

PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING, TUESDAY, MARCH 01, 2011 AT 6:30 P.M.

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

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Chairman Mitch Bowen called the March 01, 2011 meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Jason Deal gave the invocation and Chairman Bowen led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Carl Boyette made a motion to amend the agenda by adding a discussion on the Library Project under Item F. Commissioner Bill Cselles seconded the motion.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2011 MINUTES: Commissioner Bill Cselles made a motion to approve the February 2011 minutes. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

A) Angie Bowen-Pierce County Transit Director-Authorizing Resolution for the 2012 Department of Transportation Budget-Mrs. Bowen came before the board asking for approval of the DOT 2012 budget starting July 01, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the Pierce County Transit Department of Transportation 2012 operating budget. Commissioner Bill Cselles seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

B) William Rozier-Tax Assessor-Presentation of bids for an update on Residential and Agricultural Improvement. Mr. Rozier stated that he had received five (5) bids. They are as follows:

COMPANY	BID	HEARINGS
1. GMASS, Inc.	\$155,000	Hearings at 10 days, each additional day-\$250.00
2. Norman & Associates	\$125,000	Hearings at 10 days, each additional day-\$400.00
3. Kenneth Voss & Associates	\$203,040	Hearings at 10 days, each additional day-\$150.00
4. Technical Appraisal Services of GA	\$102,640	Hearings at 10 days, each additional day-\$500.00
5. Reappraisal Inc.	Option 1 per specification \$24 per parcel (6176 parcels=\$148,224) Option 2-Street Level Imaging & Data Review \$17 per parcel (6176 parcels=\$104,992)	

Hearings-10 days @2,500 each additional day \$250.00

Mr. Rozier stated that the Board of Assessors met on February 28, 2011 and has recommended Technical Appraisal Service of Georgia, Inc. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to accept the bid from Technical Appraisal Service of Georgia, Inc. for \$102,640 and hearings at 10 days included; each additional day at \$500.00. Commissioner Carl Boyette seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

C) City of Blackshear-Requesting 2003 SPLOST funds to pay an invoice from EMC Engineering Services, Inc. for \$3,542.50 for Blackshear drainage. Funds are available. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to pay an invoice from EMC Engineering Services, Inc. for \$3,542.50 for Blackshear drainage. Commissioner Neal Bennett seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

D) Jim Waters-Chairman Pierce County Industrial Development Authority-Discussion on hiring of a part-time position. Mr. Waters came before the board seeking information on hiring a part-time director position for the Pierce County Industrial Development Authority. Mr. Waters stated that "what we need to know is can the PC IDA hire the position or will the county?" Mr. Waters said that the county provides \$51,000.00 per year for operations and he wanted to know if the PCIDA could use this money to hire a part-time position and if the position would be considered a county employee.

County Attorney Franklin Rozier said that what the PCIDA was asking if they can hire a director.

County Manager Rita Nelson the spoke and stated that the county doesn't have the money to hire a director.

The board then agreed in principal to allow the PCIDA to advertize for the position of director but did not vote on the issue after Chairman Bowen asked the board to wait before they made a direction until after the presentation by Tommy Lowman. (see Item E)

PCIDA Vice Chairman Stephan Paul stated that the IDA board just wanted to let the county know what they wanted to do and that they do have the money to move forward with the hiring. Mr. Paul started that the director could eventually create more revenue and bring more business into Pierce County.

County Attorney Franklin Rozier stated that a service agreement with the county and the Pierce County IDA board was needed. He also said the agreement would probably need to include the cities of Blackshear, Offerman and Patterson since they had seats on the board.

E) Tommy Lowman-Blackshear's Better Hometown Manager-Economic Development-"Opportunity Zones"-Mr. Lowman stated that hiring a PCIDA director would go hand in hand with the main ideas in his presentation. Mr. Lowman's presentation was on the items that the Department of Community Affairs and the state economic development officials say Pierce County needs to be in the game for potential development. He pointed out that Pierce County had a lack of employment opportunities, no high paying jobs and that the high school graduates were leaving Pierce County and not returning. Mr. Lowman also pointed out that the state says the county needs good signage, a web presentation and a single contract person for development. Mr. Lowman stated "we need a plan, right now economic development official will tell you that Pierce County isn't even considered for businesses looking to locate in this area." Mr. Lowman stated that he could get state officials to come down and make a

presentation on what the county needs to do to get a service agreement with the Pierce County Industrial Development Authority.

Commissioner Neal Bennett stated that what we really need is for all the players involved to have a strategy.

Commissioner Randy Dixon then made a motion to table Item D-Discussion on a part-time position for the Pierce County Industrial Development Authority until the April meeting to have a service agreement in place. Commissioner Carl Boyette seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

F-A) NFC/MPC/Library-Invoice as of March 01, 2011-the total amount of the March invoices was \$58,189.61. The NFC/MPF project was \$45,642.00, the Library grant was \$9,988.26 and the Library grant-County paid was \$2,559.35. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to approve the March 01, 2011 invoices totaling \$58,189.61. Commissioner Carl Boyette seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

F-B) Library Project-Commissioner Carl Boyette made a motion to change the way by which the library is being constructed. He made a motion to hire a contractor to finish out the project. Commissioner Bill Cselle seconded the motion. Discussion from the commissioners followed.

Commissioner Boyette stated "Not one taxpayer that I have talked to likes the way the library project is going right now." "We should do something about that and we should do it now." "We are not getting anywhere," he said. "Money is leaving this county and we are losing time every day using the Department of Corrections' inmate labor."

Commissioner Neal Bennett wanted to know who had said that we need to go to another solution for building the library.

