

Pierce County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, April 5, 2022 6:00 PM

1. Call to Order—Chairman Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance—Citizen Graham Raley gave the invocation and Commissioner David Lowman 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 made a second to the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Regular Meeting Minutes, March 1, 2022

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2022 Regular Meeting. Commissioner David Lowman made a second to the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

5. Public Comments
 - a. Ala Mae Myles requesting Ala Mae Lane be repaired and built up. Ms. Myles stated that the county destroyed the road. She is asking the Commission if they would have the Road Department come out and fill the road with dirt to build the road back up because the road is flat and there is no where for the water to run. Ms. Myles presented and estimated to the Commissioners where she has someone come out to see about fixing the road. The estimate cost was \$8,500.00. The Chairman stated that it has been determined that it is not a county road, and that the road needs to have a blue sign on it. The Chairman turned the request down and says that this has been going on about a year. The Chairman states that the Commission isn't wanting to address this again. Ms. Myles asked if the Commission wanted emergency vehicle to get there and The Chairman states yes, he does want emergency vehicles to be able to get to her if needed. The Chairman states the commission has turned down multiple private drives that are worse than hers. Thank you.

6. Presentation of the Pierce County Salary Study

- a. Scott Johnson, Excellence Exceeded- survey at total of 10 counties. Mr. Scott looked at counties with a similar size. Looked at every one of one of the positions and made recommendations. Also, a living wage analysis looked at and compared that data with all the benchmark counties. about half of our positions, we are paying benchmark wage. We had serval that were below at about 20%. Establish a new entry level for Pierce County at \$15.00 minimum. Thank you.
- b. Constitutional Officer Comments, Sheriff Ramsey Bennett- The Sheriff thanks the Commissioners for allowing this study to be done. He has ten road positions but only has six deputies and one is sick, so he only has five deputies on the road at this time. Four Deputies went somewhere else in the last two weeks. The starting rate for a deputy is \$13.97 an hour. The sheriff has about \$50,000 in one deputy from school, on the job training and on the road by themselves, she sheriff lost about 200,000 with the four deputies he lost in the two-week span. Thank you.

7. County Manager Report and February 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

1. 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
 - 2. 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.
 - 3. Pump testing and hose testing is commencing this week.
 - iii. Parks & Recreation
 - 1. District tournaments for basketball finished this past Saturday and were very successful.
 - 2. 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
 - 1. Still fighting staffing shortages.
 - 2. Training current laborers to become operators as we have a couple of employees that are showing great potential and interest
 - 3. 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.
8. Discussion and Request to modify the 2022 Position Control Count to reflect the following changes:
- a. Change the Elections Clerk title to Registrar/Elections Clerk
 - b. Change the Facilities Director to Facilities, Building & Code Director
 - c. Add a Fulltime Facilities maintenance Technician position
 - d. Add a Fulltime Motor Grader Operator position to the Road Department
 - e. Add a Fulltime CDL Operator position to the Road Department

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to modify the 2022 Position Control County to reflect the recommended changes. Commissioner Mike Streat made a second to the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

9. Discussion and Request to implement the pay study recommendations made by Excellence Exceeded to be effective beginning April 23, 2022.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to implement the pay study as recommended by Excellence Exceeded with a \$15.00 per hour living baseline wage. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a second to the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

10. Discussion and Request to approve the adjusted price of the previously approved fire pump for the courthouse due to lack of availability of the previously approved fire pump.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the adjusted price of the previously approved fore pump for the courthouse due to a lack of availability of the previously approved fire pump. Commissioner Harold Rozier made a second to the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

11. Discussion and Request to approved the purchase of one (1) Lucas device and two (2) back-up battery units for the Dodge ambulance using American Rescue Plan Act funds in the amount of \$14,431.44

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to purchase one Lucas device and two battery units for the Dodge ambulance using American Rescue Plan Act funds in the amount of \$14,431.44. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a second to the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

12. Discussion and Request to purchase a Powerload and Stretcher including installation for the 2018 Chevy Ambulance using American Rescue Plan funds not to exceed \$45,502.00.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to authorize the purchase of a Powerload and stretcher, including installation, for the 2018 Chevy ambulance using American Rescue Plan Act funds not to exceed \$45,502.00. Commissioner Mike Streat made a second to the motion. All Commissioner voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

13. Discussion and Request to approve the purchase of two (2) Type-I Ambulances fully equipped with Powerload and Stretchers through state approved contract with American Rescue Plans funds.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to solicit bids for the purchase of two Type 1 ambulances, fully equipped with Powerload and stretchers, through state approved contract with American Rescue Plan Act funds. Commissioner Mike Streat made a second to the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

14. Discussion and Request to approve the recommended Service Delivery Strategy change by the City of Blackshear to allow for Housing Revitalization as part of the Strategy within the respective boundaries of each local governing authority.

Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to approve the recommended Service Delivery Strategy change by the City of Blackshear to allow for Housing Revitalization as part of the Strategy within the respective boundaries of each local governing authority. Commissioner David Lowman made a second to the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

15. Discussion and Request to approve the low estimate of \$10,622.00 using budgeted funds of \$5,000 (deductible) for the Nichols Street Annex roof repairs. Insurance will be covering \$5,622.00 which is being processed to Pierce County as of 3/31/2022.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the low estimate of \$10,622.00 using budgeted funds of \$5,000 (deductible) for the Nichols Street Annex roof repairs. Commissioner David Lowman made a second to the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

16. Discussion and Request to reappoint Stephanie Bell as the Pierce County representative to the Southern Regional Commission’s Aging Advisory Council for a three-year term. Mrs. Bell is willing to accept this reappointment.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to reappoint Stephanie Bell as the Pierce County representative to the Southern Georgia Regional Commission’s Aging Advisory Council for a three-year term. Commissioner Mike Streat made a second to the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

17. Adjourn—Chairman Bennet adjourned the meeting at 7:04 P.M.

Neal Bennett

Harold Rozier

Mike Streat

Randy Dixon

David Lowman