

**PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2019 AT 6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman called the work session to order at 6:00 PM

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

1. Review of Minutes
 - a. Regular Meeting June 4, 2019
There was no discussion and minutes are to be moved to the Regular Meeting agenda.
2. Review schedule of meeting dates for 2019 Millage and 2020 Budget. There was little discussion and this is to be on the Regular meeting agenda.
3. Review request from the Pierce County Library Board for Local Match support of a grant for upgrades and expansion of the Library. It was discussed that this project has been talked about for over a year and the Board of Trustees of the Pierce County Library would like to apply for the 1-million-dollar grant but needs a financial commitment from the County. The total project cost is \$1,547,142.86 and the county would match 10% of the first 1 million and then 50% of the \$547,142.86 for a total commitment request of \$373,571.43. Commissioner Rozier asked for more detailed information before he could make a decision. Chairman Bennett asked if there are other funding sources for the matching funds? Commissioner Rozier asked for more details on the project. County Manager Rubenbauer stated that he would talk with the library and ask for some additional information and bring it back to the Board at the next work session.
4. Review proposal for server upgrade at Nichols Street – to combine the 2 servers currently being used into one. County Manager Rubenbauer explained that the servers currently being used by the Tax Assessors office is a 2008 that is at capacity and has crashed a couple of times and the server being used by all other offices in the annex is a 2013 need to be replaced before there is a major problem. It has been determined that the best interest of the county would be to purchase one server that can handle the capacity of all the needs in the annex. Based on research there is no way we could purchase this server for a better price ourselves and recommends moving forward with approval as soon as possible. Chairman Bennett asked that this item be moved to the Regular Meeting agenda.
5. Review recommendation for Bid approval on Laura Chapel Rd box culvert & West Horseshoe Rd wing wall replacement. Trent Long shared that there were 6 companies who received bid packets. There were three companies that responded and submitted

proposals. The low bid was from Underground Excavating, Inc at \$438,575.00. This price is over the anticipated cost estimate and budget. Mr. Long made a request that the Commission award the contract with Underground Excavating, Inc. and that they authorize the Chairman to execute the contract after suitable methods and costs have been achieved through the valued engineering process. Chairman Bennett asked that this item be moved to the Regular Meeting agenda.

6. Review proposal from Roberts Civil Engineering to do a full assessment of road conditions on all paved roads in Pierce County. Chairman Bennett stated that the County has 238 miles of paved road. This would consist of an evaluation of those roads with video and provide color coded maps of areas and the condition at the time of the evaluation. This would cost approximately \$23,000 per year for 5 years. We have the ability to schedule a webinar to show the commission what the end product would be. Commissioner Rozier asked if there is another county that is using this? Chairman Bennett stated that he believes that Kingsland is. Commissioner Rozier asked what we are going to do with the information once we receive it? Chairman Bennett stated that's a great question. Chairman asked that he set up a webinar for the commissioners to all attend to get more information about this process.
7. Review proposal from Coca Cola for a partnership to provide new score boards at the Ware Street complex. County Manager Rubenbauer stated that he and the Recreation Director met with Mike Shaw with Coca Cola about this project. After looking into score boards, it was determined that we can not purchase them for the same price or less that Coke can. The approximate cost of 4 scoreboards would be \$24,900 for Coke, just for the Boards not including installation or cost to relocate once new park plans start. They would provide the scoreboards for a 10-year contract/ 6000 cases of product purchased whichever is first. County Manager Rubenbauer shared that there are some of the scoreboards that currently do not work. Chairman Bennett asked that this item be moved to the Regular Meeting agenda.
8. Discussion for approval of invoice from CSX for repairs to crossing on Sandy Bottom Road. Chairman Bennett shared the invoice and documents from CSX as well as minutes from 1960 meeting where the commission stated obligation to maintain this crossing. Chairman Bennett stated that he is not sure of the obligation that the county has. Commissioner Rozier asked what happened to the crossing that it needed repair. After a little more discussion Chairman Bennett asked that this item be moved to the Regular Meeting Agenda.
9. Review proposal for COLA adjustments for all County employees. County Manager Rubenbauer shared a proposal with figures for a 5% and a 3% increase to the base salary of all employees not elected. He shared a little history about annual increases between 2-3% from 1998-2009 then the next is 2012 and the last in 2017. Commissioner Lowman asked if the budget can carry the increase? Commissioner Rozier asked how we plan to carry the cost ahead in future budgets and how did these figures come about? County

