



Pierce County Board of Commissioners

705 College Avenue, 2nd Floor, Blackshear, GA 31516
October 15, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting

Commissioners in Attendance:

Neal Bennett, Chairman
Harold Rozier, District 1
Graham Raley, District 2
Randy Dixon, District 3
David Lowman, District 4

Staff in Attendance:

Raphel Maddox, County Manager
Donna Golding, County Clerk
Adam Craft, County Attorney

1. Call to Order- Chairman Neal Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Invocation-Jimmy Thrift, Youmans Chapel Baptist Church
3. Pledge of Allegiance-Keeon Culp served almost 8 yrs as an Aviation Electronic Technician in the Navy and served on the The USS Roosevelt, The USS Enterprise, and The USS Kennedy aircraft carriers. Following his time in the Navy, he served as a Sgt. Combat Medic in the Army Reserve for almost 8 years. He was deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom
4. Any addition or deletion to October 15, 2024, Agenda-There were no additions or deletions.
5. Approval of the Agenda of October 15, 2024, Agenda-Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner David Lowman seconded. The motion carried.
6. Approval of September 3, 2024, Minutes-Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner David Lowman seconded. The motion carried.
7. Approval of September 24, 2024, Work Session Minutes-Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the Work Session Minutes. Commissioner David Lowman seconded. The motion carried.

8. Public comment

- a. Richard Lee, (912)614-5479, 3230 Smith Dr. Waycross, Ga 31503-Not in attendance.
- b. Cleo Weston, (912)449-4413, 5467 Murdock Dr. Blackshear, Ga. 31516-Ms. Weston passed around pictures of her road. Stating she has been requesting help from the county to fix her road. Murdock Dr. has a huge dip in the road that is filled with water every time it rains. She has been stuck on numerous occasions. She feels anxiety every time she leaves her house and wants to be safe as she travels.
- c. Larry Murdock, (912)337-0102 5492 Murdock Rd. Blackshear, Ga. 31516-Mr. Murdock brought pictures of the road with a 2-3 feet deep hole. He is constantly pulling people out and is concerned about the vehicle damage this is causing. He is asking that the county help dig ditches and fill in the holes. Commissioner Randy Dixon said to call him or any of the Commissioner's for help at any time.
- d. Travis Sweat, (912) 614-7634, 3502 Eugene Howell Rd. Blackshear, Ga. 31516 (Private Road)- Asked the Commissioners how it is right to grade and fix his road for many years then just stop. The road hasn't seen any help since 2022. County Manager Raphel Maddox gave Mr. Sweat his card and told him to call him and they would set up a meeting to discuss this matter further.
- e. Randy Tyre, (912)614-6357 1963 Shellie Trail, Blackshear, Ga. 31516-Mr. Tyre told the Board of Commissioners that he has yet to see any road graders or dump trucks on Shellie Trail. He is tired of the county having excuses as to why the road cannot be repaired. Commissioner Randy Dixon said the county just experienced a catastrophic hurricane and this is taking precedence. Commissioner David Lowman assured Mr. Tyre that the road will be taken care of.
- f. Bryan Crews, (912)288-2888, 7267 Blue Lake Rd. Blackshear, Ga. 31516-Is asking for a solution to the noise coming from the Moccasin Creek Off Park. Mr. Crews has made some home adjustments such as putting up sound and thermal barriers under his siding. He played a recording taken from his front porch of the band, music, and exhausts from 4-wheelers. He is asking for help from the commissioners to put a noise ordinance in place.
- g. Scott Swain, (912)281-4995, 6367 Barger Road Blackshear, Ga. 31516- There are only 2-3 concerts a year at Moccasin Creek Off Road Park. The band is done playing between 11 and midnight. Campers and all ATV's are said to be parked no later than midnight. Commissioner David Lowman asked Mr. Swain who enforces the rules. Mr. Swain told the board that he has private security who handles that.

