

**PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 03, 2009 AT 1:00 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

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dennison called the regular monthly meeting to order at 1:14 PM.

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

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 2009 MINUTES: Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the November 2009 minutes. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion with a change. Commissioner Bennett wants the wording on page 5 under Motor Grader Bid changed from “buyback to minimum trade in.” All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

A. City of Blackshear-Requesting \$14,617.00 from the 2003 SPLOST funds to purchase one 2010 F-150 pickup from Brannen Motors Company. Funds are available. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the request from the City of Blackshear for \$14,617.00 from the 2003 SPLOST funds to purchase a2010 F-150 pickup from Brannen Motors Company. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

B. Ed Drawdy & J.P. Barnard-Requesting 25.885 acres off Johnson Road be rezoned from AF to MF for the purpose of creating a subdivision. The Planning Commission recommends approval. Community Development Director Mary Clifton stated that they are only asking for rezoning and that homes and mobile homes will be allowed. Commissioners Mike Streat made a motion to approve rezoning 25.885 acres off Johnson Road be rezoned from AF to MF for the purpose of creating subdivision. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

BIDS

C. Review Agriculture Building Renovation Bid Proposals-Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion that this bid review be postponed until the next meeting due to the fact that the board has not had enough time to review the proposals. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

D. Review Motor Grader Bid Proposals-Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion that this bid review be postponed until the next meeting due to the fact that the board has not had enough time to review the proposals. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

E. Review Right –of-Way Mowing Bid Proposals- Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion that this bid review be postponed until the next meeting due to the fact that the board has not had enough time to review the proposals. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

F. Kenneth Justice, EMA/EMS/Fire Director

1) Review Fire Department Bid Proposal- Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion that this bid review be postponed until the next meeting due to the fact that the board has not had enough time to review the proposals. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

2) Discuss ATV Project-Kenneth Justice, EMA/EMS/Fire Director requested permission to purchase a ATV to be used to remove injured patients from hunting accidents, ATV accidents and places where EMS units cannot access. The ATV will also be used for fire fighting, law enforcement and search and rescue. Mr. Justice stated that the county had \$5,000 from a GEMA grant. Commissioner Randy Dixon stated that 90% of the hunters had their own ATV and that the county needs to keep the budget in line. Commissioner Dixon stated that he was not against the project-but just not at this time. Commissioner Aldeen Davis stated that he understood Commissioner’s Dixon point and that the equipment that Mr. Justice was proposing is to be able to have a backboard on the ATV to strap down the injured person. Commissioner Neal Bennett wanted to know how long the county could hold the \$5,000 before it would have to be paid back. Commissioner Mike Streat stated that the purchase of the ATV was just the start of the spending. The county would also have to build a shelter to house the ATV. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to postpone the request for an ATV until the next meeting. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

3) Discuss EMS Consultants handling billing services for the Pierce County EMS office- Kenneth Justice stated that the county will not be paying the \$3,900.00 in support fees, the \$3,672.00 for mailing statements and it will allow the office staff more time for other duties.

Mr. Justice stated that the county should see from a 4% to 7% increase in collection fees. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the request from Kenneth Justice to approve EMS Consultants to handle billing services for the Pierce County EMS office. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

4) Discuss insurance reimbursement and purchase of new equipment with insurance claim funds. Kenneth Justice, EMA/EMS Director, stated that ACCG had paid for the ambulance that was destroyed by fire. The insurance company paid \$25,150 for the ambulance itself and \$45,731.40 for the contents, which represents 80% of the total damages. The other 20% will be issued when the insurance company receives documents showing that all the contents have been replaced and at what cost. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to allow Kenneth Justice to purchase ambulance equipment with the insurance check. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

CONTRACTS

G. Linda Carroll, GPU, Inc-Requesting payment in the amount of \$29,000.00 for the Comprehensive Plan as approved in the January 30, 2006 board meeting. This invoice was to be divided between the Cities of Blackshear and Patterson and Pierce County. Commissioner Neal Bennett questioned why the board was just now receiving the invoice from Linda Carroll. Commissioner Mike Streat stated that a time line should be set on receiving invoices. County Attorney Franklin Rozier said that the contract need to be found and presented to the board. Commissioner Neal Bennett stated that the cities need to address this issue and the board need to have more conversation with the cities. The board agreed to place this request on hold until more research can be done.

