

**PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, CALLED MEETING, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2009 AT 6:30 PM**

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 September 2009 meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

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

**APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2009 MINUTES:** Prior to approving the August 2009 minutes, Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to rescind his motion to award the bid to Brannen Motors for a 2009 truck for the Code and Planning Development Department. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to rescind his second on the motion to award the bid to Brannen Motors for a 2009 truck for the Code and Planning Development department.

Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to approve the August 2009 regular and called meeting and the Public Hearings with the changes made. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. Chairman Dennison voted aye. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

**1. ADOPT THE 2009 MILLAGE RATE FOR THE PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND THE PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION-**Chairman Dennison stated that the gross millage rate will be 12.75 percent minus rollbacks for a net M&O in the unincorporated area of 7.77 % and minus rollbacks with a net M&O in the incorporated of 9.62%. The Pierce County Board of Education submitted their millage rate for 2009-2010 as 15.5 mills based on a tentative net tax digest of \$387,932,149. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to set the millage rate as 12.75 percent minus rollbacks for a net M&O in the unincorporated area of 7.77 % and minus rollbacks with a net M&O in the incorporated are of 9.62% and The Pierce County Board of Education's millage rate for 2009-2010 as 15.5 mills based on a tentative net tax digest of \$387,932,149. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. Chairman Dennison voted aye. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Dennison adjourned the meeting at 6:41 PM. and called the September 2009 regular meeting to order at 6:41 PM.

**PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2009 AT 6:30 PM**

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

**1. GEMA PRE-APPLICATION DRAINAGE PROJECT WORKSHEET-** Kenneth Justice, EMA Director is requesting permission to apply for a federal grant for the following roads: 1. Golf Course Road-raising the elevation 4.0 vertical feet, tapering east and west for 500 feet each direction, widening and realigning the roadway to align with box culvert extension; 2. Voight Bridge Road-install a 40' 6x9 box culvert to lessen the stress on a single bridge over the Alabama River; 3. Mershon Road over Crooked River-install culverts. County participation will be 85% federal funding with 15% county match only if grant is funded. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to give Kenneth Justice, EMA Director permission to apply for a GEMA-Pre-application drainage project. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. Chairman Dennison voted aye. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

**BIDS**

**2. BLACKSHEAR-PIERCE COUNTY RECREATION DEPARTMENT VEHICLE BID-** Mollie Howard, County Clerk announced that three (3) bids had been received for a truck for the recreation department. Allen Vigil Ford bid on a 2010 Ford F150 truck for \$28,296 with a 12 week delivery date; Brannen Motor Company bid on a 2010 Ford F150 truck for \$25,095 with an 8-10 week delivery date and Walker Jones bid on a 2009 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 for \$26,900 with a delivery date of now. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to accept the bid from Walker Jones on a 2009 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 for \$26,900 citing immediate delivery and a desire to keep the money local. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

**3. EMS EMERGENCY VEHICLE BID-** Mollie Howard, County Clerk announced that one (1) bid had been received for the EMS ambulance. Emergency Vehicles Sales bid \$124,836 for a 2009 Ford E 450 Super Duty Traumahawk ambulance. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to accept the bid from Emergency Vehicles for a 2009 Ford E 450 Super Duty Traumahawk ambulance at the bid price of \$124,836. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. Chairman Dennison voted aye. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

**4. AUDIT SERVICES FOR PIERCE COUNTY FOR YEARS ENDED 2009-2011.** Mollie Howard, County Clerk presented the following bids for audit services:

COMPANY NAME	AUDIT YEAR	PRICE	SINGLE AUDIT	HRS PROF SERVICE-NO ADD CHARGE
BYRT CPA	2009	\$35,010	\$4,000	10
	2010	33,110	3,500	10
	2011	33,110	3,500	10
HURST & HURST CPA	2009	22,307	NO PROVISION	24
	2010	22,976	NO PROVISION	24
	2011	23,665	NO PROVISION	24
MAULDIN & JENKINS, CPA	2009	28,000	NO PROVISION	10
	2010	28,500	NO PROVISION	10
	2011	30,000	NO PROVISION	10
EARL LAWSON, CPA	2009	10,925	NO EXTRA CHARGE	12
	2010	10,925	NO EXTRA CHARGE	12
	2011	10,925	NO EXTRA CHARGE	12
KENDALL L. DAVIS, P.C.	NO BID RECEIVED			

Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to accept the bid from Earl Lawson, CPA for audit services for years ended 2009-2011. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. Chairman Dennison voted aye. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Randy Bass, Recreation Department Director reported that the recreation department had 220 children enrolled in football, 135 in cheerleading and 50 in the soccer program.

Commissioner Mike Streat wanted to thank Carl Boyette for all the work and materials that he had supplied to the Recreation Department.

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**5. Tommy Lowman-Blackshear Main Street Director-OADA-**Mr. Lowman expressed disappointment that no representative from OADA was present at the meeting. He also wanted to see the presentation that Chairman Dennison had before he spoke.

**6. Paul Davis-**Mr. Davis thanked the board for the time put into the discussions on OADA.

**7. OADA and Industrial Development in Pierce County-**Chairman Jim Dennison gave a presentation about Project Green, an economic development project that OADA is currently working with. Project Green manufactures wood pellets. This company will have a capital

investment of \$120,000,000, 50 full time employees and anticipated payroll of \$1,750,000. Chairman Dennison stated that Ware County is offering tax abatements, providing land and infrastructure improvements, but Pierce County would gain economically through increased timber sales and tax revenue and bring more jobs in the timber and trucking industries.

