

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
PIKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

The Pike County Board of Commissioners held its Regular Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Courthouse, Main Courtroom, at 16001 Barnesville Street, Zebulon. Chairman Briar Johnson convened the meeting and Commissioners Tim Daniel, Tim Guy, Jason Proctor and James Jenkins attended. County Manager Brandon Rogers, County Attorney Rob Morton and County Clerk Angela Blount were also present. (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e) (2)).

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman J. Briar Johnson
2. INVOCATION.....

Ricky Shepherd
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.....

Chairman J. Briar Johnson
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA - (O.C.G A. § 50-14-1 (e) (1))

Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Proctor to approve the agenda, motion carried 5-0.
5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e) (2))

a. Minutes of the December 13, 2023, Regular Monthly Meeting.

b. Minutes of the December 13, 2023, Executive Session.

c. Minutes of the December 21, 2023, Workshop.

Motion/second by Commissioners Daniel/Proctor to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2023 Regular Monthly Meeting, the minutes of the December 13, 2023 Executive Session, and the minutes of the December 21, 2023 Workshop, motion carried 5-0.
6. INVITED GUEST - NONE
7. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONS, DEPARTMENTS, COMMITTEES, AUTHORITIES

a. Monthly Reports submitted from County Departments and County Authorities, including a Revenue/Expenditure Statement for all departments and a summary check register.

Motion/second by Commissioners Proctor/Daniel to accept reports, motion carried 5-0.

b. County Manager Report

Update on County finances for the following funds/accounts:

General Fund	\$784,431.24
Fire Dept. Donations.....	\$9,224.36
Cash Reserve Account.....	\$473,130.23
Jail Fund	\$24,772.59
E-911 Fund	\$133,918.80
DATE Fund	\$33,283.58
Juvenile Court Fund.....	\$13,740.47
Residential Impact Fee	\$602,104.28
Commercial Impact Fees	\$184,163.86
C.A.I.P FUND	\$27,947.26
General Obligation SPLOST 2022-2028.....	\$669,964.01
L.M.I.G. Grant (DOT).....	\$836,157.93

c. County Manager Comment

County Manager Brandon Rogers noted that the General Fund balance was extremely low this last week and has required the county to temporarily transfer funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Account to the General Fund Account to cover payroll and other expenses until the property taxes start coming in. Once the property taxes are deposited, the funds will be transferred back to the ARPA Account.

The Pike County Water and Sewerage Authority has requested use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to pay for the upgraded size in water line pipe that was installed in the Reserve at Reidsboro. The cost of the upgrade was \$66,000.00. This cost is the difference in the sizing of the pipe from 8” to 10” in which the Water and Sewerage Authority voted to approve. This project was not an ARPA approved project; therefore, the County Manager would need approval from the Board of Commissioners to pay this invoice. Commissioner Guy stated if the Water and Sewerage Authority has the funding in their account to take care of this invoice then they need to pay it and if they need funding later down the road then they can come to the Board of Commissioners. County Manager Rogers stated the original agreement was for the Water and Sewerage Authority to pay for it out of their funding and that is his recommendation. The ARPA funding has been obligated to other projects, and this was not one of them.

Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Proctor to deny the Pike County Water Sewerage Authority use of ARPA funds to pay for the upgraded size in water line pipe that was installed at the Reserve at Reidsboro, motion carried 5-0.

County Manager Rogers stated he received an email from Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) stating that Georgia was allocated \$1.3 billion dollars in federal broadband access known as Broadband Equity Access and Development (BEAD) funds. CM Rogers started researching it and found out that FCC has created a nationwide map of every residence in the United States that

has access to internet. The FCC map shows 100% of Pike County as being served with high-speed internet. That information is incorrect. The problem is that each address that is incorrect needs to file a challenge which is impossible since the deadline is in 29 days. CM Rogers stated they set the county up for failure. CM Rogers would like all this information put out to the community. The addresses that the county knows do not have internet service are considered to have Starlink service according to the documents. Research will have to be done to see if Starlink is accessible at the addresses. CM Rogers would like for everyone to go out to <https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/hom> and enter their address to see who is listed as their internet providers and if incorrect, challenge it. If the speed is low for a provider that is listed, it still can be challenged that it is not satisfactory service. Commissioner Jenkins stated a lot of residents have Georgia Power services and they cannot get it because of that. CM Rogers stated the word needs to get out to the community.

d. Commissioner Reports

District 1 – Commissioner Daniel - No report.