DOT Meeting-Commissioner Alden Davis gave a report on the trip to Atlanta to meet with the Department of Transportation and Transportation Commissioner Vance Smith. Chairman Jim Dennison, Commissioners Aldeen Davis and Mike Streat and County Clerk Mollie Howard made the trip. Commissioner Davis reported that Commissioner Smith committed \$160,000 in state funds to help with the repairs on the Mershon Road Bridge with the possibility of up to \$180,000. The state will cover the cost of replacing the bridge, but the county will be responsible for demo work and for building the ramps to the span. Commissioner Davis stated that the DOT has asked the county to postpone work on the Guest Road paving project. Commissioner Davis stated "Guest Road paving will still begin in 2010, but it will just be after the state's fiscal year which begins in July." Commissioner Davis expressed thanks to State Senator Greg Goggans, State Representatives Mark Williams and Tommy Smith for their help in setting up the meeting.

County Attorney Franklin Rozier-Easement proposal from the City of Blackshear on sewer lines from the Industrial Park to the Midway Elementary School-County Attorney Franklin Rozier stated that the City of Blackshear will reimburse Pierce County all costs in purchasing three/eights of the right of way so that Blackshear will have a easement of thirty feet wide within said eighty feet of right of way in which water

and sanitary sewer lines shall be installed. County Attorney Rozier stated that the funds paid out on rights of ways were \$77,385.00. The City will reimburse \$9,673.12 to Pierce County.

County Attorney Franklin Rozier-Mr. Rozier announced that he doesn't want to be re-appointed in January 2010 as county attorney. Mr. Rozier stated that he will stay on until a new attorney is appointed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-LITIGATION

Chairman Dennison called for a motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss a litigation issue. Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 2:07 PM. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Regular meeting reconvened at 2:20 PM with a motion from Commissioner Mike Streat and a second from Commissioner Randy Dixon. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried. Chairman Dennison announced that no action had been taken.

Chairman Dennison announced that a called meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, December 15th at 6:30 PM.

Chairman Dennison called for a motion to adjourn the regular monthly meeting at 2:22PM. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to adjourn the regular monthly meeting at 2:22PM. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Budget Work session immediately following meeting.

James Dennison, Chairman

K. Neal Bennett, District 1

Mike Streat, District 2

Randy Dixon, District 3

Aldeen Davis, District 4

PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, CALLED MEETING, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 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 called meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

A.) Diversified Traffic Services, Inc-Update on stripping project on various county road consisting of 21.31 miles. Mr. Neal Howard stated that Diversified Traffic Services Inc will begin contract CSSFT-0008-00(974), highway striping on county road before the end of December 2009. Mr. Howard explained that the state had release paving projects and that Surface Preparation out of Pennsylvania had won a contract to put rumble strips on the side of highways throughout District 5, which is Pierce County DOT district. Mr. Howard stated that Pierce County had this done on two sections of S.R. 15 beginning in Bristol and stopping at the city limits and beginning again at Lakeview Golf Club extending to the county line at the Satilla River. This roadway also received new thermoplastic edge line striping that is free to the county. This project will take approximately two weeks to complete.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Dennison called for a motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss personnel and a litigation issue. Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 6:45 PM. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Regular meeting reconvened at 7:27 PM with a motion from Commissioner Aldeen Davis and a second from Commissioner Randy Dixon. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried. Chairman Dennison announced that no action had been taken.

NFC/LIBRARY/MULTI-PURPOSE PROJECT

BIDS-Rusty McCall-Mr. McCall of McCall & Associates gave a presentation on several bids for the NFC/Library/Multi-Purpose Project. Mr. McCall stated that the following bids had been received on November 19, 2009.

