Regular Meeting

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

October 6, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners in attendance	Neal Bennett, Chairman Troy Mattox, District 1 Randy Dixon, District 3 David Lowman, District 4
Commissioners 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 called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance-Commissioner David Lowman led the invocation. Commissioner Troy Mattox led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Action to approve October 6, 2026, Agenda-Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve October 6, 2026, agenda. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried.
4. Action to approve the September 8th (2) public hearing minutes and the September 8th and 15th regular meeting minutes-Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve the September 8th and 15th public hearings and regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Troy Mattox seconded the motion. The motion carried.
5. Action to approve the Amending Resolution for the Pierce County Planning Commission-Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the amending resolution for the Pierce County Planning Commission. Commissioner Troy Mattox seconded the motion. The motion carried.
6. Action to approve resignation from Ms. Rebecca Thigpen as the city representative to the Pierce County Planning Commission-Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to accept the resignation of Ms. Rebecca Thigpen as the City of Blackshear's representative to the Planning Commission. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried.
7. Action to appoint Mark Deal to the Pierce County Planning Commission for a three-year term ending December 31, 2029-Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to appoint Mark Deal to the Pierce County Planning Commission for a three-year

term ending December 31, 2029. Commissioner Troy Mattox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

8. Action to approve the updated Land Use section of the Service Delivery Strategy Plan-Commissioner Troy Mattox made a motion to approve the updated Land Use section of the Service Delivery Strategy. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

9. Action to adopt a resolution to the Land Use agreement with the updated version of the Service Delivery Strategy Plan from the City of Offerman, City of Patterson-Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to adopt a resolution to the Land Use agreement updated version of the Service Delivery Strategy Plan from the City of Offerman and City of Patterson. Commissioner Troy Mattox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

10. Action to adopt a resolution of the Pierce County Board of Commissioners and the City of Offerman establishing an agreement for the delivery of land use, planning and zoning, building permit and inspection, and code enforcement services within the City of Offerman-Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to adopt a resolution of the Pierce County Board of Commissioners and the City of Offerman establishing an agreement for the delivery of land use, planning and zoning, building permit and inspection, and code enforcement services within the City of Offerman. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

11. Action to accept the amended resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Blackshear, Ga, approving amendments to the Pierce County Service Delivery Strategy to reflect the City of Blackshear's provision of land use services within its corporate limits, authorizing execution and submission of the amended service delivery strategy and for other purposes-Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to accept the amended resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Blackshear, Ga, approving amendments to the Pierce County Service Delivery Strategy to reflect the City of Blackshear's provision of land use services within its corporate limits, authorizing execution and submission of the amended service delivery strategy and for other purposes. Commissioner Troy Mattox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

12. Action to remove from the table approval of a variance request for the install of a new mobile home located at Parcel #024A-098, 6603 Christie Circle-Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to remove from the table approval of a variance request for the install of a new mobile home located at Parcel #024A-098, 6603 Christie Circle. Commissioner David Lowman stated that Mr. Suiter had the proposed parcel surveyed to fit the variance guidelines. Commissioner Lowman then made a motion to approve the variance request for parcel 024A-098. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

13. Action to accept resignation letter from Mr. Jimmy Thrift at the Library Board-Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve the letter of resignation from Mr. Jimmy Thrift to be taken off the Pierce County Library Board. Commissioner Troy Mattox seconded the motion. The motion carried.
14. County Manager's Report-County Manager Thomas Sauls presented the County Manager's Report.

