

Pierce County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 2, 2021 6:00PM

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
Amy Hitt, County Clerk

1. Call to Order – Chairman Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:00PM
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Mike Streat gave an 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. Regular Meeting Minutes, February 2, 2021

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 2, 2021 regular meeting. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion and all voted aye. Motion was approved.

5. Public Comment – Ala Mae Myles, Patterson to discuss Tyre Bridge Rd at Sixty Foot Creek, North of Patterson city and County Roads off Walkerville Rd. Speak on matter of Ahmad Arnold chosen to be on the Basketball Team and cannot play because an adult did not order enough jerseys. Ms. Myles stated that she had spoken to the County Manager prior to the meeting and understands that the Tyre Bridge issues she wants to discuss is actually in the City of Patterson and she will go there to discuss. She wants to understand why Ahmad Arnold was chosen to be on the All Star Team and then was not able to play because there wasn't a jersey ordered for him.

County Manager Rubenbauer stated that there was an issue with the jerseys ordered being stuck in TX because of the ice storm and that we ended up borrowing jerseys from the middle school and that he did not know why one was not borrowed for him. Chairman Bennett stated that we will do our best to make sure something like that doesn't happen again.

6. Public Comment – Marie Stonebraker, 3610 Chapel Cir to discuss drainage, grading Chapel Cir, Tornado Rd, Chapel Dr in Chapel Acres Subdivision. Ms. Stonebraker states she has been here before in front of the commission to talk about the road conditions and the trash all over the neighborhood. Chapel acres has some of the worst roads in the county. Grading the roads doesn't help. The people of the community have signed a petition to get the roads paved and it hasn't happened. Can we at least get something done about the drainage issues. We know that the culvert pipes need to be cleaned out but they aren't. Chairman Bennett stated that he visited the area earlier today and they definitely have a mess. Commissioner Streat stated that he has been out there numerous times and that its documented. He was out there Saturday. The process is that when I see issues, I contact the County Manager and he gets with the department head to address the issue. I have been reporting the issues but there are issues all over and they have to be prioritized. Commissioner Dixon stated that we have had so much rain in the last 2 years and we just need the citizens to be patient with us, we are trying.
7. Public Comment – Janice Lovell, 5967 Chapel Dr to discuss Chapel Dr area roads and road graders. Ms Lovell stated that 5 years ago when they came to the commission they left with the understanding that lower income communities get paved first. She doesn't understand why they continue to be over looked. Her son has messed up his car on Tornado and her granddaughter can't get on the bus because the bus cant get down Tornado and she cant walk because of the water.
8. Public Comment – Dian Wiseman, 3608 Chapel Cir to discuss roads. Ms Wiseman just wanted to share some photos of the area and ask that something be done.
9. Public Comment – Donnie James, 1802 Donald James Rd to discuss the condition of Donald James Rd. Spoken with Jason, Neal, and Billy in Sept 2019 about getting dirt hauled in and cleaning culverts. Ditches were dug deeper than the culverts in August 2020 and it has gotten worse since that time. Mr James stated that the ditches were dug on Donald James Rd and Lentz Dr deeper than the culverts. He asked in Sept 2019 that something be done. In August 2020 the Road Dept dug ditches. In July 2020 he texted with Commissioner Rozier and Mr. Rozier stated that roads not getting adequate maintenance is a concern that they are trying to address. We need to get some training for the grader operators cause they are not grading the right way. They

aren't maintaining the culverts and they need some help. Chairman Bennett stated that we are still working on it and will continue.