Commissioner Aldeen Davis pointed out that Pierce County would gain those benefits even if Pierce County isn't in OADA. Commissioner Davis stated that he had agreed to revisit the issue "because the initial decision was made too quickly." Commissioner Davis stated that his opinion has not changed though and he thinks that we need to drop this and move on. He stated that OADA's success is primary do to Ware County's success and that he believes Pierce County citizens support Ware County's industrial effort substantially through spending in Waycross stores and restaurants.

Commissioner Mike Streat stated that the board has "manned the battle stations three times to stop this thing. I've canvassed this county to get citizen input and the majority wants us to stay out of OADA." Commissioner Streat then made a motion to allow Mr. Lowman to speak beyond the 4-5 minutes scheduled for each speaker. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. Commissioner Randy Dixon voted aye. Chairman Dennison and Commissioner Bennett voted nay. Motion carried.

**Tommy Lowman-Blackshear Main Street Director-OADA-**Mr. Lowman stated that he is passionate about the issue of OADA and will speak against OADA at every opportunity. Mr. Lowman said "I will fight for what I believe is right, because I love this community." Mr. Lowman insisted that this is a very important issue. We should stop sending our money out of the county and we should hire our own industrial recruiter and stop paying membership dues. Mr. Lowman stated that Pierce County could seek membership in a regional authority, such as joining a neighboring arrangement with Appling, Bacon and Jeff Davis counties. He also commented on Chairman Dennison's recent effort to secure retirement communities with OADA's help. Mr. Lowman pointed out that recruiting seniors is a good thing, but he didn't think they were "an industry." "They are people, he said, and they will put a strain on our services."

## **CONTRACTS, ORDINANCE & PROCLAMATIONS**

**8. INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR RECREATION-Review a proposal from the City of Blackshear for Pierce County to assume total responsibility for all public services in Pierce County.** Commission Mike Streat made a motion to accept the intergovernmental agreement for recreation. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. Chairman Dennison voted aye. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

**9. 2010 CENSUS-Sign proclamation stating that Pierce County will participate in the 2010 Census.** Commissioner Mike Street made a motion to sign proclamation stating that Pierce County will participate in the 2010 Census. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. Chairman Dennison voted aye. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

**10. FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE-Adopt and have the Department of Homeland Security's FEMA Regional Office approve floodplain management measures that satisfy 44 Code of Federal Regulations Section 60.3 (d) of the National Flood Insurance Program regulations.** Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to adopt and have the Department of Homeland Security's FEMA Regional Office approve floodplain management measures that satisfy 44 Code of Federal Regulations Section 60.3 (d) of the National Flood Insurance Program regulations. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. Chairman Dennison voted aye. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**11. CITY OF BLACKSHEAR-Requesting \$10,000 from SPLOST to pay an invoice from EMC Engineering, Inc for services associated with a drainage project in District 4.**

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the request from the City of Blackshear requesting \$10,000 from SPLOST to pay an invoice from EMC Engineering, Inc for services associated with a drainage project in District 4. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. Chairman Dennison voted aye. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

**12. PIERCE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY-Requesting \$2,000 to assist in the funding of the annual Pecan Festival to be held on November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.** Funds are available. Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to approve the request from the Pierce County Chamber of Commerce & Industrial Development Authority for \$2,000 to assist in the funding of the annual Pecan Festival to be held on November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. Chairman Dennison voted aye. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

**13. CITY OF PATTERSON-Requesting \$2,337.60 from the 2003 SPLOST funds to reimburse street and road projects-**\$1,887.60 for repairs on Hyers Street Extension drainage and \$450.00 from Kelly's Signs and Graphics for signs on Highway 32, Golf Cart crossings. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the request from the City of Patterson in the amount of \$1,887.60 for repairs on Hyers Street Extension drainage and \$450.00 from Kelly's Signs and Graphics for signs on Highway 32, Golf Cart crossings. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. Chairman Dennison voted aye. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

**14. BID ON ROAD STRIPING-**Commissioner Aldeen Davis rescinded his motion to rebid the various county road striping. Commissioner Randy Dixon rescinded his second to Commissioner Davis' motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to award the bid on 21.31 miles of road striping to Diversified Traffic Services, Inc for \$66,942. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-REAL ESTATE**

The board cancelled the executive session to discuss real estate acquisition until County Attorney Franklin Rozier could attend the meeting.

Chairman Dennison announced that Pierce County had received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for \$497,711.00 for the Blue Lake area for drainage and street improvements.

Having no further county business, the September 2009 meeting was adjourned at 7:45 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

**PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, CALLED MEETING, FRIDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2009 AT 7:30 AM.**

Board Member 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 Jim Dennison called the September 18, 2009 called meeting to order at 7:35AM.

**REAL ESTATE ACQUISITION:** County Attorney Franklin Rozier presented three (3) land sales on Youman Road to the board. Mr. Rozier stated that the county was acquiring .429 of an acre from Carl Bennett for \$2,360.00; 4.562 acres from Robert Edward Bennett for \$22,810.00 and 0.109 of an acre from Roland C. Chartrand for \$625.00. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the land acquisitions as stated by County Attorney Franklin Rozier. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. Chairman Dennison voted aye. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Jim Dennison called the second meeting to order at 7:47 AM.

**GA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:** County Clerk Mollie Howard presented information from the GA Department of Transportation concerning current project within Pierce County and the request from the GDOT to de-obligate any projects that are not work ready. GDOT recommended Mershon Bridge over Crooked River be repaired with GDOT supplying a crane, operator and laborer to assist the road department and a GDOT engineering consultant. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to approve as recommended. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. Chairman Dennison voted aye. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to make the Guest Road/Clifford Loop project a priority, leaving Bailey Road, Mill Creek Road and Brown Bridge Road on the active list while de-obligating the GA Department of Transportation obligation at this time. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. Chairman Dennison voted aye. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

Having no further county business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 AM.

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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