County Manager's Report for September 2026
Presented on October 6, 2026
Pierce County Board of Commissioners Meeting

COUNTY MANAGER'S MONTHLY HIGHLIGHT ACTIVIY FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

- Held our first public budget hearing on September 8th, followed by the 2027 Budget Approval Hearing on September 15th.
- Met with Statewide Engineering at Tiger Field to inspect the conditions of the lighting, drainage, parking, and fencing.
- On September 10th, spent half the day with the Road Superintendent inspecting roads, equipment, and ongoing work projects.
- On September 10th, County Clerk Donna Golding and I attended the Patterson City Council meeting to discuss the Service Delivery Strategy and the updated resolution agreement.
- Attended a Road Department meeting on September 14th. Mr. Stevy Moody presented information on driver awareness and the importance of being aware of your surroundings while operating equipment and vehicles.
- On September 16th, attended the Pierce County Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting with several governmental officials and representatives from the Southern Georgia Regional Commission.
- Monitored a road grader operator while he was grading a particular road due to a previous incident involving the operator and a landowner. This was done to ensure the work was completed safely and appropriately.
- Mary Skipper and I held our quarterly budget meeting with department heads and constitutional officers.
- Held a bid opening for a 1999 International Dump Truck, a 2001 International Dump Truck, and a 2013 John Deere Mini Excavator. All three pieces of equipment were purchased by Yoder & Frey for a total amount of $44,481.00**.**
- Road Superintendent Bruce Carter, Chairman Bennett, and I met with Tri Scapes and their new branch leader, Jacob Crosgrove, to discuss mowing issues and ways to improve the upcoming mowing schedule.
- On September 30th, met with Chris Collins of Boswell Oil to discuss future fuel purchasing through Boswell Oil at their HWY 84 location in Blackshear.
- December board meeting has been scheduled for Monday, December 7th.
- County Clerk, Donna Golding, attended Community Development Block Grant summit on September 27th-30th.
- We received BULLETIN 26-EX-3 from John F. King, Insurance and Safety Fire Commission noting that On May 6, 2026, Governor Kemp signed Senate Bill 285 which became effective on July 1, 2026. I want to make the board aware of the change in state law concerning insurance premium tax revenues received by Pierce County. The part that directly affects Pierce County requires counties and municipalities to remit 1.5 percent of certain insurance premium tax distribution to the PEACE OFFICERS' ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND. Rather than requiring the county to calculate the amount, receive the money, and then send a separate payment to the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit fund, the state will withhold the required 1.5 percent before distributing the money to us and remit it on our behalf.

DEBRA TANNER, PIERCE COUNTY E911

911 CALL REPORT BY AGENCY

PCSO 327, BPD 525, PPD 23, GSP 8, DNR 0, STA1 245, STA2 43, MUTUAL AIDE REQUEST 3, MUTUAL AIDE RESPONSE 1, AVAC 5, CORONER 2, PATTERSON FIRE MED. ASSIST 2, BLACKSHEAR FIRE MED. ASSIST 3, PIERCE COUNTY FIRE MED. ASSIST21,
FIRE CALLS PCFD 42, GDOT 3, GFC 0, BSFD 37, PFD 9, NSFD 11, WFD 34, BVFD 14, OFFFD 10, OTTFD 13, SSFD 9, SUNSET 6, HACKFD 22, ROAD DEPT 1, BPW 24, PPW 0
TOTAL CALLS FOR SEPTEMBER: 1423 TOTAL 911 CALLS FOR THE YEAR: 13,223

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF, SHERIFF RAMSEY BENNETT
During the month of September The Office of the Sheriff Dispatched 418 calls for service to deputies in addition to any calls dispatched by the 911 center and 3005 dispatch calls in the jail. There are 116 inmates in the Pierce County Jail.

PIERCE COUNTY EMS DIRECTOR AAS, NRP, NPQ-FOII, GA-CEM, DANIEL ROYAL
Total calls 289
Transports 174
Non Transports 113

Response from dispatch 289
Chute Time

Mutual Aid/Request to
Responded 2
Cancelled 1

Mutual Aid/Request From 1
EMS ZONE 1 245 85.07%
EMS ZONE 2 43 14.93%

Our balance for September stands at $49,909.42. UHC is delayed in processing payments, with approximately $31,000 in August claims still pending. We expect those funds to be received in October.

We are excited to announce that we expect to take delivery of our new ambulance this month, with plans to have it fully equipped and in service by the end of the month.