10. County Manager Report and January 2021 Financials.

Financial Report & County Manager Report

March 2, 2021

- Financial Report as of 01/31/2021
 - i. Our fiscal position is still very strong.
 - ii. Unrestricted cash revenues are up over last year
 - iii. Expenses are performing very well for the first month of the year
- County Manager Report
 - a. Projects—
 - i. Session Hill Streets (Regional TIA)
 - 1. All leveling and resurfacing has been completed
 - 2. Waiting for final striping and shoulder dressing and grassing
 - 3. Expecting the construction drawings for the unpaved roads of Tamme Street, Moody Lane, and Shana Lane
 - a. These streets will have to be converted one-way streets for the safety of travelers due to the limited ROW
 - ii. Dean Still Road/Bowen Road pipes (Additional LMIG)
 - 1. Engineers have been in contact with GDOT regarding the prices received
 - 2. The request is on the Commissioners desk pending final review and approval
 - iii. St. Johns Church Road (Regional TIA)
 - 1. Widening and leveling course was nearing completion March 1, 2021
 - 2. Once complete the finish course will be installed
 - iv. Cardinal/Bluebird/Mulligan Circle/Redstone Circle (Local TIA)
 - 1. Meeting with engineers Thursday, March 4, 2021 to review the proposed plans
 - 2. Once plans are approved this project should be going out for bid within the next couple of weeks
 - v. Bonneyman Road/Riverwoods (GTIB & Local TIA)
 - 1. Learned last week that we were awarded the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank low interest loan administered by the State Road and Tollway Authority, formally a grant
 - 2. We were one of five communities awarded
 - 3. Working with the engineering firm to prepare the bids once we complete the required documentation
 - vi. Sandy Bottom Community (CDBG)
 - 1. Project survey has been completed
 - 2. Design is beginning within the next week or two
 - 3. Project will be let by early summer
 - vii. Batting Cages (2014 SPLOST)
 - 1. Contractor has been notified
 - 2. Materials have been ordered and is scheduled to be delivered July 7th
 - viii. Archives Building (General Fund Capital Reserve)
 - 1. Contractor has been notified
 - 2. Materials have been ordered
 - 3. Asphalt has been cut at the location
 - 4. Contractor should be onsite within the next two weeks to begin the foundation work
 - ix. Jail Addition (2020 SPLOST)
 - 1. Preparation for placement of floor slabs in progress
 - 2. Under slab plumbing and electrical in progress
 - 3. Due to the rains during the past month the project is now 33 days behind schedule

- b. Departmental Updates—
 - i. Parks & Recreation
 - 1. Land & Water Conservation Grant was not approved for this year
 - a. Will reapply when the new period opens
 - b. Still working on improvements to the park
 - 2. Tournament on February 20, 2021 was a huge success
 - a. Lots of compliments on how the fields are looking
 - b. Stephen, Kimberly and their teams are doing a very good job
 - 3. Spring sports registration will end with Thursday due to evaluations being conducted that evening
 - a. Baseball
 - i. 2020—228
 - ii. 2021—216
 - b. Softball
 - i. 2020—59
 - ii. 2021—75
 - c. Soccer
 - i. 2020—114
 - ii. 2021—121
 - 4. Recreation Director
 - a. Interviews conducted and an offer has been made and accepted
 - b. New Director will begin March 15, 2021 and will be introduced at our April meeting
 - c. Has 7 years' experience as a Parks & Recreation Director
 - ii. Roads—
 - 1. Graders operated on Friday and Saturday last week resulting in overtime
 - 2. When it is raining or too wet for road repairs, or ditching employees are cleaning culvert pipes and preparing job sites for work to commence
 - 3. Working with Billy and team to continue to improve project scheduling and effective completion
 - iii. Fire/EMA—
 - 1. 93 calls as of March 1, 2021
 - 2. USDA Grant for Bearville Firetruck closed March 1, 2021
 - 3. Hosted the Regional Area 5 EMAG meeting in February with 25 participants attending
 - 4. 2021 mandatory annual pump testing scheduled March 24, 2021
 - iv. Planning & Codes
 - 1. 63 permits issued in February
 - 2. 5 Single Family Homes started in February
 - 3. 61 inspections completed
 - v. All administration
 - 1. Leadership training beginning in March
 - a. Topics to be covered
 - i. Accountability in the Workplace
 - ii. Communication Strategies
 - iii. Coaching and Mentoring
 - iv. Change Management
 - v. Influence and Negotiation
 - vi. Performance Management

11. Discussion and request to approve Resolution 2021.03.02.01 Authorizing Pierce County to Contract with GDOT for the Golf Course Road TIA project (PI 0016296).

PIERCE COUNTY

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PIERCE COUNTY TO CONTRACT WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE GOLF COURSE ROAD ALIGNMENT, DRAINAGE AND RESURFACING, SGRC-134, P.I. 0016296 PROJECT

RESOLUTION NO. 2021.03.02.01

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Commission Chairman and Board of Commissioner of Pierce County, and hereby resolved, that the foregoing attached Agreement, relative to the aforementioned projects and that K. Neal Bennett as Commission Chairman and Amy Hitt, as Clerk, be and they are, hereby authorized and directed to execute the same for and in behalf of said by the Commission Chairman and Board of Commissioners of Pierce County.