HVAC bids were received from Valdosta Mechanical Company, Inc for \$669,470; Conley Sheet Metal Works, Inc for \$714,422; Ray & Sons Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc for \$737,500. This bid also included work for an alternate price for replacing the control system in the Courthouse. Valdosta Mechanical Company's bid was \$48,300, Conley Sheet Metal Works, Inc for \$49,000; Ray & Sons Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc for \$50,800. Mr. McCall stated that there had been some discussion concerning the subcontractor who will be providing the control system. There was some concern that Johnson Controls, the subcontractor who provided the lowest price to Valdosta Mechanical, would have a response time of approximately one to two business days before they could service their equipment. Mr. McCall said that Siemens has a technician who lives in Blackshear and could respond to a service call the same day. Valdosta Mechanical is proposing to use Siemens instead of Johnson Controls. The difference between Johnson's bid and Siemens' bid is \$28,528.

Roofing bids were received on November 19, 2009. Three bids were received. J. Register Company, Inc. for \$228,000; Childers Roofing for \$235,000; Renaissance Roofing, Inc. for \$369,000. Mr. McCall recommended that the board accept the low bid from J. Register Company, Inc. for \$228,000.

Mr. McCall stated that no bids had been received for the low voltage work and for the doors, frames and hardware. Mr. McCall contacted Valdosta Commercial Doors, Inc. and asked them to take a look at the project and see if they were interested in providing a proposal. The proposal from Valdosta Commercial Doors, Inc. was for \$162,777. Mr. McCall is recommending Valdosta Commercial Doors, Inc. for this project.

Mr. McCall stated that on the low voltage work he had received a price from Boyette Electric, but it was after the public opening of the bids. He stated that it was not complete in that it did not include the work at the Library and he could not determine that all work associated with the NFC building and the Multi-Purpose Facility was included in the bid. Mr. McCall stated that since he did not receive any bids on bid day and the one received after the fact was incomplete, he contracted Ace Technologies, Inc. and asked them to take a look at the project and see if they were interested in providing a proposal. The proposal from Ace Technologies, Inc. was for \$255,530. Mr. McCall is recommending Ace Technologies,, Inc. for this project.

Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion with discussion on replacing the control system at the Courthouse. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. Commissioner Davis wanted to know about the control system at the courthouse. Chairman Dennison stated that the system is working better now since the IT person had been working on the problem. Commissioner Bennett wanted to know if the board was going with Johnson Controls or

Siemens for the additional \$28,582. Mr. McCall stated that based upon the price for the whole system, that charge is only about 4% and only about 1/4% for the whole project. Mr. McCall stated that he recommends going with Siemens because of better service in the long run.

Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to accept the following bids: HVAC- Valdosta Mechanical Company, Inc for \$669,470 with the additional \$28,528 from Siemens. Roofing bids- J. Register Company, Inc. for \$228,000. Doors, frames and hardware- from Valdosta Commercial Doors, Inc. for \$162,777. Low voltage work- Ace Technologies, Inc. for \$255,530. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

INVOICES-Invoices for the month of November 2009-totaled \$21,436.89 with \$9,137.63 for the NFC/MPF, \$11,886.96 for the Library grant and \$412.30 for the library paid by the county. Invoices for the month of December totaled \$20,280.39 with \$8,650.02 for the NFC/MPF, \$11,587.08 for the Library grant and \$43.29 for the Library paid by the county. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to pay the invoices for the NFC/MPF/Library project for the month of November for \$21,436.80 and for the month of December for \$20,280.39. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

LIBRARY-Commissioner Neal Bennett asked Mr. McCall if the county and the state library board are all on the same page with the construction of the new library. Mr. McCall answered "In a word, no." Commissioner Bennett stated that "I want us to work with the library board and I want us all to be on the same page. We have to work together to get this done." Mr. McCall said that he is willing to go the extra mile to get the problem taken care of. Commissioner Bennett stated that the issue was with the invoices submitted for the work completed. He said that the invoices have been submitted on at least three occasions, but the state has taken no action. Mr. McCall said that Nate Rawls, director of construction for the state library system, is expected to be at the January 2010 meeting.