Chairman Mitch Bowen stated that a meeting has been set up for March 10, 2011 in Atlanta with the state Library board, Department of Correction, members of the Pierce County Library board and others. Commissioners Neal Bennett and Randy Dixon asked for a delay until after the March meeting.

Chairman Bowen warned the commissioners they were about to get themselves "in a jam" and asked that the vote be postponed.

Commissioner Boyette replied that "we are already in a jam."

Library board member Joy Williams asked commissioners exactly what the Atlanta meeting is supposed to accomplish. She stated that the board was losing time every day.

Chairman Bowen said he would like to hear directly from the state about how best to proceed.

Commissioner Randy Dixon stated that he understands Commissioner Boyette frustration, but he urged restraint. He stated that it won't hurt us to go and hear what the state has to say.

Commissioner Bennett pointed out that there is plenty of blame to go around for the construction delays. He said that the Department of Correction is at fault because they haven't given us the help that

we need. He also stated that both the DOC and the state library board have all been aware of this and they didn't do anything. "They have failed us miserably." he stated.

Chairman Bowen opened the discussion to the audience.

Mr. Stevie Waters endorsed hiring a contractor to finish the project. He told the board that a contractor might be willing to do the work for less than the original estimates-especially in the current economic situation. He further stated that "there are lots of them hungry right now."

Mr. Joey Walker expressed the opinion that it really doesn't matter, because the commission wouldn't act anyway. "It been seven years, what is 10 more days going to hurt?" he said.

Commissioner Boyette finally agreed to delay the vote after Commission Dixon said that a called meeting could be scheduled for March 11.

Commissioner Carl Boyette then amended his motion to read- Commissioner Carl Boyette made a motion to delay changing the way by which the library is being constructed by hiring a contractor to finish out the project until after the March 10, 2011 meeting in Atlanta. Commissioner Bill Cselles seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

G) Annual Bids-Due March 10, 2011 and presented to the board on the April 05, 2011 meeting.

H) Motor grader bids in process. Commissioner Neal Bennett made a motion to advertize the bids and Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Bowen called for a motion to adjourn into executive session. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to adjourn into executive session at 7:34 P.M. Commissioner Bill Cselles seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

The March 2011 regular meeting was reconvened at 8:25 P.M. by a motion from Commissioner Randy Dixon and a second by Commissioner Bill Cselles.

Chairman Mitch Bowen stated that no action had been taken.

Chairman Bowen announced that there will be a called meeting on March 11, 2011.

OTHER DISCUSSIONS

Chairman Bowen asked if any of the commissioners had any other business to discuss.

Commissioner Cselles stated that, as a voluntary fire fighter, he hears many E 911 calls for blood pressure check, headaches and etc. He stated that Pierce County had a great EMS system, but the citizens are abusing the system. He stated that some type of fee system should be implemented.

Ken Justice, EMS Director came to the front to speak on this issue. He stated that some of the surrounding counties had a "no transport fee" in place. He said that these fees usually ranged from \$50

to \$100, but that most insurance companies will not cover the fees. He stated that the fees may help with some of this type of calls that are not emergencies or non-transport. Also, Mr. Justice stated that the voluntary fire fighters should be treated as emergency personnel and citizens should be charged for those services.

Commissioner Randy Dixon instructed Mr. Justice to get rates and policy information and report back to the board.

Having no further county business, the March 01, 2011 meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Mitch Bowen, Chairman

K. Neal Bennett, District 1

Bill Cselle, District 2

Randy Dixon, District 3

Carl Boyette, District 4

CALLED MEETING, PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2011 AT 6:30 P.M.

Board Members Present:

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

News Media Present

The Blackshear Times
Pierce County Press

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Chairman Mitch Bowen called the March 24, 2011 meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

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

A. Audit Bids for FY 2007 to 2010-County Manager Rita Nelson stated that two audit bids had been received for an audit covering the years of 2007 to 2010. Mrs. Nelson announced that the two bids were from Beal, Yonz, Rivers and Taylor (BYRT) for \$24,000.00 and Maulden and Jenkins, CPA for \$55,000.00. Mrs. Nelson recommended BYRT .

Commissioner Neal Bennett asked a question; however, about whether BYRT was actually the low bidder, pointing out that their price of \$24,000.00 was accompanied by the words "each year."

Mrs. Nelson said she was under the impression that the \$24,000.00 figure was the total cost of the audit.

Commissioner Randy Dixon said that "maybe we need to hold off on that." "If it's "per year" the bid would be for \$96,000.00.

The board agreed to table the bids until clarification could be obtained.

B Architect Bids-Head Start Building-County Manager Rita Nelson stated that the board had received six bids for the architectural fee on the design of a Head Start facility. The bids received were from : (1)Richard Sasser at 4%,(2)Douglas A Neal at 6%,(3) Martin Rule at 6.5%, (4)SRI at 7%,(5) Shuttles and Associates at 8% and (6)McCall & Associates at 10%. Mr. Sasser will be responsible for engineering, planning and design for the new facility. Bases on the projected cost of the building, Mr. Sasser's share would be about \$20,000.00.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to accept the bid from Richard Sasser of Waycross at 4% of the total cost of the project. Commissioner Carl Boyette seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The called meeting was adjourned into executive session to discuss personnel at 7:45 PM and reconvened at 8:15 PM.

Chairman Mitch Bowen announced that no action had been taken in the executive session.

Having no further county business, the called meeting was adjourned.

Mitch Bowen, Chairman

K. Neal Bennett, District 1

Randy Dixon, District 3

Carl Boyette, District 4