

PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, TUESDAY, APRIL 05, 2011 AT 6:30 PM

Board Members Present:

Mitch Bowen, Chairman
K. Neal Bennett, District 1
Bill Cselles, District 2
Randy Dixon, District 3
Carl Boyette, District 4

News Media Present:

The Blackshear Times
Pierce County Press

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Rev. Ralph Larisey gave the invocation and Chairman Mitch Bowen led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 2011 REGULAR/CALLED MEETING MINUTES: Commissioner Bill Cselles made a motion to approve the March 2011 regular and called meeting minutes. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion called.

A) Ben Pittarelli-Discussion on county insurance. Mr. Pittarelli offered two (2) proposals from Blue Cross/Blue Shield-on a Point of Service plan and one a Preferred Provider Organization. Mr. Pittarelli went on to discuss the benefits allowed by each plan which included the co-payments, out of pocket expenses, out of network expenses, emergency room visits and a prescription drug card. Mr. Pittarelli stated that ACCG rate everyone is the insurance pool, so the premiums will be lower to the county. He estimated that the county could save as much as \$218,000.00 based on its number of employees and past claim history. He stated that BC/BS also had a wellness benefits coordinator that will set up programs for the employees and offer incentives for the employees to join then wellness program.

After his presentation, Ms. Nelson recommended that the board change the county insurance and Chairman Bowen asked the board for action.

Commissioner Randy Dixon interrupted the discussion and stated that he did not know that the county insurance was out for bid. Commissioner Dixon stated that the county could not pick and choose who we want to do business with. He wants other insurance brokers to have the chance to receive bid packets from Pierce County.

County Manager Nelson then stated "You mean to tell me you are not in favor of saving the taxpayer of this county \$218,000?"

Commissioner Dixon stated "I didn't say that. You did." Commissioner Dixon stated that the county could not pick and choose who we want to do business with. He wants other insurance brokers to have the chance to receive bid packets from Pierce County. He stated that the county might be able to get the insurance coverage at a lower cost.

Commissioner Carl Boyette stated that the insurance should be put out for bids and Commissioner Cselles stated that that was the right thing to do.

Commissioner Neal Bennett stated that it was our duty to place bids to receive more competitive prices on insurance for the county. He stated that the county needs to make bids available to other businesses.

Management South Agency owner Dana Bowen asked to address the board. She asked why the county office had not contacted her about the idea of changing the county's insurance. She said that her calls and e-mails to the county office had not been returned. Ms. Bowen stated that BC/BS premiums might be lower, but county employee out-of-pocket cost would be higher under the Point of Service plan and access to specialists would be limited as you could only use the doctors in Georgia, not in Florida.

Ms. Nelson called Mr. Pittarelli back to the podium to refute Ms. Bowen’s claim.

Commissioner Dixon asked Mr. Pittarelli where he was from and Mr. Pittarelli stated that he lives in the Atlanta area. Commissioner Dixon turned to Ms. Nelson and said. “You mean to tell me that you can call someone from Atlanta and you can’t return a call from someone in Blackshear?” Commissioner Dixon stated that the commission did not have this problem when former county clerk Mollie Howard was on the job.

7:05 PM-County Manager Rita Nelson offered her resignation, effective immediately, to the board, stating that she was not going to be “disrespected” and talked down to by this board. She stated that the whole board doesn’t want to save the county any money.

Chairman Mitch Bowen called twice to her, saying for her to come back to the meeting, but Ms. Nelson ignored him.

Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to accept her resignation. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

B) City of Blackshear-Requesting 2003 SPLOST funds to pay an invoice from EMC Engineering Services, Inc. The invoice is in the amount of \$990.00. Funds are available. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the invoice from the City of Blackshear for \$990.00. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

BOARD APPOINTMENT

C) Southeast Georgia EMS Council-The term of Pierce County’s representative, Kenneth Justice, will expire June 30, 2011. Recommended reappointing Mr. Justice to serve another term extending through June 30, 2014. Commissioner Carl Boyette made a motion to approve the appointment of Kenneth Justice to the Southeast Georgia EMS Council. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

BIDS

D) 2011 Annual Bids: Bids were received on March 10, 2011 for the following bids:

	Diesel			
FUEL BIDS	Dist. Cost	Markup	Total Cost	
Ocean Petroleum	\$ 3.07310	0.1490	\$ 3.2221	
Bennett Oil	\$ 3.07540	0.0590	\$ 3.1344	
Lewis/Raulerson	\$ 3.20550	0.0641	\$ 3.2696	
	Unleaded 89 Octane			
	Dist. Cost	Markup	Total Cost	
Ocean Petroleum	\$ 2.9034	\$0.1490	\$ 3.0524	
Bennett Oil	\$ 2.9214	\$0.0590	\$ 2.9804	
Lewis/Raulerson	\$ 3.0962	\$0.0800	\$ 3.1762	
	92 Octane			
	Dist. Cost	Markup	Total Cost	
Ocean Petroleum	\$ 2.9844	\$0.1490	\$ 3.1334	
Bennett Oil (93)	\$ 2.9997	\$0.0590	\$ 3.0587	
Lewis/Raulerson	\$ 3.1654	\$0.0800	\$ 3.2454	

LUBRICANT BIDS	Universal Fleet Motor Oil	Tractor Hydraulic	Gear Lube	Chassis Lub
Lewis/Raulerson	12.75 gl	5.84 gl	1.62 lb	2.14 tube
Blackshear Auto Parts	9.78 gl	5.00 gl	1.55 lb	1.99 tube
PEST CONTROL	YEARLY BID	MONTHLY		
Sunbelt Termite	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 150.00		
Trusdell & Trusdell Pest Control	\$ 3,060.00	\$ 255.00		
H.T. Termite & Pest	\$ 3,960.00	\$ 330.00		
	New Extinguishers			
FIRE EXTINGUISHER	2.5 lb.	5 lb.	10 lb.	20 lb.
Southland Fire Protection **	\$ 35.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 125.00
All-Saf	\$ -	\$ 24.00	\$ 34.00	\$ 44.00
** Recharge price includes valve stem, o-rings, GA verification collar				
	Recharge Extinguishers			
Southland Fire Protection	2.5 lb.	5 lb.	10 lb.	20 lb.
All Saf	\$ 22.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 39.00	\$ 44.00
	\$ -	\$ 41.50	\$ 65.00	\$ 116.95
	Hyd. Retest		Inspections	
Southland Fire Protection	High	Low		
All Saf	\$ 20.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 5.00	
	\$ 19.50	\$ 19.50	\$ 4.80	
CULVERT PIPE	Per Foot			
	18"	24"	36"	
Cherokee Culvert	\$ 12.14	\$ 15.97	\$ 24.71	
Contech Const	\$ 14.70	\$ 18.60	\$ 30.10	
		BANDS		
	18"	24"	36"	
Cherokee Culvert	\$ 12.14	\$ 15.97	\$ 24.71	
Contech Construction	\$ 14.70	\$ 18.60	\$ 30.10	
		FLARES		
	18"	24"	36"	

Cherokee Culvert Co.	\$ 119.54	\$ 158.24	\$ 424.28	
Contech Construction	\$ 161.00	\$ 211.00	\$ 415.00	
POLYETHYLENE PIPE				
	18x20	24x20	18x30	24x30
Consolidated Pipe & Supply	\$ 8.32	\$ 13.99	\$ 8.32	\$ 13.99
Contech Construction	\$ 9.50	\$ 16.10	\$ 12.00	\$ 19.25
Keeling Company	\$9.194	\$15.466	\$9.194	\$15.466

GROUND KEEPER				
	Monthly	Yearly		
Southern Lawn	\$ 475.00	\$ 5,700.00		
Brannen Lawn Care	\$ 541.67	\$ 6,500.00		
Southern Wings Lawn	\$ 666.67	\$ 8,000.00		
5 Star Lawn Care	\$ 350.00	\$ 4,200.00		
Hersey's Tree Removal & Services	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 18,000.00		

