



Pierce County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting

705 College Avenue, 2nd Floor, Blackshear, GA 31516

April 7, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners in attendance	Neal Bennett, Chairman Troy Mattox, District 1 Randy Dixon, District 3 David Lowman, District 4
Commissioner not in attendance	Graham Raley, District 2
Staff in attendance	Thomas Sauls, County Manager Donna Golding, County Clerk
Staff not in attendance	Adam Craft, County Attorney

1. Call to order-Chairman Neal Bennett
2. Invocation Leader-Grayson Barber, an 11th grader at PCHS and is a member of FFA. Grayson is a member of Walkerville Baptist Church and is active in the church youth group.
3. Pledge of Allegiance Leader-Offerman Fire Chief Matt Barber
4. Approval of April 7, 2026, Agenda-Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve the April 7, 2026, agenda. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried.
5. Approval of March 3, 2026, Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes-Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve March 3, 2026, public hearing and regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Troy Mattox seconded the motion. The motion carried.
6. Public Comments
Hardy Thornton, Will Road Blackshear-would like to discuss resurfacing and improvements on Trudie Road.
7. Discussion and action to approve the request from Allen & Griffis Construction to rezone Parcel #036-028, 43.59 acres, on Dean Still Road, Blackshear, GA 31516. Applicant requests to rezone from (AF) Agriculture/Forestry to (SF) Single-Family for single family residential-Chairman Neal Bennett stated this rezone was recommended by the Planning Board on March 10th. With no other discussion, Chairman Neal Bennett asked for a motion to approve the rezone request from Allen & Griffis Construction, parcel #036-028, 43.59 acres, on Dean Still Road, Blackshear, GA 31516, from (AF) Agriculture/Forestry to (SF) Single-Family for single family residential.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve the rezone.

Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

8. Discussion and action to accept the lowest bidder for the LMIG Project on Gilman and Trudie Roads for street and drainage improvements provided by Statewide Engineering. Statewide Engineering's recommendation is Thrift Brothers, LLC with the lowest bid amount of \$851,317.25

Top 3 Lowest Bidders

The Scruggs Company-\$889,856.52

216 West Blackshear Ave.

Waycross, Ga.31501

SEC Site Work-\$877,711.42

4750 Hwy. 84

Blackshear, Ga. 31516

Thrift Brothers, LLC-\$851,317.25

3810 Needham Road

Waycross, Ga. 31503

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve Thrift Brothers, LLC at the cost of \$851,317.25. Commissioner Troy Mattox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

9. County Manager's Report: County Manager Thomas Sauls presented the county manager's report.



County Manager's Report for March 2026

Presented on April 7,2026

Pierce County Board of Commissioners Meeting

COUNTY MANAGER'S MONTHLY HIGHLIGHT ACTIVITY FOR MARCH 2026

- Attended the Pierce County Recreation Board Meeting.
- Participated in the Zaxby's groundbreaking event.
- Opened bids for Gillman Road and Trudie Road for street and drainage improvements (Statewide Engineering).
- Met with Southeast District Cooperative Extension Director, Cheryl Poppell, alongside Chairman Bennett.
- Received updated information from Enterprise Client Strategy Manager, Heather J. Bell.
- Per Fire Chief Chris Todd, Deen Fire Protection will complete repairs to the NFC and main Courthouse water supply system for fire protection.
- Met with James Horton of the South Georgia Regional Commission regarding the Service Delivery Strategy plan; attendees included Mayor Brooks, Chief of Police Chris Wright, Chairman Bennett, and County Clerk Donna Golding.
- Attended a food pantry meeting with Chairman Bennett, Mayor Denison, County Clerk Donna Golding, and Brenda and Albert Sutton.
- Updated contract with Tri Scape for roadside mowing of county-maintained roads; attendees included Chairman Bennett, Commissioner Lowman, and County Clerk Donna Golding.

