

**PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2019 AT 6:00 PM**

Commissioners in Attendance

Neal Bennett, Chairman
Harold Rozier, District 1
Mike Streat, District 2
David Lowman, District 4

Commissioners not in Attendance

Randy Dixon, District 3

Staff in Attendance

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

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:00 M

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

1. Review of Minutes
 - a. Regular Meeting Minutes October 8, 2019

Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion, all voted aye. Motion approved.

2. Public Comment: Angela Bristow - Discuss Limited Internet Service. Resides at 3602 Meadow Lane. Has been at the residence with internet service with AT & T for 15 years. The service has not improved the entire time she has been there. More and more people are working from home but with the internet abilities that are in the rural area of the county people are not able to work well from home. It's a struggle for me. I had to make changes in my job because the department I was in required more internet speed that I am able to receive at home. I could have lost my job. I am doing my due diligence to make things better but I need some assistance on what to do, where to go next. Chairman Bennett aske Matt Carter with the IDA to speak about this subject. Matt Carter stated that he knows the struggle, internet speed is a major concern in trying to bring in new industry to the area. He has met with AT & T about this issue and they are the ilec carrier for Pierce County and not ATC. They are the one responsible to making the changes to the service. AT & T are just not doing what needs to be done. Jason Rubenbauer shared that he has met with AT & T and has requested a formal meeting to discuss this in our area. He is working to make some progress in this area.
3. County Manager's Report & Financial Report for September 2019. Jason Rubenbauer shared some general information on the county finances, things are looking good.

Collections are over where they should be at this time and expenditures are below what they should be. Last week he attended an ACCG District meeting with the Chairman and he has provided a Legislative Toolkit that was presented for all the commissioners to see where the ACCG focus will be this next session. Planning & Codes have issued to date 934 permits which is an increase of about 8% over last year. 58 of those permits were for new single family homes and a total of \$118,095.54 has been collected in fees. Elections office reported at the end of early voting on Friday that there were 310 votes cast. As of 5PM today an additional 323 have been cast. Invitation to all Veterans & families from Piggly Wiggly to attend the annual appreciation luncheon on Friday, November 8, 2019 from 11-1. It is a great event to show appreciation to our veterans and their families. Please show your support.

Santo Nino, Fire Chief wanted to share for a few minutes about the 2019 Fireworks Grant that we received a little over \$20,000 in funding for turnout gear. We were able to purchase 10 set of gear with this grant money which is great because we only spent about 2300 of county funds to match the grant. He is diligent in searching for outside funding sources for the items that we need to make improvements to our fire services. We have 10 new sets of gear but we still need 35 more and they cost between \$2300- \$2700 per set. The next AFG grant we apply for will be for SCBA's and that will be for \$260,000 - \$280,000. We currently have 53 firefighters on the roster. We will start a new class after the first of the year, we have about 12-15 on the list now and they range in age from 18-72.

4. Approval of request from the Board of Education that they be allowed to redesign the vegetation in the roundabouts on County Farm Road at the Pierce County High School. The Board of Education wants to make some changes to the roundabouts and would like to just take over the design and maintenance officially.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve the request from the Board of Education to be allowed to redesign the vegetation in the roundabouts on County Farm Road at the Pierce County High School and that they be made aware that they must meet the GDOT requirements. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion, all voted aye. Motion approved.

5. Request to declare 3 vehicles surplus.
 - a. 2003 Ford F150 4x4 Vin# 05437
 - b. 2016 Ford truck to trade for the Office of the Sheriff vin# 84751
 - c. 2014 Ford Expedition to trade for Office of the Sheriff vin# 40936

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to declare the above referenced vehicles as surplus property so that the 2014 & 2016 can be traded for vehicles for the office of the sheriff. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion, all voted aye. Motion approved.

6. Request to approve contract with Access ATC for a HPBX phone system at the Nichols St Annex and the Road Department. Jason Rubenbauer shared that the current phone

system that is in place is very dated and that the equipment is starting to have some minor issues. He spent some time looking into technology options and spoken with several vendors about a HPBX system. This will be a great communication tool for everyone to use once they have been taught the system and all it can do. There will be some small expense on the install update but there will be a little savings on the monthly expense. This will definitely be a more efficient system.

Commissioner Harold Rozier made a motion to approve the contract with ATC Broadband for the HPBX service. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion, all voted aye. Motion approved.

7. Discussion to proceed with a formal request to the City of Blackshear to close the portion of Youmans Street that is between the county owned properties so we can start some work on the expansion/renovation project.

Commissioner Harold Rozier made a motion to start the process of requesting that the portion of Youmans St between the county recreation properties be closed. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion, all voted aye. Motion approved.

8. Request from Library Board for letter of commitment of \$373,571.43 on the Library expansion project. Chairman Bennett stated that he doesn't think there is enough information for the commission to make this commitment and would like for Jason Rubenbauer to get some additional information on the project.
9. Request to approve award of the bid on E Horseshoe Rd, N Horseshoe Rd & Mershon Rd project to Everett Dykes Grassing Company, Inc. Chairman Bennett shared that there were three bidders on the project East Coast Asphalt, American Industries, Inc. Everett Dykes Grassing Company, Inc. & J Hiers Company, Inc. The recommendation of the Engineering Firm Roberts Engineering is to proceed and award with Everett Dykes Grassing Company and the entire project under Option A for \$2,070,055.66 and includes signage.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to award the bid to Everett Dykes Grassing Company for \$2,070,055.66 as recommended by Roberts Civil Engineering. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion, all voted aye. Motion approved.

ADJOURN

Chairman Bennett adjourned the meeting at 6:44PM.