

Pierce County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, March 1, 2022 6:00 PM

Board Members in Attendance:

Neal Bennett, Chairman
Harold Rozier, District 1
Mike Streat, District 2
Randy Dixon, District 3
David Lowman, District 4

Staff in Attendance:

Franklin Rozier, County Attorney
Jason Rubenbauer, County Manager/Clerk
Lana Blackenship, Human Resources

1. Call to Order—Chairman Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance—Jason Deal, Editor of The Blackshear Times was asked to give the Invocation and Commissioner Randy Dixon led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion and all voted aye. Motion was approved.

4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes, February 1, 2022

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2022 regular meeting. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion and all voted aye. Motion was approved.

5. Public Comments
 - a. Tony Waters to speak requesting a stop sign be installed on Cason Road where Clifford Loop intersects due to traffic driving too fast around a blind curve.

Mr. Waters did not attend the meeting. No comments were presented.

- b. Tywarn Lively to speak requesting an event for kids at the Recreation Department on March 26, 2022.

Mr. Lively did not attend the meeting. No comments were presented.

6. County Manager Report and January 2022 Financials

Financial Report & County Manager Report

March 1, 2022

Financial Report as of 1/31/2022

Total revenues reported for January 2022 are down \$648,000 compared to the same period in 2021. The vast majority of this is in property tax collections which were short \$485,000.

Total expenses for the month are slightly over budget due to rising costs of fuel and allocation of quarterly expenses which will balance in future reporting. After a thorough analysis of the expenses, I firmly believe we will trend similar to our previous years and be in good fiscal standing as the year progresses.

County Manager's Report

a. Departmental updates:

i. EMS

1. We have two fully staffed ambulances up and running
2. A third ambulance has passed licensure and is being utilized as a back-up
3. We are waiting for a part to arrive for our 4th ambulance before it can be inspected and licensed. It too will serve as a back-up in the event of a failure of our primary units and can also be used during special events.

ii. Fire/EMA

150 responses to calls have been reported by Chief Nino for 2022.

- a. Approximately 40% are for fires, mainly grass fires caused by illegal burning
- b. Citizens are reminded that the only items they are allowed to legally burn are vegetative waste such as small piles of leaves and small sticks
- c. Burning piles shall never be left unattended and shall be fully extinguished prior to leaving

Tier II reporting for all commercial properties is being conducted. This is necessary to know the level of hazardous material present in the event of a large spill or fire.

Pump testing and hose testing is commencing this week.

iii. Parks & Recreation

District tournaments for basketball finished this past Saturday and were very successful.

Spring sports registration has ended with over 300 participants signing up. There are still some late comers calling to register which are being taken, but this makes getting the necessary uniforms and equipment a challenge to be able to start on time. The goal is to begin baseball and softball on March 21st.

iv. Roads & Bridges

Still fighting staffing shortages.

Training current laborers to become operators as we have a couple of employees that are showing great potential and interest

We have recently lost three employees who have left to work for private companies making \$8-10 more per hour than we are paying at this time.

Commissioner Lowman commented following the report commending the Fire Department for their efforts at Reliable Roll-off which was a live training exercise due to the type of fire.

Chairman Bennett asked the County Manager to contact the Tax Commissioner and get the Tax Collections for December through February for 2021 and 2022 to compare the revenues.

7. Discussion and Request to review and accept a petition to declare Beale Street a part of the county road system.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to deny the request of accepting Beale Street into the County Road System. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted Aye. Motion was approved.

8. Discussion and Request to appoint Lana Blankenship to the Pierce County Library Board to fill the unexpired term of Susan Sweat through December 31, 2022.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to appoint Lana Blankenship to the Pierce County Library Board to fill the unexpired term of Susan Sweat through December 31, 2022. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was approved.

9. Discussion and Request to appoint Kristi Mercer to the Unison Behavioral Health Board to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Lowell Williamson. This is a three-year term.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to appoint Kristi Mercer to the Unison Behavioral Health board to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Lowell Williamson. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was approved.

10. Discussion and Request to appoint Steven Paul to the Southern Georgia Regional Commission to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Andy Brannen.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to appoint Steven Paul to the Southern Georgia Regional Commission to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Andy Brannen. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was approved.

11. Discussion and Request to approve the replacement of five dump truck tarps in the amount of \$12,500 using Transportation SPLOST Discretionary Funds.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the replacement of the tarps on five dump trucks in the amount not to exceed \$12,500 using Transportation SPLOST funds. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was approved.

12. Discussion and Request to Approve the purchase of a Sheep's Foot Attachment for our Bomag Roller in the amount of \$10,039.46 using Transportation SPLOST Discretionary Funds.

Commissioner Harold Rozier made the motion to approve the purchase of a Sheep's Foot attachment for the Bomag Roller not to exceed \$10,039.46 using Transportation SPLOST funds. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was approved.

13. Discussion and Request to seek bids for the striping of paved roads in need of such enhancement and assign a value not to exceed.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to seek bids for the striping of paved roads as presented. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was approved.

14. Discussion and Request to declare vehicles assigned to the Office of the Sheriff surplus and authorize the advertisement of these items for public sale.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to declare vehicles assigned to the Office of the Sheriff and located at the Pierce County Road Department as surplus and to advertise for public

sale. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was approved.

Commissioner Mike Streat extended a thank you to the Road Department for their work on Kenny Lane.

15. Adjourn—Chairman Bennett adjourned the meeting at 6:21 PM.

Neal Bennett

Harold Rozier

Mike Streat

Randy Dixon

David Lowman