

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
PIKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
October 27, 2009
6:30 pm**

The Pike County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at 6:30 pm in the Commissioners meeting room located at 79 Jackson Street, Zebulon, Georgia. Members present were presiding Chairman Doug Mangham, Commissioner Roosevelt Willis, Commissioner Parrish Swift, Commissioner Tommy Powers and Commissioner Don Collins. Also in attendance were County Attorney Rob Morton and County Manager Steve Marro. (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e) (2))

CHAIRMAN MANGHAM CALLED THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING TO ORDER AND ASKED EVERYONE TO JOIN HIM IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.

CHAIRMAN MANGHAM CALLED FOR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e) (1).

MOTION

Commissioner Powers made the motion to approve the agenda as written. Commissioner Willis seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.

CHAIRMAN MANGHAM CALLED FOR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2009 AT 9:00 AM PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e) (2)

MOTION

Commissioner Willis made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.

CHAIRMAN MANGHAM CALLED FOR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING HELD FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2009 AT 3:00 PM PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e) (2)

County Manager Marro pointed out that at the bottom of page 2, Jake Garner said that the Homestead Exemption had been taken away. Mr. Marro said that the Homestead Exemption was not taken away. It is the Homestead Tax Relief Grant that was removed by the legislature. The Homestead Tax Exemption is still in place. Mr. Marro said that he didn't know how to correct this other than noting it on the minutes. County Attorney Morton said that it does not get corrected because it is what Jake Garner said.

MOTION

Commissioner Powers made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.

CHAIRMAN MANGHAM CALLED FOR INVITED GUESTS-None

CHAIRMAN MANGHAM CALLED FOR REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES-MONTHLY REPORTS SUBMITTED FROM COUNTY DEPARTMENTS AND COUNTY AUTHORITIES

Commissioner Willis asked David Allen about an impact fee of \$531.93, saying that impact fees are usually 2404.00. Mr. Allen said that this is a commercial impact fee for a pre-fab nursery/greenhouse building. Mr. Marro said that it is not a flat \$2404.00 because it is a commercial building.

MOTION

Commissioner Collins made the motion to approve the monthly reports from county departments and county authorities. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.

CHAIRMAN MANGHAM CALLED FOR REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES-COUNTY MANAGER REPORT.

Mr. Marro discussed the financial statements with the Board. He said that the revenues and expenses are in good shape. Several departments are running over budget, including the Sheriff's Department. The last payroll for this fiscal year is this Friday.

CHAIRMAN MANGHAM CALLED FOR REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES-COMMISSIONERS REPORT

District 1-Commissioner Willis had a question about the fire fees. He said that the City of Zebulon had been told that they didn't have to pay these fees. The City of Molena asked the same question but was not given an answer. Mr. Marro said that the Board of Commissioners needs to determine whether or not they are going to charge government structures for fire fees.

Next, Commissioner Willis brought up the vehicle use policy. The policy states that non-county employees can not ride in county vehicles. Commissioner Willis said that he thought this policy should be revisited. He said if a commissioner goes out of town for training, his wife can not go with him in the county vehicle. Commissioner Willis said that he had talked to Chief Appraiser Jeannie Haddock about hiring an appraiser to work part time while an employee is out on sick leave. Ms. Paula Nalley said that she would work part time but that she would need to furnish her own vehicle. Ms. Nalley said that she would not use her own vehicle. Chairman Mangham asked if part time employees didn't still work for the county. Commissioner Collins said that he had asked permission for Mayor Mike Beres to be allowed to ride with him to meetings. County Manager Marro said that he would revise the policy for the next meeting.

Lastly, Commissioner Willis commended Public Works Director Todd Goolsby on work that had been accomplished. Commissioner Willis said that he had received some complaints and that they were passed along to Mr. Goolsby and the problems were taken care of. Commissioner Willis again thanked Mr. Goolsby.

District 2-Commissioner Swift asked what the procedure was for renaming a road. County Attorney Morton said that this was up to the Board of Commissioners if it is a county road. Commissioner Swift said that the road in question is Bagwell Road. Commissioner Willis said that the reservoir went across Bagwell Road so there is a Bagwell Road on either side of the reservoir. It was suggested by Commissioner Swift that the road be renamed Brooks Farm Road. Christine Bohensky had requested that this road be renamed. Commissioner Swift said that there are issues with 911 dispatch with picking up the right address with the reservoir separating the road. County Manager Marro said that he will check with 911 to be sure that this confusion gets eliminated. Renaming this road might help eliminate the confusion. Mr. Marro said that under federal guidelines for 911 you are not allowed to have a road that has the same name, for example Liberty Drive and Liberty Street. Mr. Marro said that it is not proper to have two 'Bagwell" Roads. Commissioner Powers mentioned that there is a Pitts Lane and a Pitts Road in Pike County, also. Commissioner Willis said that the situation exists all over the county.

