

**PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSISONERS, REGULAR MONTLY MEETING, TUESDAY,
JANUARY 04, 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

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Mitch Bowen called the January 04, 2011 regular monthly meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

INVOCATION: The invocation was given by Pastor Andy Velie and Pastor Bill Young. Chairman Mitch Bowen led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2011-REGULAR AND CALLED MEETINGS-Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to approve the December 2010 regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the December 2010 called meeting minutes. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

A) City of Blackshear-Requesting \$2,432.50 in 2003 SPLOST funds to pay an invoice from EMC Engineering, Inc. for Blackshear drainage project. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the invoice from the City of Blackshear requesting \$2,432.50 in 2003 SPLOST funds to pay an invoice from EMC Engineering, Inc. for Blackshear drainage project. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS

B) Bonnie T. Gaskins, Director, Concerted Services-Discussion on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding application for a new Head Start/Early Head Start Facility. Ms. Gaskins gave the board an overview of the Piece County Head Start/Early head Start Center stating that the program operates three preschool classrooms serving 55 three and four year old children and one Early Head Start classroom serving eight (8) infants, toddlers and expecting families. The program employs eleven (11) staff members. Ms. Gaskin stated that the payroll and operation cost brings approximately \$492, 500 per year to Pierce County. Ms. Gaskin stated that the facility located at Ware Street does not meet the Bright from the Start Department of Early Care and Learning Child Care licensing requirements due to issues with the open campus and the bathrooms. Ms. Gaskins stated that she was asking the board to consider applying for the CDBG and possibly using the Southern Georgia Regional Commission to help apply for the funding.

Chairman Mitch Bowen stated that the board is very interested in this project. Commissioner Randy Dixon also expressed interest in this project. All commissioners agreed that this would be a good project for the benefit of citizens in Pierce County.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

C) Thomas Sauls, Clerk of Court/Edward Cady, IT Director-Discussion on Courthouse Sound System. Edward Cady reported that the Clerk of Court was having issues with the PA system not meeting standards for the judges, court reports, attorneys and other people in the courtroom. Mr. Sauls reported that they cannot hear anything that it being said in the

courtroom. He stated that the PA system is not working for what the judges wanted. He stated that they had to move a jury trial to Ware County at extra cost to Pierce County. He also stated that the court reports were having problems trying to record all the information from witnesses. Mr. Cady stated that he has adjusted the sound on the system as much as he can.

Jonathan Daniell from Southern Audio Design stated that the type of equipment used by the PA system cannot be adjusted. He stated that the system is picking up a lot of other noises in the courtroom. He also presented an estimate for a new PA system totaling \$10,257.00. Mr. Daniell stated that an electrician should be called in to verify that some additional wiring will need to be installed.

County Attorney Franklin Rozier stated that he has had problems with the system in State Court.

Commissioner Randy Dixon stated that the board should let an electrician give an estimate on moving the sound system and report back to the Chairman next week.

NFC/MPC/LIBRARY PROJECT

D) December 2010 Invoices: The total amount of the invoices is \$62,981.42. The NFC/MPF is \$47,462.15; Library-grant-\$12,832.15; Library-county-\$2,686.86. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the NFC/MPF/Library Project December 2010 invoices for \$62,981.42. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-PERSONNEL

Chairman Mitch Bowen called for a motion to adjourn into executive session. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to adjourn in to executive session at 7:05PM. Commissioner Bill Cselles seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to reconvene the regular meeting at 7:35PM. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

COUNTY MANAGER APPOINTMENT

Chairman Mitch Bowen asked the board for a motion to appoint Rita Nelson County Manager/County Clerk. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to appoint Rita Nelson as County Manager/County Clerk. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Bowen announced that the appointment of the department heads will be postponed to the February meeting.

Chairman Bowen, Commissioner Neal Bennett and Commissioner Randy Dixon welcomed new commissioners Bill Cselles, District 2 and Carl Boyette, District 4.

Having no further county business, the January 04, 2011 regular scheduled meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Mitch Bowen, Chairman

K. Neal Bennett, District 1

Bill Cselles, District 2

Randy Dixon, District 3

Carl Boyette, District 4

