



Regular Meeting

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

July 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

Media in attendance

Jason Deal, The Blackshear Times

1. Call to order-Chairman Neal Bennett called the meeting to order at :00 p.m.
2. Invocation Leader-Pastor John Williams, Blackshear Church of God
3. Pledge of Allegiance Leader-Paul Ponce Jr., Member of the Marine Corps Infantry
4. Approval of July 7, 2026, Agenda-Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the July 7, 2026, agenda. Commissioner David Lowmand second the motion. The motion carried.
5. Approval of June 2, 2026, regular meeting minutes-Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve the June 2, 2026, regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried.
6. Recognition of 8U Boys Coach Pitch District Champions and 4th in State
Coaches: Brad Linton, Chris Wright, Jason Ragsdale, and John Lott
Players: Fisher Gill, Buckley Wright, Cash Williams, Will Klein, Nathen Clifton, Carter Linton, Trip Lott, Ryker Jury, Miles Barrett, Jackson Howard, Alex Mendoza, Roy Taylor Gibson, Carden Turner, Cohen Turner, and Baxley Mendoza
7. Recognition of 10U Girls Machine Pitch District Winner and State Runner Up
Coaches: Derrick Sheffield, Chris Clark, and Kenny Johns
Players: Renzie Yarbrough, Harper Linton, Paisley Strickland, Rilynn Bartram, Piper Cochran, Riley Quinn Clark, Davie Bargerion, Rylana Bieber, Kaleah Strickland, Evelyn Ponce, Ramsey Sheffield, Laura Crawford, and Aubreigh Lake, Elyse Clark
8. Public Comments
 - Ala Mae Myles-3654 Ala Mae Lane, Patterson, Ga. 31557

Requests that 3654 Ala Mae Lane gets built up with dirt, trees cut back due to them being a hazard to traffic or possibly have crush and run placed on top of the dirt.

Ms. Kanisha Jones assisted Ms. Myles with speaking about this situation.

Ms. Jones stated that she believes Ms. Myles has done everything asked

In order to have Ala Mae Myles Road made a county road. Ms. Myles states she would like to have the county maintain and repair her road. Chairman Neal Bennett stated that the county has a 1982 resolution stating that it will no longer accept any private road or subdivision.

9. Discussion and action to approve a Conditional Use Permit request on Parcel #037B-034, at 3191 Midway Church Road, Blackshear, GA 31516 to operate a childcare center. The Planning Commission recommended approval.-Chairman Neal Bennett asked the meeting attendees if anyone wanted to speak in favor of or in opposition of the conditional use permit for parcel 037B-034. Noone present spoke for or in opposition of the conditional use permit. Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve the conditional use permit for parcel 037B-034. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried.
10. Discussion and action to approve the annual Unison Behavioral Health travel and variable expenses in the amount of \$7,500.00. -Commissioner David Lowman Made a motion to approve the \$7,500.00 for travel and variable expenses to Unison Behavioral Health. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried.
11. Discussion and action to approve Yeomans Street and Ware Street parking lots base reclamation and resurfacing improvement project. Statewide Engineering recommends The Scruggs Company with the total amount of \$263,267.10. - Commissioner Troy Mattox made a motion to approve the \$263,267.10 bid from The Scruggs Company for the reclamation and resurfacing of the Ware and Yeomans Street parking lots. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

12. County Manager’s Report



County Manager’s Report for June 2026

Presented on July 7, 2026

Pierce County Board of Commissioners Meeting

COUNTY MANAGER’S MONTHLY HIGHLIGHT ACTIVIY FOR JUNE 2026

** Attended the Department Head Meeting.

** Attended the Pierce County Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting.

** Reviewed the 2026 tax assessment notice (see attachment A).

** Attended the Pierce County Industrial Development Authority Board meeting.

** Met with Mr. Taylor with Byrt Accounting Firm and Chairman Bennett to discuss budget issues.

** Attended the bid opening for the 2026 LMIG New School Road resurfacing project. Hofstadter Civil Engineering is overseeing the project, and East Coast Asphalt was the apparent low bidder with a bid of \$373,334.92.