Next, Commissioner Swift asked about the health insurance. He said that he remembered being told that the move from United Healthcare to Blue Cross would prevent us from having an increase. He asked if Mr. Marro meant that the renewal premium with United Healthcare would be greater than with a new premium with Blue Cross. Mr. Marro said that the renewal premium with United Healthcare was 36%. The same across the board with Blue Cross/Blue Shield was either 10% or 12%. Mr. Marro said that difference was \$220,000.00 in premiums and it was their recommendation that the county go to Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Mr. Marro said that he thought when he made presentations during the budget hearings that they were clear that some of the prescription costs were going up. It appears, per Marro, that people have not recognized that some of these prescription costs were going up. Mr. Marro said what we were able to do was provide what we considered a better insurance program to the employee. The employees didn't have to pay a great deal more out of their pockets. In some cases employees are paying \$7.00 and in some cases they are paying \$14.00 per pay period more. Mr. Marro said as part of the budgetary process, it was his decision that this was tolerable. Commissioner Swift said that the benefits are going down. Not necessary the coverage, but the benefits. Mr. Marro asked which coverage. Commissioner Swift said prescriptions, saying that some prescriptions are limited. Mr. Marro agreed. Commissioner Swift suggested looking outside of MSI next time insurance bids are taken. He said to include MSI in the bid process, but to go with others, also. Mr. Marro said that Cigna and Humana would not provide a quote to Pike County.

District 3-Commissioner Powers stated that he had taken some complaints on roads but said it can't be helped with bad weather.

District 4-Commissioner Collins said that he had held a town hall meeting last night and the one big question was on the fire district fee. Commissioner Collins said that inadequate information was given out at the start.

Next, Commissioner Collins discussed the S.P.L.O.S.T., saying that there had been questions about accountability. He said that there is a book on S.P.L.O.S.T. that must be followed. He stated that most counties in Georgia have a S.P.L.O.S.T. Ten counties in Georgia do not have a S.P.L.O.S.T., and seven of those ten are not authorized to have one. He also said that three cents of every dollar stays in Pike County.

Commissioner Collins asked about the monthly cost for the website and questioned why there was a delay in the posting of tonight's agenda. Mr. Marro said that the monthly cost is \$150.00 and that he thought that there might have been some phone line conversion issues.

Lastly, Commissioner Collins asked if a second opinion had been received on the landfill. Mr. Marro said that he had contacted three companies for a second opinion but had not yet received any reply.

Chairman Manghan had no report tonight.

CHAIRMAN MANGHAM CALLED FOR REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEES-COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Morton had no report tonight.

CHAIRMAN MANGHAM CALLED FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS-None

CHAIRMAN MANGHAM CALLED FOR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. The Tax Assessor is requesting the BOC agree to allow the Board of Assessor's to move money from 100-14-1550-511100 Regular Salaries to 100-17-1550-4200 Computers. Commissioner Collins asked if this was an interdepartmental transfer of money within Ms. Haddock's department. Mr. Marro said that it was not. Per Mr. Marro, the policy does not allow anybody, department heads or the county manager to transfer salaries. That process is reserved for the Board of Commissioners only.

MOTION

Commissioner Swift made the motion to allow the transfer. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion for discussion. Commissioner Collins asked Chief Appraiser Jeannie Haddock why the invoice for computers is from a business in Thomaston when Turner Technology is here in Pike County. He asked why they were not contacted, and if they were contacted, why there is not a comparison. Ms. Haddock said that Steve Marro said that she had to go through Kyle Gooden to order computers. She said that she told Kyle what she needed and this is who Kyle went to. Ms. Haddock said that she has used Sandy Camp with Design Soft in the past. She said that Sandy is more familiar with WinGap. Ms. Haddock said that she thought the county was trying to get all of the computers from the same person. The estimate was sent to Kyle and then forwarded to Ms. Haddock. Commissioner Collins said that the county should buy locally when it can. Commissioner Swift agreed if they can provide the same product and service. Mr. Marro

said that the county is going out for a request for qualifications for computer supplies and computer services. The county will be looking for someone that can service our needs and also standardize the equipment throughout the county. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

2. Planning and Development is requesting that the Board of Commissioners adopt, by Resolution, the Pike County Capital Improvements Element 2008 Annual Update. David Allen said that this is the Capital Improvement Update that had the public hearing back in August. DCA requires a 60 day waiting period. Today is the earliest day that it could be brought up for review. The resolution needed to be completed and signed by October 31, 2009. This is not for this year, but for the year before. This goes hand in hand with the Partial Update of the Comprehensive Plan.