Passed and adopted this the 2nd day of March. 2021.

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK

BY: _____
CHAIRMAN

STATE OF GEORGIA,

PIERCE COUNTY

I, Amy Hitt, Clerk of Commission, do hereby certify that I am custodian of the books and records of the same, and that the above and foregoing copy of the original is now on file in my office, and was passed by the Commission Chairman and Board of Commissioners of Pierce County.

WITNESS my hand and official signature, this the 2nd day of March, 2021.

BY: _____
CLERK OF PIERCE COUNTY

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve Resolution 2021.03.02.01 authorizing contract with GDOT on the Golf Course Rd TIA project. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion and all voted aye. Motion was approved.

12. Discussion and request to approve Resolution 2021.03.02.02 Authorizing the Tax Commissioner to Waive Certain Penalties or Interest Due on Property Taxes.

STATE OF GEORGIA
PIERCE COUNTY

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZING THE TAX COMMISSIONER TO WAIVE CERTAIN PENALTIES OR INTEREST DUE ON PROPERTY TAXES

RESOLUTION 2021.03.02.02

Under the provisions of Section 48-5-242 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the governing authority of the county may authorize the tax commissioner of the county to waive, in whole or in part, the collection of any amount due the taxing authorities for which taxes are collected when such amount represents a penalty or an amount of interest assessed for failure to comply with the assessment and collection of ad valorem taxes. The collection of the penalty and interest may be waived only when the tax commissioner reasonably determines that the default giving rise to the penalty or interest was due to reasonable cause and not due to gross or willful neglect or disregard of the laws or regulations of the state. The Board of Commissioners of Pierce County, Georgia, the governing authority of said County, desires to authorize the Tax Commissioner of Pierce County, Georgia to waive, in whole or in part, the collection of any amount due the taxing authorities for which taxes are collected when such amount represents a penalty or an amount of interest assessed for failure to comply with the assessment and collection of ad valorem taxes.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED AND ORDAINED, that the Tax Commissioner of Pierce County, Georgia is hereby authorized by the Board of Commissioners to waive, in whole or in part, the collection of any amount due the taxing authorities for which taxes are collected when such amount represents a penalty or interest assessed for failure to comply with the laws governing the assessment and collection of ad valorem taxes. Provided however that the Tax Commissioner shall reasonable determine in each such case, that the default giving rise to the penalty or interest was due to reasonable cause and not due to gross or willful neglect or disregard of the law or regulations or instructions issued pursuant to the law. The Tax Commissioner shall make a determination that the default giving rise to the penalty or interest was due to reasonable cause beyond the control of the taxpayer in each case that a waiver is granted.

SO RESOLVED THIS 2ND DAY OF MARCH, 2021.

PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Neal Bennett, Chairman

Harold Rozier, Commissioner, District One

Mike Streat, Commissioner, District Two

Randy Dixon, Commissioner, District Three

David Lowman, Commissioner, District Four

ATTEST

Amy Hitt, County Clerk

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve Resolution 2021.03.02.02 Authorizing the Tax Commissioner to Waive Certain Penalties or Interest Due on Property Taxes as presented. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion and all voted aye. Motion was approved.

13. Discussion and request to approve Resolution 2021.03.02.03 Establishing a Budget Amendment for the Pierce County Jail Addition.

STATE OF GEORGIA

PIERCE COUNTY

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ESTABLISHING A BUDGET AMMENDMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PIERCE COUNTY JAIL ADDITION; APPROPRIATING GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES; AUTHORIZING REPAYMENT OF THE GENERAL FUND BY SPLOST FUNDS AS RECEIVED

Resolution 2021.03.02.03

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2019, the electorate of Pierce County approved the 2020 SPLOST which included the construction of the Pierce County Jail Addition as a part of the Law Enforcement Capital Improvements portion of the aforementioned SPLOST, and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. § 36-81-3 provides for the requirement of amending the County budget for Law Enforcement Capital Improvements by providing for a project-length balanced budget, and

WHEREAS, the anticipated cost of the Pierce County Jail Addition is \$3,500,000.00, and

WHEREAS, the 2020 SPLOST collections to date are not adequate to cover the funding of the Pierce County Jail project, and

WHEREAS, the General Fund of Pierce County shall be used to cover the necessary expenditures of the Pierce County Jail Addition, and

WHEREAS, the 2020 SPLOST collections that relate to the Law Enforcement Capital Improvements shall be used to reimburse the General Fund until the project expenses are recovered in full.