9. Employee of the Month

- a. Levi Yarbrough-Recreation Department
- b. Cody Ammons-Recreation Department

10. Discussion and action on updated Culvert Ordinance-Commissioner David Lowman made a to approve the updated Culvert Ordinance. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded. The motion carried.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PIERCE COUNTY GEORGIA, REQUIRING THE INSTALLATION OF CULVERTS IN DITCHES SO THAT WATER WILL BE ABLE TO FLOW FREELY IN DITCHES FROM WHICH A PRIVATE WAY OR ROAD IS INSTALLED TO A HOME, RESIDENCE, BUSINESS, AGRICULTURAL FIELD, OR TIMBER STAND FROM A COUNTY ROAD AND PROHIBITING THE FILLING IN OR PLACING OF DIRT IN SAID DITCHES CREATING A PRIVATE WAY SO THAT THE FLOW OF WATER IN THE DITCH IS IMPEDED OR STOPPED; PROVIDING FOR THE PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

2024.10.15.01

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONER OF PIERCE COUNTY,

GEORGIA, and it is hereby ordained by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION I: Any person, company, trust or corporation attempting to construct a private way from a county road over a ditch located beside said road shall submit a culvert application to the Pierce County Planning and Codes Department for approval by the Public Works Director. Culvert size and location shall be approved by the Public Works Director. A final inspection by the Public Works Director after installation shall take place.

SECTION II: The placing in and filling up of any ditch located beside any county road for the purpose of installing or creating a private way from the county road over said ditch to a home, residence, business, agricultural field or timber stand by any person, company, trust or corporation is hereby prohibited.

SECTION III: Any person, company, trust or corporation attempting to construct one (1) or more private ways from a county road over a ditch located beside said road shall be responsible for the cost of installing culverts in said ditch prior to the creation or installation of said private ways.

SECTION IV: Any person found guilty of violating this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

SECTION V: Any person found guilty of violating this ordinance shall pay a fine in the sum of \$1,000.00 per (Section 1-9 Penalties; continuing violations)

SECTION VI: All laws and ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Pierce County,

Georgia, held on the 15th day of October, 2024.



Van Bunt

10/15/2024

CHAIRMAN

Atte Donna Golding

11. Approval and Adoption of the Board of Education Millage Rate-Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to adopt the Pierce County School District Resolution for Tax Levy setting the mill rate at 14.000. Commissioner Graham Raley seconded. The motion carried.

12. Discussion and action on Intergovernmental Tax Collection Agreements
 - a. Patterson
 - b. Blackshear
Commissioner Harold Rozier made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Tax Collection Agreements for Patterson and Blackshear. Commissioner David Lowman seconded. The motion carried.
 - c. Discussion and action on Intergovernmental Gymnasium Use Agreement between the PCBOE and PCBOC.
Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Gymnasium Use Agreement. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded. The motion carried.

13. Discussion and approval on 2024-2025 Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant Pre Application to be submitted by Southern Ga. Regional Commission and Statewide Engineering for the Ware Street Complex (Phase Two) before October 31, 2024.
Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve.
Commissioner Graham Raley seconded. The motion carried.

14. Discussion and adoption of Resolution between Ga. Department of Natural Resources and Pierce County Tiger Field Recreation Park-Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve. Commissioner Graham Raley seconded. The motion carried

15. Discussion and action on bid specifications for the Otter Creek Fire Station- Commissioner David Lowman asked to change #4 Plumbing section E to Four floor drains instead of one. It was discussed and agreed on. Commissioner David Lowman then made a motion to approve. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded. The motion carried.

16. Discussion and action to purchase a 2024 FLECO 96” Grapple Rake for John Deere 544P Loader in the amount of \$18,250.00. Funding coming out of ARPA. Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded. The motion carried.

17. County Manager’s Report-County Manager Raphel Maddox thanked the Board of Commissioners and County Clerk for all the long hours and hard work that was done with the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. County Manager Raphel Maddox then presented the report to the board.

18. Adjournment- Chairman Neal Bennett adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Neal Bennett, Chairman

Harold Rozier, District 1

Graham Raley, District 2

Randy Dixon, District 3

David Lowman, District 3

Donna Golding, County Clerk