- Conducted road inspections with Road Superintendent Bruce Carter.
 - Chapel Drive paving project is nearing completion (Statewide Engineering).
- ***A new culvert will be replaced on New School Road starting April 6th. Underground Excavating Inc. will be overseeing the project.

ELENA RYALS, HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR

We currently have four individuals working with the road department through the disaster grant program we are partnering with the South Georgia Regional Commission on and have approval to add three more. We are screening applications for the remaining positions and plan to do another round of interviews to try to fill them. We provided information to the commission for a meeting they had Thursday with the state funding source to support a request to extend the use of funds beyond June 30, 2026. They will update us once a decision on that request is reached.

We applied for a grant through Lowe’s Bucket List Program for funding to renovate the county building that currently houses the Pierce Senior Center, Food Pantry, and action pact Service Center.

DEBRA WILLIAMSON, PIERCE COUNTY E911

911 CALL REPORT BY AGENCY

PCSO 388, BPD 439, PPD 32, GSP 4, DNR 0, STA1 227, STA2 48 , MUTUAL AIDE REQUEST 7, MUTUAL AIDE RESPONSE 7, AVAC 5, CORONER 3, PATTERSON FIRE MED. ASSIST 5, BLACKSHEAR FIRE MED. ASSIST 11, PIERCE COUNTY FIRE MED. ASSIST 23, FIRE CALLS PCFD 55, GDOT 2 , GFC 5, BSFD 51, PFD22, NSFD 6, WFD 26, BVFD 6, OFFFD 2, OTTFD 7, SSFD 18, SUNSET 21, HACKFD 46, ROAD DEPT 2, BPW 4, PPW 3
 TOTAL CALLS FOR MARCH: 1475 TOTAL 911 CALLS FOR THE YEAR: 4222

PIERCE COUNTY EMS DIRECTOR AAS, NRP, NPQ-FOII, GA-CEM, DANIEL ROYAL

Total Calls 282
 Transport 182
 Non-Transport 96
 Response From Dispatch 282

MUTUAL AID/REQUEST TO

Responded 4
 Cancelled 3

MUTUAL/AID/REQUEST FROM 7

EMS ZONE 1 227
 EMS ZONE 2 48

TOTAL AMOUNT BILLED FOR MARCH \$153,658.50
 AMOUNT BILLED PER TRANSPORT \$844.28
 COLLECTED \$70,719.28
 AVERAGE COLLECTED PER TRANSPORT \$388.57

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF, SHERIFF RAMSEY BENNETT

During the month of March The Office of the Sheriff Dispatched 806 calls for service to deputies in addition to any calls dispatched by the 911 center. The Jail dispatched 3454 calls to Jailors during the month. There are 132 inmates in the Pierce County Jail.

PIERCE COUNTY FIRE CHIEF, CHRIS TODD

77 Calls in March (256 Calls YTD in 2026)

- 1 - Trapped rescue from a swimming pool
- 3 - Trees Down
- 9 - Control burns that were checked
- 1 - False Alarm
- 4 - Cancelled in route (alarm company made contact and verified everything was ok)
- 7 - Motor Vehicle Collisions
- 1 - Law Enforcement Assist
- 1 - Hydraulic Oil Spill
- 2 - Electrical Fires
- 1 - Heavy Equipment Fire (Beach Timber Front end loader)
- 1 - Train traction motor fire
- 2 - Cooking Fires
- 12 - Grass and Brush Fires
- 5 - Trash/rubbish fires (burning man-made materials)
- 2 - Other Outside fires (no classification to put these in)
- 25 - Medical Assist
 - 2 - Medical Standbys (no ambulance available)
 - 2 - Difficulty Breathing
 - 3 - Chest Pain
 - 1 - Diabetic
 - 2 - Strokes
 - 3 - Unconscious not responding
 - 1 - Burn patient
 - 3 - Trama related Falls
 - 5 - Lift Assist
 - 3 - Citizen Assist

