



**MINUTES OF THE  
PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

312 Nichols Street, Suite 5  
Blackshear, Georgia 31516

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**PUBLIC HEARING**

Chairman Jim Dennison opened the PUBLIC HEARING at 6:00 PM regarding the closing of a portion of Jacks Road in District 4 of unincorporated Pierce County. After comments from the public and petitioner, Chairman Dennison closed the Public Hearing at 6:24 PM.

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**MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION – FEBRUARY 02, 2010**

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Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2010, 6:30 PM EST

Commissioners Present: Chairman Jim Dennison, District 1 Commissioner K.Neal Bennett, District 2 Commissioner Mike Streat, District 3 Commissioner Randy Dixon, District 4 Commissioner Aldeen Davis

Administration: County Clerk Mollie Howard, County Attorney Franklin Rozier

Media: The Blackshear Times, The Pierce County Press, Alma Telephone Company (ATC – Video)

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Jim Dennison called the regular monthly meeting to order at 6:30 PM EST.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chairman Dennison asked District 4 Commissioner Davis to lead in the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA MODIFICATION:** District 1 Commissioner Bennett made a Motion to Amend the Agenda to include Execution Session regarding the discussion of the following items: Personnel and possible Litigation and the moving of item #A following Executive Session.

District 4 Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.



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Chairman Dennison and District 1 Commissioner Bennett discussed the necessity of an Executive Decision with Chairman Dennison indicating one was not needed at this time. County Attorney Franklin Rozier gave a brief legal descriptive on who had the authority to govern Agenda items. County Attorney Rozier indicated the "Board of Commissioners" governed Agenda items. Chairman Dennison stated, "Are you saying the Chairman has no authority over the agenda?" After discussion, a vote on the motion was given:

District 1 Commissioner Bennett voted aye, District 2 Commissioner Streat voted nay, District 3 Commissioner Dixon voted aye, District 4 Commissioner Davis voted aye, and Chairman Dennison voted nay.

**Motion carried (3 ayes – 2 nays) to amend agenda.**

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY  
2010 MINUTES:**

After review of the January 2010 minutes, District 4 Commissioner Davis made a motion to accept the minutes as printed. District 1 Commissioner Bennett seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye with Chairman Dennison voting aye.

**Motion carried (5 ayes – 3 nays) to accept January 2010 minutes.**

**COMMUNITY NEWS:**

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Item A – Recreation Director: Moved to the end of Executive Session.



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**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

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Item B – Robert Ellis: Chairman Dennison called for Robert Ellis. Mr. Ellis has requested to be on the agenda to discuss bad dogs. Mr. Ellis was not present at the meeting. Chairman Dennison stated, “He had no information on the item of discussion.”

Item C – Carl Boyett: Mr. Boyett had requested to be on the agenda to discuss the NFC/Library project. When called by Chairman Dennison to address the commission, Mr. Boyett indicated that he had no items to discuss at this time.

**PLANNING & ZONING**

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Item D – Request to Close road: Mr. William Peter Wright, Jr. made a petition to close a portion of county road CR 244 known as Jacks Road in unincorporated Pierce County located in District 4. The portion of closure would be located from the intersection of Old Alma Highway to the intersection of Peacock Dairy Road. This section would include approximately 300 feet of closure. The purpose of the closure is to accommodate the construction and operation of a farming pivot system located adjacent to the new blueberry juicing facility located on Peacock Dairy Road. Community Development Director Marty Clifton gave a summary descriptive of the proposed road closure. Mr. Clifton indicated to the board that E911 and the Pierce County Schools Transportation supervisor have also given approval to the closure request.



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District 2 Commissioner 2 Streat asked if there were any outstanding issues such as public utilities and road realignment regarding the road closure that would need to be addressed before giving final approval.

Mr. Clifton stated that a culvert extension on Peacock Dairy Road had been extended entering Old Alma Highway south. Public utilities would have to be relocated to extend the culvert from the northern direction on Old Alma Highway.

District 4 Commissioner Davis indicated that Peacock Dairy Road would need to be realigned with Old Alma Highway and the 45 degree culvert would need to be corrected. One issue is that a pipe located under Old Alma Highway on the northern direction from Peacock Dairy Road was preventing the culvert to be expanded on the northern side of Peacock Dairy Road. District 4 Commissioner Davis indicated that the road intersection at Jacks Road and Old Alma Highway was very dangerous for farming equipment. Low visual proximity of oncoming traffic placed equipment and lives in jeopardy. Local farmer Jay Davis expressed the same concerns but wanted to be sure that the Old Alma Highway and Peacock Dairy Rd culvert extension to the north would be corrected.

Property owner William Peter Wright Jr. addressed the commission and stated that he would give the property to help realign Peacock Dairy Rd with Old Alma Highway.

District 4 Commissioner Aldeen Davis made the motion to allow the closing of Jacks Road (CR 244) between the intersection of Jacks and Peacock Dairy Road to Old Alma Highway pending that all the following action actions were completed:

1. Removal of public utilities from the closed portion of Jacks Road.
2. Realignment of Peacock Dairy Road with Old Alma Highway to correct the 45 degree culvert issue. The roadway should



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be corrected to allow the free flow of semi trucks as well as normal vehicle traffic onto Old Alma Highway.