PIERCE COUNTY ROAD SUPERINTENDENT, BRUCE CARTER
· Culverts Cleaned – 8
. Roads built up – 3 Miles
· Ditches dug – 149
· Culverts installed/Replaced – 5
· Potholes Patched – 215, Major – 37
· Shoulders Patched – 24, Major - 10
· Signs replaced – 73
· New signs put up – 19
· Total Road miles Graded 401.13 Miles
· Total Road Grader Miles – 1,956.14 Miles.
· Loads of dirt hauled – 766
· Yards of Dirt Moved – 12,256 CuYds
· Approx. Road miles mowed – 8.32

PIERCE COUNTY FIRE CHIEF, CHRIS TODD
September Call Report

64 Calls
764 Calls YTD

2- Law Enforcement Support
1 - Vehicle Fire
1 - Grass Fire
4 - Structure Fires
2 - Trash Fires
1 - Power Line Down
12- Motor Vehicle Collisions
1 - Overpressure/Rupture
1 - Smoke Investigation
1 - Short Circuit / Electrical Arc
11- Medical Assist
2 - Cancelled
2 - Accidental Alarm
4- Smoke Alarm
1 - No Incident Found
3 - Public Service School Safety Day
8 - Lift Assist
2 - Service Assist
3 - Weather Responses
1 - Search and Rescue
1 - Landing Zone

Fire
Fire 1 attended a 32-Hour Acting Officer in Charge class in Forsyth
Fire 1&2 attended the Region M Coalition Meeting in Waycross
Fire 1&2 performed a Fire Safety Analysis for the new Premier Propane Location
Fire 1&2 performed a Walk-through training at Offerman Chip Mill along with 20 Pierce County FF's
Fire 1,2, and 3 along with 6 FF's assisted with Midway Community Helper Day
Fire 4 along with 3 FF's assisted with Friendly Firefighter and Touch a Truck at YMCA (old Lollipop)
Fire 1&2 attended an 8-Hour Mental Health First Aid Training for First Responders
Fire 1&2 offered 8-Hours of training to FF's

EMA
Fire 1&2 attended the Haz Mit Workshop 1 Meeting
Fire 1&2 attended the Charlton County EMAG meeting
Fire 1 attended a 24-Hour ICS 300 class in Waycross at Blackburn Training Facility
Fire 1&2 along with the county manager attended a meeting with Angie from News Weather Jax hosted at the EOC. The meeting was for updates on the latest information for Fire/EMA in the event of a disaster along with helpful info on flooding in low areas.

PIERCE COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE, SHELLY HERNDON
Warrants Issued 77 (BPD 17, 22.08%) (PCSO 60, 77.92%)
Warrants YTD 785 (BPD 218, 27.77%) (PCSO 559, 71.21%)
(GBI 17, 2.17%) (GSP 1, .013%)
Civil Cases Filed 47 ($2,350.00 SS Fee)
Dispo's Filed 10 ($250.00 SS Fee)
AMV's Filed 4 ($0.00 SS Fee)
Garnishment's 2 ($100.00 SS Fee)
Foreclosure's 4 ($200.00 SS Fee)

Total Civil Cases filed 67 for month of September

PIERCE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CLERK, MELISSA HOWARD

Superior Civil 28 total year 195
State Civil 15 total year 101
Super. Crm 12 total year 97
State MM 0 total year 156
State TR 101 total year 644
Adoption 3 total year 12

GSP 14 $2803.00
PCSO 2 560.00
MCCD 2 306.00
DNR 0 0

WILLIAM A. ROZIER, CHIEF APPRAISER

Mr. Rozier reported that the QPublic data request for September 2026 totaled 10,785 visits. Staff total time saved 899 hours.