Fire 1 & Fire 2 completed a continuing education class in Forsyth (32 hours each)
Fire 1 & Fire 2 assisted with Patterson Community helper day (teaching kids fire safety)
Fireworks Tax Grant Awarded (Cancer particulate hoods and ventilation fans)

Fire 1 Received the Basic Certified Emergency Manager through Gema
Fire 1 attended the EMA Summit in Jekyll (attended 7 classes to grow understanding on EMA)
Fire 1 and Fire 2 attended the Brantley County Active Shooter Full Scale Exercise

CHRIS BOND, PLANNING AND FACILITIES DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Planning & Codes-

Performed 109 inspections
Collected \$19,930.90 in fees
Still collecting business license renewals.

Facilities-

Work has commenced at Otter Creek Fire Station (well, septic and restroom).
Cleaned out building drain at Senior Center.
Work continues at Rec. Building on Ware Street.
Repaired power line to scoreboard at Tiger Field

PUBLIC WORKS DPARTMENT, BRUCE CARTER

- Culverts Cleaned – 12 By hand
- Roads built up – 14
- Ditches dug – 161
- Culverts installed/Replaced – 21
- Potholes Patched – 73, Major – 12
- Shoulders Patched – 18, Major - 1
- Signs replaced – 15
- New signs put up – 3
- Total Road miles Graded 440.09 Miles
- Total Road Grader Miles – 2,246.64 Miles.
- Loads of dirt hauled – 842
- Yards of Dirt Moved – 13,472 CuYd

PIERCE COUNTY RECREATION UPDATE, COACH MO BROWN

- * Spring Sports Opening Day: April 13, 2026
 - * All uniforms are in and have been organized, processed and delivered.
 - * GRPA District Host for 8U Boys machine pitch and possible Coach Pitch June 8-13
 - *Track & Field March 21 held local track meet at Pierce County Middle School
 - * GRPA District Track & Field Meet in Camden County, April 17 & 18
 - * State Track Meet, May 8-9 in Madison County, Ga
 - * Basketball Court: Basketball Goal & Backboard damaged
 - * Crossroads Christian Academy is again using Tiger Field as their home field during their 2026 soccer season.
 - * Senior Bingo on April 13, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
 - * Cancer Walk: April 24, 2026, at Tiger Field down on the track
 - ** Final Registration Deposits: Rec Desk & Cash Deposit
1. Baseball \$9132.50
 2. Softball \$ 3130.00
 3. Soccer \$5885.00
 4. Future Bears \$1055.00
- Total: \$19202.50

PIERCE COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR, BILL ROZIER

“Planning” on sending out assessment notices May 15, 2026

PIERCE COUNTY TAX COMMISSIONER, NICOLE SCURRY

Tax sales are scheduled to begin on May 5. Advertisements will run in the legal section of the *Blackshear Times* throughout the month of April. A total of 81 parcels will be included in the advertisement.

PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION, LEAH RITCH

2026 General Primary/Nonpartisan Election

Election Day: May 19, 2026

7:00am-7:00pm

Voter Registration Deadline: April 20, 2026

Weekday Early Voting

April 27-May 1, 2026

May 4-May 8, 2026

May 11-May 15, 2026

8:30am-5:00pm

Saturday Voting
May 2 & May 9, 2026
8:30am-5:00pm

Early Voting Location: Pierce County Elections Office
312 Nichols Street, Blackshear

Absentee Ballots request deadline: May 8, 2026

Valuable Resources:
Piercecountyga.gov/elections-voting-an-overviewmvp.sos.ga.gov
[www.facebook.com/Pierce Voters](https://www.facebook.com/PierceVoters)

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas W. Sauls
Interim
County Manager

10. Adjournment-Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Neal Bennett
Commission Chairman

Troy Mattox
Commissioner, District 1

Not in Attendance
Graham Raley
Commissioner, District 2

Randy Dixon
Commissioner, District 3

David Lowman
Commissioner, District 4

Donna Golding
County Clerk