BIDS

B.) Review Agriculture Building Renovation bid proposals-Two (2) bids were received.

Terry's Vinyl Siding bid \$8,650 and Coastal Truss & Vinyl Siding bid \$9,180.09. Commissioner Aldeen Davis stated that he had spoken with both bidders and they both bid .040 D5 siding, which is the lowest grade of vinyl siding. Commissioner Davis stated that he wants to take out the specifications for gutters and place short gutters at the Rural Development Office and over the wheelchair ramp. He also stated that he wanted to remove the bid for the downspouts. Commissioner Aldeen Davis made a motion to re advertize the bids for the Agriculture Building renovations and have the bid due for the February regular meeting with the following specifications: Mid-range vinyl siding, 2 short gutters over the Rural Development office and the wheel chair ramp, no downspouts and add cutting in eve vents. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

C.) Review Motor Grader bid proposals-Two (2) bids were received. They are as follows:

Yancey Brothers:

Make: Caterpillar
Model: 140M
Year: 2010
Unit Bid Price: \$227,168
Maint Cost/5yr/7500 hrs: \$5,000
Buy Back: \$125,000
Trade in Value: \$100,300

Industrial Tractor

Make: John Deere
Model: 672G
Year: 2010
Unit Bid Price: \$206,000
Maint Cost/5yr/7500 hrs: \$5,000
Buy Back: 107,000
Trade in Value: \$95,000(County
To exercise buy back with
Caterpillar or \$99,500 (no
less than trade in)

NET TOTAL BID: \$6,868

NET TOTAL BID: \$4,500-(w/\$99,500)

NET TOTAL BID: \$9,000-(w/\$95,000)

After a discussion on buyback and trade in, Commissioner Neal Bennett stated that the bids were for the trade in and buy back and should be based on those specifications. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to accept the low bid from Yancey Brothers at the net total bid of \$6,868.00. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. Commissioner Bennett, Davis, and Dixon voted aye. Commissioner Mike Streat voted nay. Chairman Dennison voted nay. Motion carried.

D.) Review Mowing Right of Way contract-Three (3) bids received. Smith's Mowing-\$170.00 per mile; J & J Tractor Works-\$144.00 per mile; Michael D. Carter-\$190.00 per mile for three (3) year contract or \$180.00 per mile for five (5) year contract. This is a three (3) year contract to be renewed every year. Mr. Smith and Mr. James each presented their points on why they should be considered for the job. Mr. Smith stated that he has held the contract for the last three year without any complaints concerning his work and Mr. James stated that he would do weed treatment along the ditches and that he had several references from mowing jobs that he currently has. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to accept the bid from J & J Tractor Works, owner James D. Lynn for \$144.00 per mile of right of way mowing. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. Commissioners Bennett, Dixon and Davis voted aye. Commissioner Streat voted nay. Chairman Dennison voted nay. Motion carried.

E.) Review Fire Station bid proposals-Five (5) bids received.

Option 1 (14' Walls)

Joey Welding Service-\$91,300
Lamar Johnson Construction-\$90,038

Option II (21" Walls)

\$106,150.00
\$101,528.26

Joe Dixon Construction-\$87,360	\$102,260.00
Satilla Construction-\$81,900	\$ 94,026.00
REBCO (Roy E. Bass Company)-\$72,174	\$ 80,572.00

Fire Chief Kenneth Justice stated that the bids for Option II are for a two story building. He is recommending that the county go with a one story building. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to accept the bid for a fire station in the Walkerville area from REBCO at the bid price of \$72,174.00. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. Commissioner Mike Streat wanted to know where this money is coming from. He stated that the board was talking of cutting job and no salary raises, yet wants to spend \$72,174 for a fire station. He said that there are no monies in grant fund or the General Fund to pay for this. Commissioner Neal Bennett stated that the county does not ask for a grant application on ongoing projects. Commissioner Aldeen Davis stated that this has been part of the county wide fire project for the past three to four years. Chairman Dennison called for a vote. Commissioner Aldeen Davis, Randy Dixon and Neal Bennett voted aye. Commissioner Mike Streat and Chairman James Dennison voted nay. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT HEAD