3. Property owner William Peter Wright to deed Pierce County the property to realign Peacock Dairy Road with Old Alma Highway.
4. Finalization of said action items would constitute final/permanent closing of the said portion of Jacks Road.

District 3 Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion.

Additional Info: Road Department will begin work on the issues in about two (2) weeks pending the improvement of area weather conditions. Lewis Peacock expressed concerns on drainage regarding a portion of Old Alma Highway.

**Motion carried (5 ayes - 0 nays) to accept the Request to close a portion of Jacks Road based on the above stated action items being corrected.**

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**RESOLUTIONS & CONTRACTS**

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Item E – Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement:

District 2 Commissioner Mike Streat gave a summary of the purpose of the "Indigent" program and how Pierce County benefits from this program. Commissioner Streat asked if Pierce County receives allotted indigent funds from the state. County Attorney Franklin Rozier responded yes.

**Motion carried (5 ayes – 0 nays) to approve the renewal of the Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement with the Circuit Public Defender in the amount of \$40,133.92.**



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Item F – County Extension Personnel Contract:

District 4 Commissioner Aldeen Davis made the motion to approve the renewal of the annual contract between the Pierce County Board of Commissioners and the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension to conduct extension work in Pierce County. Note: James Jacobs serves as the extension agent for Pierce County.

District 3 Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion.

**Motion carried (5 ayes – 0 nays).**

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

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Item G – Angie Bowen, Transit Director:

Transit Director Angie Bowen came before the commission to request that ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) policy regarding the 5311 program be included in the Transit Procedure guide for Pierce County. Mrs. Bowen indicated that the ADA policy was listed in the brochure, but it had not been formally approved by the board of commissioners.

Permit service animals, persons using respirators or portable oxygen, personal care attendants, and the securing of wheelchairs to be included also in the policy of Transit.

District 3 Commissioner Dixon made the motion to accept and approve the ADA requirements be included as policy for Pierce County regarding transit transportation.

District 1 Commissioner Bennett seconded the motion.



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**Motion carried (5 ayes – 0 nays)**

Item H – Bill Rozier, Tax Assessor:

Chief Tax Assessor William (Bill) Rozier appeared before the commission to present a letter from the Department of Revenue requesting \$16,034.40 in additional taxes due to the overall average assessment level of the assessments by the board of tax assessors was less than the proper assessment ration of 40%. Because of the ration being less than acceptable, the county was assessed additional state tax in the amount of \$15,720 with an additional interest amount of \$314.40 due to non-payment. This was in reference to the 2008 Pierce digest review. Total being due is \$16,034.40. An additional 1% interest accrual would be assessed about January 1, 2010, if payment was not received.

County Attorney Franklin Rozier indicated he has spoken with the state revenue department and has filed an appeal with the governing authority.

District 1 Commissioner Bennett stated based on our formula calculations of 40 percent; the personal property digest appeared to be under evaluated per the state.

District 4 Commissioner Davis asked Mr. Bill Rozier were the personal property evaluations done in thirds. Mr. Bill Rozier answered yes.

County Attorney Franklin Rozier stated he is awaiting a response from the state regarding the Pierce County appeal.

**No action taken.**



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ITEM I – Franklin Rozier, County Attorney:

County Attorney Franklin Rozier stated that he has written the cities of Patterson and Blackshear regarding the payment of their part towards the invoice received from Linda Carroll, GPU Inc, regarding the Comprehensive Plan.

A letter received by the county attorney from one of the city governments has contained a statement about “double taxation” and appears in the letter received. The county attorney appeared surprised and made the statement the letter appeared to be confusing to understand.

County Attorney Rozier indicated that those cities involved with Pierce County in the planning and development of the Comprehensive Plan had indicated they would pay their portion of the bill for this project when the agreement was made.. No written payment agreement was formulated between all parties but was verbally agreed upon.

District 1 Commissioner Bennett stated that he thought all people involved would in “good faith” pay the bill even though it (the invoice) had been submitted three (3) years late.

District 2 Commissioner Streat asked if the Comprehensive Plan had been completed. County Clerk Mollie Howard answered “yes”.

Even though no payment plan was drawn up for the payment between the local governments, District 1 Commissioner Bennett and District 2 Commissioner Streat voiced their desire for the bill to be paid.

District 2 Commissioner Mike Streat made the motion to pay Pierce County’s portion of the bill equaling \$29K to the firm GPU, Inc and not as individual a/k/a Linda Carroll.



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District 1 Commissioner Bennett seconded the motion.

**Motion carried (5 ayes – 0 nays)**

Additional insert:

District 4 Commissioner Davis stated that “We” need to review the Comprehensive Plan annually to ensure we are meeting the goals and make adjustments as needed. He pointed out that he found a copy of the plan stuck in a drawer where he sat.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

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Item J – City of Blackshear: The city of Blackshear is requesting \$795.00 in SPLOST funds to pay an invoice from EMS Engineering Services, Inc. for drainage. Funds are available.