MOTION

Commissioner Powers made the motion to adopt by Resolution the Pike County Capital Improvements Element 2008 Annual Update. Commissioner Swift seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.

3. The Board of Commissioners is conducting a Second Reading of revisions to the Fire District Ordinance. Commissioner Swift asked what was determined to be the proper way to handle this. Was the Board correct in considering that the First Reading the other night? County Attorney Morton said that the Board certainly can. Commissioner Swift asked if a public hearing was required. Mr. Morton said that there is no requirement for a public hearing on a text amendment that does not fall under the zoning code. Public hearings are required under the zoning code under Title 156. Two readings are required on anything that is considered a policy or ordinance. Commissioner Swift said that he had at least one recommendation or amendment to this. County Attorney Morton said that the Board does not need to adopt this tonight. It can be postponed to another agenda. Commissioner Swift said that he would like for the Board to consider parcels less than an acre with no structure to have zero fee. He said that he would also like to consider if a tract of land is zoned commercial and it is vacant, why does it not have a flat commercial fee? At the last meeting, per Swift, it was agreed that agri-business/commercial would have a fee of \$150.00. Why not to go a flat fee of \$150.00 on anything that is zoned commercial. Chairman Mangham suggested postponing this topic until the next meeting. Commissioner Powers asked about an empty building. Commissioner Swift said that it is still a structure. County Manager Marro asked about an exemption for government buildings. Commissioner Swift said yes for county buildings but no for city buildings. Commissioner Collins said that there are two options: either approve as stated and revise at the end of the year, or postpone the discussion. Commissioner Powers suggested postponing.

MOTION

Commission Powers made the motion to postpone the Second Reading of the Fire District Ordinance to the next meeting. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. 3-1 vote with Commissioner Swift opposed.

CHAIRMAN MANGHAM CALLED FOR NEW BUSINESS

1. The DDA Christmas Parade Committee would like to use the covered porch at the south entrance to the courthouse on December 5, 2009 from 5:00 pm until 9:00 pm for children to see Santa.

MOTION

Commissioner Willis made the motion to allow use of the covered porch on the south side of the courthouse on December 5, 2009 from 5:00 pm until 9:00 pm for children to see Santa. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.

2. The Department of Planning and Development is requesting that the Board of Commissioners establish the fee for a fence/wall permit at \$25.00 on fee schedule. David Allen said that this was part of the ordinance approved at the last meeting. Per Mr. Allen, there are only four situations where a permit would be paid for a fence or wall and they all involve life safety issues. These would be a swimming pool fence, a detention pond fence, an area with hazardous materials that would need to be contained, and a wall higher than four feet. Other counties charge up to \$35.00. Pike County has set the fee at \$25.00. Very few fences or walls would require a paid permit. There are no fees for privacy fences, dog fences, farm fences, etc. Commissioner Swift asked who would be qualified to conclude if a retention wall was constructed properly. Mr. Allen said that a structural engineer would need to do this. Mr. Marro said that the county would need to bring on the services of a structural engineer and the \$25.00 would not cover that cost. Payment of this engineering would come from the line item Contract Services. Commissioner Swift said that this is all about mitigating liability. Most walls four feet or higher would be associated with construction plans anyway.

MOTION

Commissioner Willis made the motion to approve the Planning and Development Department's request to establish the fee for a fence/wall permit at \$25.00 on the fee schedule. Commissioner Swift seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.

3. Robert Smith is requesting that his 2009 Ad Valorem taxes be prorated. Mr. Smith's residence was destroyed by fire in July, 2009. Mr. Smith is requesting that his tax bill be reduced by \$152.40. Amount due would be \$352.24. Commissioner Willis said that the next four items appear to be the same. He asked if research had been done on these. It was asked if a portion of the tax bill didn't go to the Board of Education. Mr. Marro said that there are many questions that needed to be asked. He said that most Board of Commissioners do not rebates such as these. The tax is due as of January 1st.