District 2 – Commissioner Guy – No report.

District 3 – Commissioner Proctor stated Arthur Road needs attention.

Commissioner Proctor noted that Southern Rivers in 2023, awarded \$90,389 in Operation Road Up grants. There are several recipients listed and Pike County was not one of them. They have helped Spalding County Sheriff's Office, City of Barnesville Fire Department and the Barnesville Library. Commissioner Proctor recommended that maybe some of the County Department Heads should go online and fill out an application and see if there is something that can help in their department and save the county some money.

District 4 – Commissioner Jenkins - No report.

At Large Chairman Briar Johnson reminded everyone that the Pike County offices will be closed on Monday, January 15, 2024 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. day.

e. County Attorney Report to Commissioners – No report.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Consider one appointment to the Pike County Board of Tax Assessors to fill an unexpired six-year term, set to expire June 30, 2027. *Applicant has met criteria.*

County Manager Brandon Rogers stated he recommended Ms. Maria Grimes at the last meeting and since then, Ms. Grimes has withdrawn her application. This morning, Ms. La'Trece Key called and withdrew her application. The county has had no other applications submitted for this expired term and CM Rogers recommends extending accepting applications for this Board position.

Motion/second by Commissioners Jenkins/Proctor to extend accepting applications for two weeks, motion carried 5-0.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Elect Vice Chairman for the Pike County Board of Commissioners for 2024.

Motion/second by Commissioners Proctor/Guy to elect Tim Daniel as Vice Chairman for the Pike County Board of Commissioners for year 2024, motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Daniel abstaining.

- b. Consider use of Courthouse Grounds from Patricia Beckham with Concerned Citizen for Pike/ NAACP on Monday, January 15, 2024 from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. for A Day of Giving.

County Manager Brandon Rogers stated this is a day that the county offices are closed and recommends approval.

Motion/second by Commissioners Daniel/Proctor to approve the use of Courthouse Grounds from Patricia Beckham on Monday, January 15, 2024 from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. for a Day of Giving, motion carried 5-0.

- c. Approve/deny Resolution to set qualifying fees for 2024 County Elections.

County Manger Brandon Rogers stated the County Clerk gathered all the information from the Board of Education office and the Board of Commissioners office that is required to set the Qualifying Fees. The county government authority is required to set and publish the qualifying fees for 2024 elections for salaried and non-salaried county offices by February 1, 2024. Calculating the qualifying fee differs for each position. Qualifying fees are calculated off base salary, minimum salary, or gross salary. State law determines how qualifying fees are to be calculated.

Motion/second by Commissioners Proctor/Daniel to approve the resolution to set qualifying fees for 2024 County Elections, motion carried 5-0.

- d. Approve/deny sell of 4 vehicles and 1 tractor as surplus on GovDeals: 2005 Pontiac Bonneville, 2006 Chevrolet Impala, 2010 Dodge Charger, 2011 Ford Explorer and a New Holland Ford 1620 HST Tractor.

County Manager Brandon Rogers stated he recommends the 2006 Chevrolet Impala, 2010 Dodge Charger and the New Holland Tractor all be sold as surplus on GovDeals. CM Rogers noted he would like a separate motion for the 2005 Pontiac Bonneville and the 2011 Ford Explorer because they may have been purchased with federal funding, so they would qualify with different rules. CM Rogers stated he does not know if the Board of Commissioners has the authority to sell them. The vehicles may belong to the Sheriff's Department and the Sheriff may have to sell them on his own or he may

have to title them over to the Board of Commissioners to sell them. The titles to the two vehicles are titled to the Pike County Sheriff's Department. County Attorney Rob Morton suggested based on the write up by the County Manager that the Board could consider a motion to authorize the County Manager to assist in the sale of the 2005 Pontiac Bonneville and the 2011 Ford Explorer if asked by the Sheriff. County Attorney Rob Morton stated the Sheriff's Department will comply with the law on where the funds are to be applied from the sale of the vehicles .

Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Daniel to approve to sell the 2006 Chevrolet Impala, 2010 Dodge Charger and the New Holland Ford 1620 HST Tractor, motion carried 5-0.

Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Daniel to authorize the County Manager to assist in the sale of the 2005 Pontiac Bonneville and the 2011 Ford Explorer if asked by the Sheriff, motion carried 5-0.

- e. Discussion of the American Lung Association Freedom from Smoking.

County Manager Brandon Rogers stated during discussions with McGriff Insurance, the American Lung Association offers a tobacco cessation program to help individuals become tobacco free for life. This is just not smoking; it is geared more to nicotine with several Americans vaping. This program allows for multiple avenues for county employees to stop the use of tobacco products should they choose. The program is intended to help improve the overall health of our employees. There is potential cost for the county, it is not a free program. It has been shown that when individuals stop nicotine use, they become healthier and there are not as many claims filed on insurance which could lead to the county seeing a reduction in insurance premiums. The program is completely optional. Chairman Briar Johnson asked if it costs the county per individual that wishes to participate or is it across the board. CM Rogers replied the cost is per individual who wishes to participate. Commissioner Daniel asked what the cost would be. CM Rogers replied, the cost depends on what program the individual chooses. Some individuals may be able to stop nicotine use with minimal support and that would cost the county \$5.99 per individual up to \$400.00 per individual. It is typically a six-month program, and it is a one-time fee for the individual. The \$400.00 program is like a group, a therapist is involved. There are programs in between the \$5.99 and \$400.00 that are \$99.95 per individual and \$150.00 per individual. CM Rogers stated you will not see any immediate change in this, there will not be a change in insurance premiums or health care cost to the employees. In a year or so you potentially could see employees getting sick less often and two years down the road hopefully seeing a decrease in insurance premiums. Commissioner Daniel stated he does not see this as being a benefit and it is not saving the county any money. CM Rogers noted this is considered like a wellness program and employees being proactive with their health. Commissioner Guy stated this is something the individual will have to do on their own and he does not see the county having to take care of people's problems. CM Rogers stated the problem with tobacco use is that it is very difficult for people to stop on their own, it is an addictive drug. CM Rogers recommends the county approving the six-month program and giving the option to the employees. Commissioner Daniel stated he does not believe many employees will participate in the program. County Manager Rogers stated if the Board does not want to offer the \$400.00 program, then they can exclude that program as an option for the employee and they will still have the other options that will be beneficial. Commissioner Proctor asked how the county was going to pay for it, the county is already halfway through the budget year, and it was not budgeted for. CM Rogers replied it depends on how many people sign up for the program. Chairman Johnson noted he cannot make a motion, but he does support the County Managers recommendation. Commissioner Proctor asked if the county was going to come up with a program for the employees to stop drinking alcohol and stop eating cheeseburgers. CM Rogers replied that the county does offer a DUI program.

Motion by Commissioner Daniel to approve the Freedom from Smoking program for six months, motion failed due to lack of second.

No action.

- f. Discussion of Ranchland Estates speed bumps.

County Manager Brandon Rogers stated that the county has received a request from 20 citizens to allow 11 sets of speed bumps to Ranchland Estates. The cost per set of speed bumps is estimated to be \$810.00 per set. This does not include installation which would be completed by Public Works. In November, the county recorded over 5,000 vehicles traveling on the roads in Ranchland Estates. The posted speed limit is 25 mph, 54% of the vehicles were exceeding the posted speed, with 45% of those exceeding the speed limit between 25-35 mph, and 9% exceeding 35+mph. Speed bumps are being requested for Watering Hole Pass, Ranchland Gap, and Trails End. Commissioner Jenkins agrees it is a problem in Ranchland Estates. CM Rogers noted speed bumps will slow the traffic, but they also have a negative impact on school buses and emergency vehicles. County Manager Rogers stated the letter from the residents of Ranchland Estates listed specific locations of the speed bumps. CM Rogers recommendation is installing some speed bumps but not 11 sets, he does not believe Trails End needs a speed bump. Commissioner Guy does not see installing 11 sets of speed bumps. Commissioner Jenkins stated he would like to start with half the amount of speed bumps they have requested and see how it goes.