Fuel Bids: Mr. Clay Parker and Mr. Chad Tuten of Lewis & Raulerson Oil Company raised questions about how the bid specifications were determined. Mr. Parker and Mr. Tuten told the commissioners the definitions regarding wholesale prices and vendor mark-up should be more concise to ensure that the county was getting the lowest possible price. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to table the discussion and to re-take bids. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

Lubricant Bids: Commissioner Bill Cselles made a motion to accept the bid for lubricant from Blackshear Auto Part/NAPA. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

Pest Control Bids: Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to accept the bid for pest control on all county buildings from Sunbelt Termite & Pest Control. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

Fire Extinguishers Bids: Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to accept the bid for fire extinguishers from All-Saf Fire Protection. Commissioner Carl Boyette seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

Culvert Pipe Bids:

Polyethylene Pipes: Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to accept the bid from Consolidated Pipe & Supply Co. for polyethylene culvert pipes. Commissioner Bill Cselles seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

Metal culvert pipes: Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to accept the bid from Cherokee Culvert Company for metal culvert pipes. Commissioner Bill Cselles seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

Grounds Keeper Bid: Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to accept the bid from Southern Lawn Inc. for the courthouse grounds keeper bid. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

Motor grader Bid: Two bids were received:

1. Industrial Tractor Company bid on a 2011 670G John Deere Motor grader for \$228,825.00 with a minimum buy back of \$103,800.00 with no trade in for a total bid cost of \$125,025.00.
2. Industrial Tractor Company bid on a 2011 770G John Deere Motor grader for \$246,545.00 with a minimum buy back of \$106,700.00.00 with no trade in for a total bid cost of \$139,845.00
3. Yancey Brothers bid on a 2011 140M Caterpillar Motor grader for \$250,045.00 with a guaranteed maintenance of \$5,000.00, minimum buy back of \$135,000.00 with a trade in of \$136,000.00 for a total bid cost of \$-15,955.00. This bid also included a service credit of \$5,000.00.

Keith Brown of Industrial Tractor Company asked to address the board. He stated that he had a problem with the bid specifications, stating that the specifications must have come from a Caterpillar dealer and that this eliminates most dealers from bidding. He stated that this is called single source bidding. Mr. Brown stated that this gives Caterpillar the advantage. He said that trade in machine should be put up for bids and that the county would get more money that way.

Commissioner Randy Dixon stated that the bid should have only the price of the machine being bid and that any trade ins or buy back amounts should be listed on a separate sheet.

Chairman Bowen told the board that the county would be losing \$32,000.00 from Yancey Brother because of the trade in if they did not accept this bid.

Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to accept the motor grader bid from Yancey Brothers. Commissioner Carl Boyette seconded the motion, but stated that from now on the bids on any equipment should have just the price of the machine stated in the bid packet. All commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

F) NFC/MPF/Library Project-Invoices as of April 01, 2011 total \$66,327.20. The invoices for the NFC/MPF were \$49,555.68, the library grant was \$14,167.28 and the library county paid was \$2,604.24. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the NFC/MPF/Library project invoices for \$66,327.20. Commissioner Bill Cselles seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

OTHER DISCUSSIONS

Audit: Commissioner Neal Bennett stated that the question of revising the audit for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 is a done deal. Commissioner Bennett stated that the audits done by Earl Lawson had been approved by the state auditors and they found nothing wrong. He stated that no questions had been asked about the audits in the past and he has talked with Mr. Lawson about the audits and Mr. Lawson stated that the entire audits had been done in accordance with Government Auditing Standards. Commissioner Bennett stated that the question on having new audits was now finished.

County Manager: Commissioner Bennett stated that he would like to make a motion to accept applications for a County Manager. Commissioner Carl Boyette seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

Having no further business, the April 2011 meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Mitch Bowen, Chairman

K. Neal Bennett, District 1

Bill Cselle, District 2

Randy Dixon, District 3

Carl Boyette, District 4