MOTION

Commissioner Willis made the motion to deny the request for the prorating of ad valorem taxes for Mr. Robert Smith, Ms. Vicki Hammond, Ms. Diane Scott and Mrs. Teresa Burousas. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 3-1 vote with Commissioner Swift voting in opposition.

Mr. Marro said that this would put the county out of balance as this has already been counted as revenue. Commissioner Powers suggested doing the adjustment in the new year. Mr. Marro recommended creating a policy for this. He said that he'd have the policy ready for the next agenda. The motion passed with a 3-1 vote with Commissioner Swift voting in opposition.

4. Vicki Hammond is requesting that her 2009 Ad Valorem taxes be prorated. Ms. Hammond's residence was destroyed by fire on March 1, 2009. Ms. Hammond is requesting that her tax bill be reduced by \$454.60. Taxes due would be \$379.67. This item was addressed by the previous motion.

5. Diane Scott is requesting that her 2009 Ad Valorem taxes be prorated. Ms. Scott's residence was destroyed by fire on January 5, 2009. Ms. Scott is requesting that her tax bill be reduced by \$414.41. The total amount due would be \$552.58. This item was addressed by the previous motion.

6. Mrs. Teresa Burousas is requesting that her 2009 Ad Valorem taxes be prorated. Mrs. Burousas' residence was destroyed by fire in August of 2009. Mrs. Burousas is requesting that her tax bill be reduced by \$609.95. The total amount due would be \$1191.60. This item was addressed by the previous motion.

MOTION

Commissioner Powers made the motion that we take these four that have requested (refund requests from Robert Smith, Vicki Hammond, Diane Scott and Teresa Burousas) and we do something to take care of them on the new budget to offset if it's legal then we give them their money back but we give it on the new budget and it won't affect this budget at all and it won't throw you out any because they can adjust this figure from here and that's the way it will go out and that's the way your taxes will come back in. That's where your dollars will come back in. People are entitled to their money back. It's a matter of time as to when you give it back to them. This motion died for lack of a second.

7. The Board of Commissioners is requested to appoint one (1) member to the Board of Appeals. This is a three (3) year term and will expire October 31, 2012. No applications were received. The board opening will be readvertised.

8. Mr. George Norris to discuss the plans of the Agri-Business Authority. Mr. Norris gave an overview of the Agri-business activities. He said that they supported 4-H, FFA, Farm Day and Farm Heritage Day. He said that they wanted to put the welcome mat out to agriculture. The Market On The Square was very successful this year. They have applied for several grants. Chestnut Oak has been a priority. Mr. Norris thanked the Board for including the new restroom at Chestnut Oak in the S.P.L.O.S.T.

9. Chairman Mangham will read the Grand Jury Presentments for the October 2009 Term. The Grand Jury Presentments were read aloud by Chairman Mangham.

10. The Pike County Board of Commissioners has been requested to proclaim November 1, 2009 as Retired Educators Day. Chairman Mangham read the proclamation aloud and a picture was taken of him signing the proclamation.

MOTION

Commissioner Swift made the motion to proclaim November 1, 2009 as Retired Educators Day. Commissioner Willis seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.

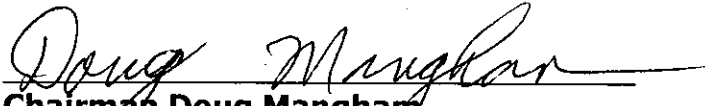
CHAIRMAN MANGHAM CALLED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION-None

CHAIRMAN MANGHAM CALLED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Mr. Bobby Blalock would like to discuss the fire fee on bare land. Mr. Blalock said that the Board had already touched on this tonight. He said that he has land that has no access from the road and therefore no way for a fire truck to get to his property. Mr. Blalock also mentioned that CATF has no other projects and asked if the Board had any for them.

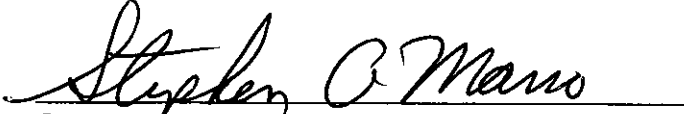
MOTION

Commissioner Willis made the motion to adjourn at 7:35 pm. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.



**Chairman Doug Mangham
Pike County Board of Commissioners**

ATTEST:



**Steve Marro
County Manager**