

**PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2019 AT 6:00 PM**

Commissioners in attendance

Neal Bennett, Chairman

Harold Rozier, District 1

Randy Dixon, District 3

David Lowman, District 4

Commissioner Not in attendance

Mike Streat, District 2

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 PM

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

1. Review of Minutes – No discussion
 - a. Public Hearing July 2, 2019
 - b. Regular Meeting July 2, 2019
2. Review updated schedule of meeting dates for 2019 Millage and 2020 Budget. No discussion.
3. Review request from IDBA on MOU from Southern Crown “Southern Eagle” and Satilla Bluffs. Matt Carter shared that this is a change from the standard lease to a bond abatement. These have been approved by the Board of Assessors. The revised MOU with Southern Eagle is a 15 year on the real estate, no equipment is included. The Satilla Bluffs MOU is for the real estate only, no equipment and the plan is for the facility to open in January of 2020. This has been approved by the Board of Assessors Chairman Bennett asked how much business from Brunswick is coming here from Southern Eagle. Item should be placed on the meeting agenda.
4. Review request from Joint Planning & Zoning Advisory Board for Conditional Use Permit on St Johns Church Rd. Tony Walsh, Chairman of the Advisory Board explained that this is a free-standing tower and that the Public Hearing on July 29, 2019 had no one in opposition to the project. The project was posted on site and notice was given in the newspaper. A cell tower is a conditional use on AF property so we can manage the locations of the tower. Franklin Rozier, County Attorney asked that we check to see if the property is under any conservation use abatements that would prevent this use. Mr. Walsh stated that maybe we need to add this question to the application. Commissioner Dixon asked if there is a way for the County to collect on the co-locates that are

generally on these type towers? Mr. Rubenbauer stated he would look into this. Chairman Bennett stated that the service areas in the county need to be expanded for sure. Item should be placed on the meeting agenda.

5. Discussion on Litter Removal and possible amendment to current mowing contract. County Manager Rubenbauer shared that he received a rate quote of \$90.00 per mile and recommendation that the pickup be done twice during the mowing season. This would add \$28,969.20 to the current contract. The pick-up would happen behind the mowing to see better results. Commissioner Dixon asked that we try to find the money in the budget for one pick-up this season. Commissioner Dixon also asked if we see about using inmates for this service. Chairman Bennett stated he would have that discussion with the Sheriff and that he would like Mr. Rubenbauer to look into the financing to do a pick up this season.
6. Discussion on Draft 2020 Budget. County Manager Rubenbauer highlighted some of the increases to the budget being – at the Courthouse for interior paint and carpet, the 705 College Ave building for the floor upstairs to be worked on, possibly carpet a portion of the room, Fire department needs some PPE and some apparatus needs repairs as well as an increase in pay out to fire fighters due to better record keeping. Road department has an increase for culvert pipe as well as other road maintenance supplies, the Recreation department is looking as some capital expenses and will need a new temporary office space very soon due to the current facility's condition.
7. Discussion on 2019 Millage rate. County Manager Rubenbauer asked that the commission consider a mill rate of 16.5 mills for the 2019 digest. Information was shared that shows Pierce County is one of the lowest rates in the area. Commissioner Rozier commented that we need to be cautious of who we are comparing ourselves to, not everyone operates at the same rate of efficiency. County Manager Rubenbauer shared that the capital resources of the county have been depleted and we have some major items that need work. Commissioner Rozier asked about our capital improvement plan? County Manager stated that he is diligently working on the plan but that there was none in place for so long it is taking time to get it together. Commissioner Dixon stated that he would like to see us evaluate large purchases to compare if the work might could be out sourced, for example the mowing. Chairman Bennett asked that we get together the 5 Year Digest and History of Levy for the following counties – Bacon, Coffee, Appling, McIntosh, and Glynn. Chairman Bennett also asked that a comparison of the rates 15.351, 15.75, 16 & 16.5 be given for the Commissioners to look at and consider before a called work session on August 1, 2019 at 8:00 AM.

ADJOURN – Chairman Bennett adjourned the work session at 7:30 PM