F.) Kenneth Justice, EMA Director-Discuss ATV project as it applies to an EMS grant in the amount of \$5,000. Mr. Justice came before the board again requesting an ATV to use in emergency situations. Commissioner Randy Dixon said that Mr. Justice had a good idea, but the county simply doesn't have the money to purchase an ATV. Commissioner Mike Streat asked for a discussion on the invoices enclosed in the commissioners' packets. County Clerk Mollie Howard stated that the GEMA grant for \$5,000 had already been used to purchase radios and to repair the A/C unit at the EMS building. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to deny the request to purchase an ATV for the EMA. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Ten minute recess called at 9:00 PM. Meeting back in session at 9:12 PM.

CONTRACTS & RESOLUTIONS

G.) Linda Carroll, GCU, Inc.-County Attorney Franklin Rozier-Contacting the cities of Blackshear and Patterson concerning their payment participation toward \$29,000 for the Comprehensive Plan as approved in the January 30, 2006 board meeting. County Attorney Franklin Rozier stated that he has received no reply from the cities of Blackshear and Patterson. Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to pay the invoice now and to wait on a reply from the cities of Blackshear and Patterson. Motion died from a lack of a second to Commissioner Streat's motion.

H.) Huey Spearman, Attorney for Ware County-Requesting the Pierce County Board of Commissioners adopt a resolution allowing the City of Waycross to be a participating member of OADA. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to adopt a resolution to allow the city of Waycross to be a participating member of OADA. Motion died for a lack of a second. Commissioner Bennett again asked the board to consider this resolution. He stated that "I know OADA scares a lot of people, but they asked us to take care of this resolution." "I don't think that we should re-buff a sister county." Chairman Dennison stated that he would inform Ware County that Pierce County had taken no action on the request.

APPOINTMENTS:

J.) Tax Assessor-The term of Jerry Davis as Tax Assessor will expire December 31, 2009. Mr. Davis has agreed to serve another six (6) year term. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to re-appoint Jerry Davis to another six year term as Pierce County Tax Assessor which will run January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2015. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

K.) Pierce County Board of Health-The term Mrs. Christina Lane will expire December 31, 2009. Mrs. Lane has agreed to serve another term. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to re-appoint Mrs. Christine Lane to another term on the Pierce County Board of Health. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

L.) Pierce County Nursing Home Board-The term Richard Larson, Sr. will expire December 31, 2009. Mr. Larson has agreed to serve another term. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to re-appoint Richard Larson, Sr. to another term on the Pierce County Nursing Home Board. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

M.) Pierce County Library Board-The term of Frank Sisk will expire December 31, 2009. Mr. Dan Bennett, Jr. has agreed to fill this position. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to appoint Dan Bennett, Jr. to the Pierce County Library Board. Commissioner Aldeen Davis seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Mike Streat had a question about the pay raises for the county employees. He wanted to know why the employees did not receive the 3% raise in July. Chairman Dennison stated that when the budget was approved for a 6% pay raise it was broken into two sections - one in January and one in July if the budget was in good shape. Chairman Dennison stated that in July the budget could not handle another employee raise. Commissioner Aldeen Davis stated that he too had employees questioning why no raise was given.

Sheriff Richard King spoke to the board regarding certain department cutting overtime. Sheriff King stated that when he has to call another person in to fill a position that is empty due to

vacations, jury trials, or sick employees, that is always overtime. Sheriff King said that there is no way he can cut out overtime and still run the jail and dispatch deputies.

Having no further county business, Chairman Dennison called for a motion to adjourn the December 15, 2009 called meeting at 9:30 PM. Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to adjourn the December 15, 2009 called meeting. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Chairman Dennison voted aye. Motion carried.

Budget Work Session following meeting.

James Dennison, Chairman

K. Neal Bennett, District 1

Mike Streat, District 2

Randy Dixon, District 3

Aldeen Davis, District 4