** Renewed the ATC contract. Mr. Stephen Paul assisted with the renewal, resulting in savings of \$394.10.

** The Tiger Field project is scheduled for its third bid opening on July 27 at 11:00 a.m., with Statewide Civil Engineering overseeing the project.

** Construction on the Gillman Road underpass project is scheduled to begin on July 13 with Statewide Civil Engineering overseeing the project with Thrift Brothers being the contractor. The amount of said project is \$851,317.25 funded by LMIG funds.

** Satilla REA has noted that they will provide four orange power line balls for the Otter Creek Fire Station.

** Due to severe flooding, county employees were released early on June 19.

** On June 22, met with the Road Department crew to develop a plan of action to make county roads safe for travel following heavy flooding.

** Continued coordination with Georgia Power to relocate 19 utility poles for the Pierce County Golf Course Road project. Roberts Civil Engineering is overseeing the project.

** Met with Chairman Bennett, Road Superintendent Bruce Carter, and Underground Excavating, Inc., the contractor for Timber Lane, to review work that must be completed prior to bridge installation.

** Supervised the cleaning of a box culvert on Scenic Road using a road grader tire and backhoe.

** Pierce County hosted a regional legislative update covering property tax reform, including SB 33 and SB 566 (LHOST/FLOST)(See attachments B & C).

** Reviewed HR 1243 – Georgia Next Generation 911 Funding, Effective January 1, 2027, if ratified by Georgia voters. This resolution is a proposed constitutional amendment that, if approved by voters, authorizes the General Assembly to create the “Georgia Next Generation 911 Fund” with monies used exclusively for the expansion, maintenance, and operation of 911 systems throughout the state, including the transition to Next Generation 911. Subsequent legislation will determine what taxes and fees are dedicated to the fund and how they are disbursed to 911 Centers.

** SB 399- Mason Sells AED Coordination Act: Effective July 1, 2026, this bill requires all persons and state agencies possessing automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to notify public safety answering points (911 centers) of the location of their AEDs. All communications officers are required by January 1, 2028, to complete training in the delivery of telephone instructions to facilitate the use of AEDs, unless they are certified in emergency medical dispatch.

** On June 25, Commissioner Dixon, Road Superintendent Bruce Carter, and a Heavy Equipment Operator attended a demonstration of new P-Tier excavators sponsored by Dobbs Equipment at Mossy Pond.

** On June 29, inspected several county roads with the Road Superintendent.

** Attended a demonstration with Tax Assessor Bill Rozier and Code Inspector Chris Bond to evaluate Schneider Geo Company: permitting, business licensing, and code enforcement software for potential future vendor purposes.

We are seeking a community development block grant-disaster relief for the expansion of our current food pantry or for the possibility of building a new food pantry. We will have a meeting on July 6, 2026, at 11am.

DEBRA WILLIAMSON, PIERCE COUNTY E911

911 CALL REPORT BY AGENCY

PCSO 376, BPD 502 , PPD 27, GSP 0, DNR 1, STA1 219, STA2 31 MUTUAL AIDE REQUEST 3, MUTUAL AIDE RESPONSE 2, AVAC 1, CORONER 8, PATTERSON FIRE MED. ASSIST 1, BLACKSHEAR FIRE MED. ASSIST 2, PIERCE COUNTY FIRE MED. ASSIST 16, FIRE CALLS PCFD 70, GDOT 4, GFC 2, BSFD 42, PFD 16, NSFD 5, WFD 34, BVFD 8, OFFFD 8, OTTFD 17, SSFD 13, SUNSET 15, HACKFD 28, ROAD DEPT 6, BPW 3, PPW 2

TOTAL CALLS FOR JUNE: 1,462 TOTAL 911 CALLS FOR THE YEAR: 8798

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF, SHERIFF RAMSEY BENNETT

During the month of June The Office of the Sheriff Dispatched 766 calls for service to deputies in addition to any calls dispatched by the 911 center. The Jail dispatched 3065 calls to Jailors during the month. There are 113 inmates in the Pierce County Jail.