Motion/second by Commissioners Jenkins/Daniel to approve installing six sets of speed bumps in Ranchland Estates, motion carried 5-0.

- g. Approve/deny First Reading of an ordinance adopting the Pike County Unified Development Code (UDC) and the Pike County Official Zoning Map.

Planning and Development Director, Jeremy Gilbert, stated on November 9, 2023, and November 28, 2023, the county held two Public Hearings on the UDC where the public was allowed to speak and provide comments and concerns. On December 21, 2023, a workshop was held to go over all the

changes and concerns. The First Reading document provides all the changes from January through December 2023. Mr. Gilbert noted that he and the County Manager did meet with the County Attorney to go over all the legal aspects of the code. The document is on the county website for viewing. Chairman Johnson stated he and the Commissioners have received some calls regarding some concerns in the R-2 District, as it relates to not the county water but the sewerage systems. Mr. Gilbert stated he and the County Manager will look at this.

Motion/second by Commissioners Daniel/Guy to approve the first reading, motion carried 5-0.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. Chairman Briar Johnson requests an Executive Session for discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee or interviewing applicants for the position of the executive head of an agency, as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2), germane to personnel.
- b. Chaiman Briar Johnson requests an Executive Session to discuss the possible acquisition of real property pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b)(1).
- c. County Attorney Rob Morton request an Executive Session for consultation with the county attorney, or other legal counsel, to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the county or any officer or employee or in which the county or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1), germane to pending or potential litigation.

Motion/second by Commissioners Daniel/Guy to adjourn Regular Session and enter into Executive Session at 9:56 a.m., motion carried 5-0.

CLOSED MEETING AFFIDAVIT

[A copy of the affidavit must be filed with the minutes of the meeting]

**STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF PIKE**

AFFIDAVIT OF PIKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Members of the Pike County Board of Commissioners, being duly sworn, state under oath that the following is true and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge and belief:

1.

The Pike County Board of Commissioners met in a duly advertised meeting on 1-10-2024.

2.

During such meeting, the Board voted to go into closed session.

3.

The executive session was called to order at 9:56 a.m.

4.

The subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting was devoted to the following matter(s) within the exceptions provided in the open meetings law:

Yes Consultation with the county attorney, or other legal counsel, to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the county or any officer or employee or in which the county or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1);

No Discussion of tax matters made confidential by state law as provided by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(2) and _____*insert the citation to the legal authority making the tax matter confidential*);

Yes Discussion of the future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(4);

Yes Discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee or interviewing applicants for the position of the executive head of an agency, as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2);

No Other – Germane to authorizing negotiations to purchase, dispose of or lease property.

Pike County Board of Commissioners:

J. Briar Johnson, Chairman (L.S.)

Tim Daniel, Commissioner (L.S.)

Tim Guy, Commissioner (L.S.)

Jason Proctor, Commissioner (L.S.)

James Jenkins, Commissioner (L.S.)

This the 10th day of January 2024.

Sworn to and subscribed

Before me this 10th day of January 2024.

Robert L. Morton
Morton & Morton Associates
County Attorney and Notary Public

My commission expires: August 10, 2026.

Commissioner Tim Guy left Executive Session at 10:25 a.m. due to prior commitment.

Commissioner Tim Daniel left Executive Session at 10:45 a.m. due to prior commitment.

Motion/second by Commissioners Proctor/Jenkins to adjourn Executive Session and enter into Regular Session at 11:01 a.m., motion carried 3-0.

Motion/second by Commissioners Proctor/Jenkins to give the new hire Finance Officer a week of vacation, motion carried 3-0.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/second by Commissioners Proctor/Jenkins to adjourn at 11:02 a.m., motion carried 3-0.

J. Briar Johnson, Chairman

Angela Blount, County Clerk