

**PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019 AT 5:30 PM**

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Neal Bennett, Chairman
Mike Streat, District 2
Randy Dixon, District 3
David Lowman, District 4

COMMISSIONERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Harold Rozier, District 1

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Jason Rubenbauer, County Manager
Franklin Rozier, County Attorney
Amy Hitt, County Clerk

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Bennett called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Commissioner David Lowman gave an invocation and led the pledge of allegiance.

1. Discussion on 2020 General Fund Operating Budget, E911 Fund Operating Budget and Recreation Fund Operating Budget. Chairman Bennett asked County Manager Rubenbauer to share the highlights of the proposed budget. County Manager Rubenbauer shared that the main revenue change is the decrease in Ambulance Fees due to the out sourcing of EMS. Postage expenses have been moved primarily to the Finance Office just for the budget and reduction of steps to process, we still have monitoring of use through the postage machines for each department. The IT budget is up as we realized that there was a need for better backup and we have put that into place and we have budgeted to continue with our capital purchasing plan and have the cost of 5 computers budgeted. 705 College Ave increase is for redoing the flooring, some painting and possibly replacing the chiller. Office of the Sheriff increase is for the addition of a Lieutenant position and increase in repair/maintenance vehicles. Fire Department increase due to reallocation of the Fire Chief/EMA Director salary, the increase in fire calls and training and recording which will dramatically increase the firefighter payouts and more turnout gear. Public Defender budget increase from the state level. Recreation Fund increase is for capital improvements. Elections increase is for new voting equipment and presidential election year which has more elections. Commissioner Randy Dixon made note that the SPLOST had passed so that helps us. County Manager Rubenbauer made note that the 2020 proposed budget has no fund balance used and only \$75,000 in contingency. Commissioner Dixon asked about the Tax Commissioner pay increases. County Manager shared that the listed increases are for increase outside the pay scale and one is for a change in title. Commissioner Lowman asked about the increase in the Work Detail and County Manager Rubenbauer shared that there is a request to add a position here that may be supplemented. Chairman Bennett noted significant increase to the Road Department with the current conditions

and trying to continue to make improvements as well as adding trash pick up to the mowing contract. Commissioner Lowman noted that the road department is doing a great job.

With no public present at the hearing the chairman adjourned at 6:02 PM.

ADJOURN