PIERCE COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE, SHELLY HERNDON

Total warrants issued June: 85

BPD: 9 (10.6%)

PCSO: 76 (89.4%)

Year to date warrant activity

Total warrants issued for the year: 519

BPD 128 (24.7%)

PCSO: 373 (71.9%)

GBI: 17 (3.3%)

GSP: 1 (0.2)

Civil cases filed 55 (\$2,50.00 SS Fee)

Dipso's filed 9 (\$200.00 SS Fee)

AMV's filed 10 (\$.00 SSFee)

Garnishment 3 (150.00 SSFee)

Foreclosures 1 (50.00 SSFee)

Total civil cases 78

PIERCE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CLERK, MELISSA HOWARD

From 5/30/26 to 7/2/26 we have had the following:

Superior Civil 34 total year 137

State Civil 11 total year 58

Superior Crm 10 total year 70

State MM 8 total year 122

State TR

Department	Tickets	% of Tickets	Total Fine Paid
GSP	46	41.07%	\$5,126.00
PCSO	35	31.25%	\$7,467.00
MCCD	7	6.25%	\$1,408.00
DNR	24	21.43%	\$13,043.00
Total	112	100.00%	\$27,044.00

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

Total Calls 252
Transport 153
Non-Transport 98
Response From Dispatch 252

MUTUAL AID/REQUEST TO

Responded 1
Cancelled 2

MUTUAL/AID/REQUEST FROM 2

EMS ZONE 1 219
EMS ZONE 2 31

CHRIS BOND, PLANNING AND FACILITIES DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Planning & Codes:

- New home permits issued:10
- Inspections performed: 76
- Fees accrued: \$22,204.62

Facilities:

- Ware street Rec building remodel complete and being utilized.
- Rafter repairs at Sunset Fire Station.
- 4H carpet refurbished.
- Roof leak repairs at Courthouse

PIERCE COUNTY ROAD SUPERINTENDENT, BRUCE CARTER

- Culverts Cleaned – 8
- Roads built up – 6
- Ditches dug – 130
- Culverts installed/Replaced – 4
- Potholes Patched – 440, Major – 52
- Shoulders Patched – 56, Major - 33
- Signs replaced – 25

- New signs put up – 8
 - Total Road miles Graded 624.79 Miles
 - Total Road Grader Miles – 2,517.36 Miles.
 - Loads of dirt hauled – 568
 - Yards of Dirt Moved – 9,088 CuYds
 - Approx. Road miles mowed – 37.9
 - Shoulders Clipped – 12 miles
- Beaver count for second quarter for Pierce County 66

PIERCE COUNTY RECREATION DIRECTOR, COACH MO

8U Coach Pitch Boys -District Champions – Pierce Co.
Co. 4th

State – Pierce

8U Machine Pitch Boys – In District Pierce Co. placed 7th
8U Girls Machine Pitch Girls – In District Pierce Co. placed 4th
10U Boys Machine Pitch – In District Pierce Co. placed 5th
10U Girls Machine Pitch – District Champions - Pierce Co.
Co. Runner Up

State – Pierce

14U Girls Live Pitch – In District placed 3rd
Forfeits – 12U & 14U Boys

***Financials for 8U Coach & Machine Pitch District Tournament**

Total District Fees Collected	\$2700.00	
Total Cash Gate Collected	\$5761.00	
Total Cash Concession Collected	\$4,091.00	
Commission on Pictures	\$234.00	(Grit Photography)

Summer Camps

Volleyball - \$50 registration fee, held during the month of June, twice a week for a total of 8 sessions focusing on skills, drills, conditioning and live play at Rec Gym. Camp instructors were Sarah Coggin, Heather Fandrich and Tristan Jenkins. This was a co-ed camp, most were girls, but we did have 2 boys. Each participant received a T-shirt.

Basketball – Free, July 27 thru 30, 9am until Noon, co-ed for ages 6 thru 14 with Coach Drew and Coach Moore, at Rec Gym.

Football Camp with Adrian Peterson – Free, July 21st, 5:30p until 7:30p, co-ed for ages 7 thru 17, at Tiger Field.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas W. Sauls
Pierce County
Interim County Manager

13. Adjournment-Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to adjourn the meeting At 6:55 p.m. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried. Chairman Neal Bennett adjourned the meeting at 6:55 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