydrant on Sunflower Road. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the request. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

**12. CITY OF BLACKSHEAR**-Requesting the \$1,370.34 in 03 SPLOST funds to pay an invoice from Statewide Engineering, Inc. for services associated with GDOT Transportation-Sidewalk Improvements. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the request from the City of Blackshear for \$1,370.34 in 03 SPLOST funds to pay an invoice from Statewide Engineering, Inc. for services associated with GDOT Transportation-Sidewalk Improvements. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

**13. ELECTION**-Chairman Dennison announced that he had appointed Sandra Boatright, Voter Registrar, as the Elections Superintendent until the grand jury could make the appointments to the election board, who then would hire the elections superintendent. County Attorney Franklin Rozier stated that "It's not legally possible for you to make the appointment." Mr. Rozier pointed out that Probate Judge Huey Davis was still the Elections Superintendent until he himself decides he isn't. Mr. Rozier stated that until legislation is introduced in Atlanta, the position remains with the Probate Judge.

**14. GUEST ROAD**-County Attorney Franklin Rozier stated that two property owners were still holding out on signing permission for the right-of-way on Guest Road. Mr. Rozier said that he needed to start negotiations with the property owners on an appraised amount for the property. If the property owners will not take the appraised amount, then the county could start with the condemnation of the property. Mr. Rozier said that the county would have to have an independent appraiser to do the appraisal. Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to allow County Attorney Franklin Rozier to proceed with the appraiser of the property on Guest Road. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

**15. WARE STREET**-Widening of Ware Street by 18"-Chairman Dennison asked the board to consider widening Ware Street by 18" and re-striping the road. Chairman Dennison stated that he would contact the GA Department of Transportation to see if the Department would furnish half of the cost of the project.

**16. YUMANS ROAD**-Chairman Denison stated that he would be meeting with School Superintendent Joy Williams and the Board of Education to determine what the county's part in the paving of Youmans Road will be. Chairman Dennison stated that the county may only pave the area directly in front of the new school. County Attorney Franklin Rozier will begin the process of obtaining right-of-ways for the sewer lines and the paving.

**17. SPEED LIMIT-GOLF COURSE ROAD**-Commissioner Neal Bennett made a request that the speed limit on Golf Course Road be changed from 35 mph to 45 mph. Commissioner Bennett stated that he had spoken with Sheriff Richard King and that the Sheriff had no objections with the new speed limit. County Attorney Franklin Rozier will draft a resolution to present to the board at the February meeting.

**18. BEAVER TAIL BOUNTY**-Commissioner Aldeen Davis requested the board to change the beaver tail bounty from \$25.00 per tail to \$35.00 per tail. Commissioner Davis stated that this will be closer to the bounty offered in other counties. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to change the beaver tail bounty from \$25.00 to \$35.00. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION-LAND ACQUISITION**

Chairman Dennison called for a motion to adjourn into executive session at 7:48 PM. Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to adjourn into executive session. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Randy Dixon to reconvene the regular monthly meeting at 8:00 PM. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Dennison stated that no action had been taken in the executive session.

**19. BID-NFC/MFC/LIBRARY PROJECT-ALUMINUM WINDOWS**-County Clerk Mollie Howard reported to the board that Rusty McCall had received only one bid for the windows for the project. Georgia Palm Beach Aluminum Window Corporation is the only company that makes the historical correct windows. The bid for the NFC/MFC project is \$61,165.00 and the bid for the Library project is \$16,225.00. Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to accept the bid from Georgia Palm Beach Aluminum Window Corporation for \$61,165.00 for the NFC/MFC Project and Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to accept the bid from Georgia Palm Beach Aluminum Window Corporation for \$16,225.00 for the Library Project and Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Having no further business, the regular monthly meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

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James Dennison, Chairman

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K. Neal Bennett, District 1

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Mike Streat, District 2

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Randy Dixon, District 3

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Aldeen Davis, District 4

**CALLED MEETING, PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSISONERS, THURSDAY,  
JANUARY 22, 2009 AT 6:30 P.M.**

Board Members Present:

James Dennison, Chairman

K. Neal Benner, District 1

Mike Streat, District 2

Randy Dixon, District 3

News Media Present:

The Blackshear Times

Pierce County Press

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Dennison called the called meeting to order at 6:29 P.M.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Mike Streat gave the invocation and fled the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Dennison called for a motion to adjourn the called meeting and go into executive session at 6:32 P.M. Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to adjourn and go into executive session. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

The called meeting was reconvened at 7:09 P.M. by a motion from Commissioner Mike Streat and a second by Commissioner Neal Bennett. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Dennison announced that no action had been taken in the executive session.

**1. Randy Bass, Recreation Director**-Discuss construction of administration building, batting facility and fencing of Jowers Field. Mr. Bass came before the board seeking permission to go ahead with Request for Proposals for the construction of an administration building, batting facility and fencing of Jowers Field. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to grant Randy Bass, Recreation Director, permission to seek Request for Proposals for the construction of an administration building, batting facility and fencing of Jowers Field. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Having no further county business, Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to adjourn the called meeting at 7:09 P.M. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

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James Dennison, Chairman

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K. Neal Bennett, District 1

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Mike Streat, District 2

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Randy Dixon, District 3