SO, RESOLVED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of March, 2021 by a Motion duly made and passed by the Pierce County Board of Commissioners.

PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Neal Bennett, Chairman

Harold Rozier, Commissioner, District One

Mike Streat, Commissioner, District Two

Randy Dixon, Commissioner, District Three

David Lowman, Commissioner, District Four

ATTEST

Amy Hitt, County Clerk

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve Resolution 2021.03.02.03 Establishing a Budget Amendment for the Pierce County Jail Addition as presented. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion and all voted aye. Motion was approved.

14. Discussion and request to approve Resolution 2021.03.02.04 Establishing a Budget Amendment for the Construction of the Pierce County Archives Building.

STATE OF GEORGIA

PIERCE COUNTY

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ESTABLISHING A BUDGET AMMENDMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PIERCE COUNTY ARCHIVES BUILDING; APPROPRIATING GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

Resolution 2021.03.02.04

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. § 36-81-3 provides for the requirement of amending the County budget for Capital Improvements by providing for a project-length balanced budget, and

WHEREAS, the anticipated cost of the Pierce County Archives Building is \$280,000.00, and

WHEREAS, the General Fund of Pierce County shall be used to cover the necessary expenditures of the Pierce County Archives Building.

SO, RESOLVED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of March, 2021 by a Motion duly made and passed by the Pierce County Board of Commissioners.

PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Neal Bennett, Chairman

Harold Rozier, Commissioner, District One

Mike Streat, Commissioner, District Two

Randy Dixon, Commissioner, District Three

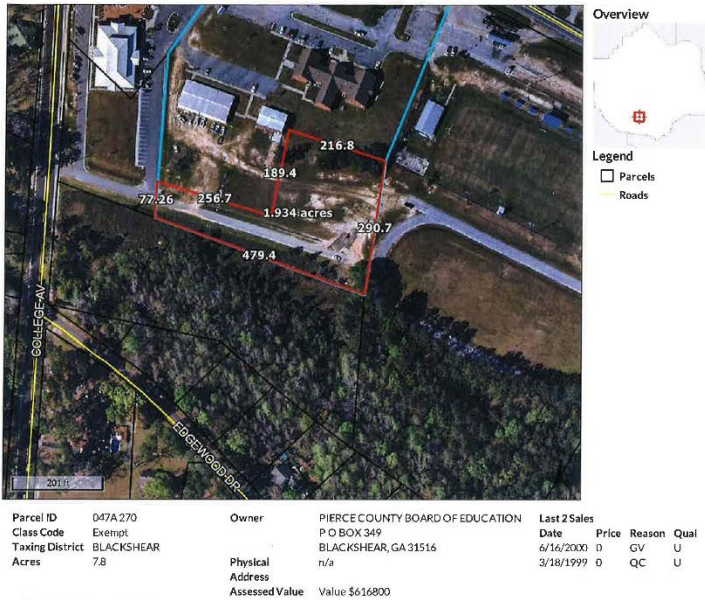
David Lowman, Commissioner, District Four

ATTEST

Amy Hitt, County Clerk

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve Resolution 2021.03.02.04 Establishing a Budget Amendment for the Construction of the Pierce County Archives Building as presented. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion and all voted aye. Motion was approved.

15. Discussion and request to approve the acceptance from the Pierce County Board of Education approximately 1.934 acres of property adjacent to the walking track in exchange for the 3.2 acres of property behind the bus barn.



Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to move forward with a land swap with the BOE for the 1.934 acres by the walking track as pictured in exchange for the 3.2 acres of property behind the bus barn as pictured. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion and all voted aye. Motion was approved.

- Discussion and request to approve invoice from S & S Hydraulics for repairs to Unit 31 – Bulldozer at the road department in the amount of \$11,759.86. Chairman Bennett stated that the dozer is in pretty good shape but that the tracks needed some work.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve payment of the invoice from S & S Hydraulics for Unit 31 in the amount of \$11,759.86. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion and all voted aye. Motion was approved.

17. Adjourn – Chairman Bennett adjourned the meeting at 6:54 PM.