Manager Rubenbauer stated that we are in an inflationary period and this is what he felt is needed for the employees. He is sticking his neck out for the employees because they are working hard. Commissioner Rozier asked that there be a solid plan moving forward with the funding of the raises. Chairman Bennett reminded the Board that once you implement this COLA you have to continue to fund it in the future. Commissioner Lowman asked what the average pay is for our employees. County Manager Rubenbauer stated that he wasn't certain but that its probably between \$11.75 – \$12.00 per hour. Commissioner Streat wanted to remind us that the firefighters and first responders need to be remembered as the amount of training and calls increases. County Manager Rubenbauer stated that there will be a significant increase in the payout to those volunteers as there has been an increase in calls and in the record keeping of response. Commissioner Rozier reminded the Board that they can't be emotional about decisions about how we spend money. County Manager Rubenbauer stated that there is an increase on the demand of services now. Commissioner Lowman stated that we are expanding the types of services being offered. Commissioner Dixon stated that he would like to move this to the Regular Meeting agenda as a 4% increase with 2% in July and the other 2% in January 2020.

10. Review request to officially abandon a portion of County Farm Rd and Alabaha Woods Rd to complete the realignment project. Chairman Bennett stated that there will be a public Hearing before the regular meeting next week to complete the formal process of closing the old road. Chairman Bennett asked that this item be moved to the Regular Meeting agenda.
11. Discussion on funding and requesting proposals for construction of two new fire stations, Bearville & Southside. Chief Nino shared that he has been looking into the cost of new stations as we have some that are deteriorating quickly and could cause damage to the equipment being stored inside them. Fire services are being expanded and the EMA response services are being expanded as well. Bearville and Southside are the two stations with the greatest need right now. He is trying to get the best and most adequate facilities for the money. Chairman Bennett reminded the Board that the Bearville station is to be relocated as that was part of the plan with the BOE land swap and new school construction. He would like to see the station relocated to New School Road in close proximity to the location that was discussed for Forestry to locate a new station. If you go into Southside you can see daylight through the roof. We feel we can get a better price if purchase two stations at the same time. Chairman Bennett stated that he would like to move this item to the Regular Meeting agenda for the RFP Process to begin on two new stations. Chief Nino also stated that these stations are being designed to house EMA equipment as well and allow for future growth.
12. Discussion on quotes for litter/roadside trash pickup. Chairman Bennett reminded the Board that they asked for some information on roadside pickup and County Manager Rubenbauer did start seeking information. County Manager Rubenbauer shared that he talked with state agencies who have provided this service in the past and none of them

are adding contracts. County Manager Rubenbauer mentioned that he had spoken with a representative from GDOT who is responsible for the mowing and litter removal contract, which is all inclusive. He shared how the process works and shared the per mile estimate on the GDOT contract. They shared that they have the pick up crew go behind the mowers and it seems to work better. He spoke with the current mowing vendor and he shared that he doesn't think that pickup would need to happen on all paved roads and he is working on a list of where he feels it would be needed. He will get information to the Commission as soon as he has more information.

13. Discussion on training/education for Road Department employees. County Manager Rubenbauer stated that he is working with Coastal Pines to enroll 6 of the Road Department employees in a CDL class that will be held at night. The class will be 15 weeks long and there should be minimal cost associated but employees who participate with costs covered by the county would have to sign a two-year commitment with the county in order to participate. He is also looking into some leadership training.
14. Discussion on possible lease purchase of transfer truck for the Road Department. Commissioner Dixon asked the Road Superintendent Billy Flynn and County Manager Rubenbauer call and set up a time to meet with Tracy Harris at Mack 44 prior to the meeting next week and see if he also has some trucks he is interested in selling. He might also be interested in a short-term lease until we get a truck since we don't have a truck now.
15. Discussion on transportation for Seniors. County Manager Rubenbauer talked with MIDS and discussed costs for them providing transportation monthly for a trip for the seniors. A letter was sent to Karen Herndon and she shared the proposal with the Seniors who voted to go with that plan. MIDS also shared that they may be able to help with cost through some DHHS funds as well. The cost on the budget for this service would be between \$10,000 - \$12,000 annually which is much less than the cost of purchasing a bus and carrying the liability. Chairman Bennett asked that this item be moved to the Regular Meeting agenda.

ADJOURN

Chairman Bennett adjourned the work session at 7:24 PM.