

Pierce County Board of Commissioners  
Public Hearing  
Tuesday September 27, 2022  
6:00 PM

Commissioners in Attendance

Neal Bennett, Chairman  
Harold Rozier, District 1  
Randy Dixon, District 3  
David Lowman, District 4

Commissioners Not in Attendance

Mike Streat, District 2

Staff in Attendance

Franklin Rozier, County Attorney  
Jason Rubenbauer, County Manager/Clerk  
Lana Blankenship, Human Resources Gen.

Chairman Bennett called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 PM.

Chairman Bennett asked Commissioner David Lowman to provide the invocation and Harold Rozier to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

- **Proposed 2022 Millage and 2023 General Fund, Recreation Fund, and E-911 Fund budgets**

Chairman Neal Bennett began the Public Hearing.

A presentation was not available at the time of the meeting. Paper copies were available to the public attending the meeting.

Chairmen Bennett called for questions from the citizens in attendance.

Penn Outlaw at 3322 Cathleen Dr., Patterson, Ga. Stated that this was the wrong time to be raising taxes. He requested the board to investigate ways to help the seniors of the county.

Nicole Walton at 2685 Shellie Rd., Patterson, Ga. 31557 stated that she would like to see the underserved community better represented. Need more road repair.

Tony Walsh at 6121 Stony Brook Dr., Blackshear, Ga. 31516. Asked why Insurance was moved to tax fund. County Manager Jason Rubenbauer stated that the fund was still being separated, but made changes in the general fund budget as recommended by the contracted accounting firm. Mr. Rubenbauer further stated that he changed separated the IPTF back out with the expenses of the Fire Department and approximately 45% of the Road Department expenses which related directly to the unincorporated residents for clear transparency and accountability. This information was sent to the website host and should be viewable on the county website on Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>.

Danna Baumbach at 2915 Dean Still Rd., Blackshear, Ga 31516 asked about the elected officials receiving the \$5000 COLA raise. Who decided what the elected officials were paid. Chairman Bennett stated that was decided by the State. She also asked what the general percent of the recent county raises. County manger Jason Rubenbauer said it was around a 12% increase.

Mark Paulk at 521 Lazy Ln, Blackshear, Ga. 31516. Do not raise taxes

Michael Bennett 4412 Old Hoboken Rd., Blackshear, Ga. 31516. Asked how much money was taken in on Alcohol and building permits this year. Are we compare to the surrounding areas?

Bruce Thomas at 4370 Old Hoboken Rd., Blackshear, Ga. 31516. Asked about fenced funds. SPLOST 2019 a restricted fund. County Manager Jason Rubenbauer explained they were for Public Safety and Roads.

Debra Sawyer 6179 Dead End Road. Blackshear, GA. asked why the Road Department Budget was cut? County Manager Jason Rubenbauer explained how to calculate the total amount of the budget for the Road Department Budget.

Austin Moore at 2925 Dogwood Rd., Blackshear, GA stated that nobody wants taxes. Asked for the County to investigate the pest control service for the Walkersville Fire Station.

Karen Herndon of the Senior Center. Asked for help and consideration for the County's seniors.

Tony Walsh of 6122 Stony Brook Drive, Blackshear, Ga. 31516. Asked about the post landfill closure. County Manager Rubenbauer responded that we have two more years at its location and then it is done.

Mr. Walsh also addressed the public of where he was in the Senior support. "Where do we start" also reminded the public of forms on the tax assessors' website for help.

Gary Cox at 6778 Tanglewood Dr., Blackshear, Ga. 31516. Discussed Road pipe on his property. Clean out the ditches.

Chairman Bennett reminded everyone of the next two public meetings scheduled on Tuesday October the 4, 2022 at 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM. Then the regular Commissioners Meeting at 6:00 PM.

Following no additional question or comments, Chairman Bennett adjourned the Public Hearing at 7:05 PM.

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Neal Bennett

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Harold Rozier

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Mike Streat

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Randy Dixon

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David Lowman