District 4 Commissioner Davis made the motion to pay the \$795.00 to the City of Blackshear from SPLOST as requested.

District 3 Commissioner Dixon seconded motion.

Motion carried (5 ayes – 0 nays).

**BIDS**

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Item K – Bids:

Annual bids are currently being accepted and will be presented in the April 6, 2010, meetings for the following: Fuel – Gas & Diesel,

Lubricants, culvert pipes, pest control, fire extinguishers, grounds keeper.

Notation -- The grounds keeper bid will include only the court house. The maintenance person will handle all other. This will save cost of this bid according the County Clerk Mollie Howard.

Item L – Painting and Vinyl Siding for Agricultural Building:

District 4 Commissioner Davis stated that he has reviewed the submitted bids and is satisfied that they meet required specifications.

District 2 Commissioner Streat asked if we were bidding the same vinyl material. District 4 Commissioner Davis stated “yes”.

District 4 Commissioner Davis made a motion to accept the bid of \$5,729 from Terry’s Vinyl Siding of Alma, GA.

District 3 Commissioner Dixon seconded the motion.

**Motion carried (5 ayes – 0 nays).**

**NFC/LIBRARY PROJECT**

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Item M – Invoices:

Invoices from the month of December include:

NFC/MPF Project: \$69,237.64

LIB Grant \$148,377.56



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TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$217,615.20

District 4 Commissioner Davis gave a summary above of the total expenditures and costs associated with the two (2) ongoing projects.

District 2 Commissioner Streat along with District 4 Commissioner Davis and County Clerk Mollie Howard echoed that Pierce County would be soon receiving reimbursements for the Library Project. A meeting held to discuss fund appropriation was held recently and the state cleared the way for the funding.

District 2 Commissioner Streat made a motion to approve the December 2009, invoices and District 1 Commissioner Bennett seconded the motion.

**Motion carried (5 ayes – 0 nays).**

Item N – Low Voltage Bids:

County Chairman Jim Dennison and County Clerk announced that the following bids would be accepted until March 2, 2010, 2:00 PM.

Fire Alarm System, Intrusion Alarm System, Data/Voice Network and Cabling System, Detection System, Presentation System.

Mr. JC Wallace submitted copies of bids regarding to brick for the NFC Project. Based on the costs involved with the brick, District Commissioners expressed concern that the brick be formally bided out by the county. Bick specs are 80,000 modular size bricks, 10,000 smooth red Cherokee bricks, and 640 bags of Coosa buff mortar. Estimated cost would be 28-30K.

District 2 Commissioner thanked a local vendor (not called out by name) for assisting Pierce County and saving significant monies on the NFC Project.



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County Chairman Jim Dennison echoed the words of Commissioner Streat by thanking the community vendors for their support and assistance in current projects.

Mr. JC Wallace also indicated to the commission that a “Scissor” style lift is needed for the gym project. The costs involved in renting a lift versus purchasing the lift was discussed.

District 2 Commissioner Streat asked local vendor Carl Boyett about costs involved with a lift. This type lifts required special batteries, replied Mr. Boyett. That is the main cost and concern with these type lifts.

The request was given to County Clerk Mollie Howard to further review,

**NON AGENDA ITEMS DICUSSED**

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1. Mark Dixon, Board of Education Chairman, asked the commission to assist in the paving of Yeomans Road from Midway Church Road to the bus enter/exit ramps. He indicated that the BOE had already awarded a bid to Dixie Road Builders in Waycross for curbing and road construction on school board property. The estimated footage to be paved would be 1200-1500 feet. School Board Chairman Mark Dixon explained that Dixie Road Builders would already have their equipment in place and significant cost savings could be made by the county if they chose to go ahead with the project. County Chairman Jim Dennison indicated that item would be on a called meeting that would be held in the near future.
2. District 2 Commissioner Mike Streat asked the community to be active in reporting suspicious activity especially around the new Midway School. Two (2) cement mixers were stolen and according to Investigator Ramsey Bennett, one (1) has been recovered.



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3. County Attorney Franklin Rozier discussed the easement bond for water and sewer regarding the City of Blackshear. He asked the commission if they would sign the agreement and verbal consent was given to Chairman Dennison to sign. After later review of the documents, County Attorney

requested that each commissioner to sign. Based on the paperwork he had obtained, all commissioners must sign. No motion required.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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District 1 Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to enter Executive Session at 7:45 PM.

District 4 Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded.

**Motion carried (5 ayes – 0 nays).**

8:39 PM -- Upon entering the commission chambers, District 2 Commissioner Mike Streat made the motion to reconvene with District 1 Commissioner Bennett seconded the motion.

**Motion carried (5 ayes – 0 nays).**

Item A – Recreation Director:

District 3 Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to hire Scottie Graham as the new Recreation Director to replace the late Randy Bass. District 4 Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion.

**Motion carried (5 ayes – 0 nays).**



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Chairman Jim Dennison asked if there was any other business to conduct regarding Executive Session or business. Since there was none further, Chairman Dennison asked for a motion to adjourn. District 2 Commissioner Mike Streat made the motion to adjourn, and District 3 Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 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