LEAH RITCH, SUPERVISOR OF PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRAION

1. State proofing package for all district ballots
2. Ordered Ballots
3. Loading ballots on machines and poll pads
4. SEB-State Election Board Meetings and new rule study for this GENERAL
5. NEW SPECIAL COMMITTEE for NEW MACHINES MEETINGS
6. 24th SOS came and was awarded EAGLE AWARD

OCTOBER BUT NEEDS TO BE MENTIONED

7. Poll worker Training
8. Complete new Registrations/Deadline October 5th
9. Absentee Ballot Packaging/mail out 5th
10. Early Voting starts Tuesday October 13ththru Friday October 30th 8:30-5:00
11. TWO SATURDAYS 17th & 24th (9-5)

CHRIS BOND, PLANNING AND FACILITIES DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Planning & Codes:

- New home permits: 4
- Inspections performed: 94
- Fees accrued: $20,342.68

Facilities:

- On demand work orders: 35
- Preventative and routine maintenance tasks completed: 30

PIERCE COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE, MOYE HOWARD

This report reflects Fees collected for the period September 01, 2026, to September 30, 2026. Pierce County Probate Court 3550 US Highway 84 West, Suite 1 Blackshear, GA 31516
Firearms Renewal 13 286.00
New License 10 350.00 Subtotal 636.00
Marriage - Counseling 2 51.50 Marriage - No Counseling 15 761.25
Marriage Certified Copies 8 80.00
Subtotal 892.75
Probate Petition to Probate Will in Solemn Form 4 662.00
Petition for Temporary Letters of Administration 1 180.00
Miscellaneous Probate 3 27.00
Annual, Intermediate or Final Return 1 40.00
Petition for Letters of Administration 3 540.00
Petition for Year's Support 1 180.00
Notice of Claim or Claim of Creditor 1 15.00
Petition for Discharge of Personal Representative 1 195.00
Subtotal 1,839.00

$3,367.75

PIERCE COUNTY RECREATION DIRECTOR, COACH MO
District Tournament Schedule Updates
● 8U Tackle Football - Pierce County (Host), November 14-21, 2026
● 10U Tackle Football - Appling County, November 14-21, 2026
● 12U Tackle Football - McIntosh County, November 14-21, 2026
● 8U Volleyball - District II Class C Champions; State Championship Tournament, November
13-14, 2026 at Madison County
● 10U, 12U & 14U Volleyball - South Bryan, October 29-31, 2026
● 10U & 14U Girls Flag Football - McIntosh County, October 24-28, 2026
● 8U, 10U, 12U & 14U Soccer - Wayne County, November 14-21, 2026
Facility and Capital Improvement Updates
● Yeomans Street and Ware Street parking lot renovations have begun and paving is completed, but
● Tiger Field Walking Track renovations have begun.
● Public access to the Tiger Field Walking Track and parking lot will NOT be accessible until further notice.
● Pierce County Recreation will host the 8U District Football Tournament November 14-21, 2026.
Financial Report
● September 2026 Revenue: $20,289.35
Program Updates
● Honorary Buddy Bowl Tournaments for Soccer, Football, and Volleyball will be held October 5-8, 2026.

PIERCE COUNTY TAX COMMISSIONER, NICOLE SCURRY
Processed 3,700 motor vehicle transactions for September.
Tax notices are to be mailed out by the middle of october with a due date of december 20, 2026.

PIERCE COUNTY ACCOUNTING CLERK, MARY SKIPPER
For the period ending August 31, 2026, total revenues collected were **$13.1 million**, representing **76.2%** of the budgeted revenue of **$16.5 million**. Total expenditures for the same period were **$9.6** million, or **58.6%** of the budgeted expenditure amount of **$16.5 million**.

Overall, revenues continue to track ahead of expenditures, resulting in a positive financial position through August 31, 2026.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

THOMAS W. SAULS
INTERIM, PIERCE COUNTY MANAGER

15. Adjournment-Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Commissioner Troy Mattox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

_____	_____
Neal Bennett Commission Chairman	Randy Dixon Commissioner, District 3
_____	_____
Troy Mattox Commissioner, District 1	David Lowman Commissioner, District 4
____Not in Attendance_____	_____
Graham Raley Commissioner, District 2	Donna Golding County Clerk