

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

The Pike County Board of Commissioners held its Regular Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Courthouse, Main Courtroom, 16001 Barnesville Street, Zebulon. Vice-Chairman Tim Daniel convened the meeting and Commissioners Tim Guy, Ken Pullin and James Jenkins attended. County Attorney/County Manager Rob Morton and County Clerk Angela Blount were also present. (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e) (2)). Due to unforeseen circumstances, Chairman Briar Johnson was unable to attend the meeting.

- 1. **CALL TO ORDER..... Vice-Chairman Tim Daniel**
- 2. **INVOCATION.....Kyle Garner**
- 3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE ..... Vice-Chairman Tim Daniel**
- 4. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA - (O.C.G A. § 50-14-1 (e) (1))**

County Manager Rob Morton asked the Board to amend the agenda to include the opening of sealed bids for fuel and related fuel management system, since the bids were received after the agenda had been published. CM Morton noted this could be handled during the County Manager’s report. CM Morton also requested adding a resolution from the District Attorney’s office related to authorizing the District Attorney to be the designee on the behalf of the Griffin Judicial Circuit for the purposes of negotiating and contracting with the State of Georgia related to the retirement and benefit programs. This has been done in the past, and they have asked for an updated resolution. CM Morton stated this would also be included under the County Manager’s report.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Pullin to approve the amended agenda to include the following additions under the County Manager Report: Opening of sealed bids for fuel and related fuel management system and Consideration of a resolution from the District Attorney’s Office, motion carried 4-0.**

- 5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e) (2))**
  - a. Minutes of the April 9, 2025, Regular Monthly Meeting.
  - b. Minutes of the April 9, 2025, Executive Session.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Pullin/Guy to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2025 Regular Monthly Meeting and the minutes of the April 9, 2025 Executive Session, motion carried 4-0.**

- 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. *There are no Department reports as they will be provided during the first Board meeting of May. Revenue/Expenditure Statement and Detail Check Register is included.*

**Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Pullin to accept reports, motion carried 4-0.**

- b. County Manager Report
      - Update on County finances for the following funds/accounts:
      - General Fund.....\$1,578,255.90
      - Fire Dept. Donations .....\$10,905.91
      - Cash Reserve Account .....\$109,318.25
      - Jail Fund.....\$14,603.88
      - E-911 Fund.....\$102,875.52
      - DATE Fund.....\$25,181.18
      - Juvenile Court Fund.....\$13,775.83
      - Residential Impact Fee.....\$145,658.90
      - Commercial Impact Fees.....\$36,761.78
      - C.A.I.P FUND.....\$85,780.38
      - General Obligation SPLOST 2022-2028 .....\$1,985,928.01
      - L.M.I.G. Grant (DOT).....\$94,268.44

- c. County Manager Comment
        - County Manager Rob Morton opened two bids for the fuel and fuel management system:
        - 1. Ranger Petroleum, Zebulon, GA
        - 2. Walthall Oil Company, Macon, GA (address listed on the UPS Packet)

Neither of the bids included specific numbers, only quantities and associated costs. CM Morton recommended that he and Chirs Goodman review both bids for compliance with bid specifications and prepare a bid tabulation for the Board at a later date. CM Morton noted the bids will be looked at in connection with the budget.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Pullin to approve accepting the submitted bids for review related to the fuel and fuel management system, motion carried 4-0.**

County Manager Rob Morton noted that the county received a resolution from the District Attorney's Office of the Griffin Judicial Circuit that serves the three counties of Spalding, Pike and Upson and is jointly funded by appropriations from the State Legislature, appropriations from the three counties and federal grants. The resolution states that the Pike County Commission hereby authorizes and designates the District Attorney of Griffin Judicial Circuit as its designee for the purpose of contracting with the State of Georgia in order to comply with the provisions of O.C.G.A. §15-18-20.1 and the District Attorney shall be responsible for transferring to the State the required funds as are necessary to cover the compensation, benefits, travel and other expenses for such personnel. CM Morton noted this has been done in the past.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Pullin/Guy to approve the resolution submitted by the District Attorney's Office and authorize Chairman Briar Johnson to sign on behalf of the Board, motion carried 4-0.**

County Manager Rob Morton stated he had provided the Board with a detailed report prior to the meeting. CM Morton noted that the paving on McCard Lake Road is finishing up. Once McCard Lake Road is completed, Atlanta Paving will move to Friendship Circle and Gaulding Roads. CM Morton also reported that Public Works Director Chris Goodman confirmed that all necessary drainage prep for Friendship Circle and Gaulding Roads has been completed, allowing paving to begin. Harden Road is the last of the current 8-road project awarded to Atlanta Paving. The county will be addressing drainage issues and preparing the site prior to paving Harden Road.

CM Morton noted the county has received an updated request from Mr. Davis on Scott Road extension, and Chris Goodman and his crew will address that request after completing Harden Road. The County Manager also reported that he was contacted by one of the Commissioners regarding an inspection of Shortcut Road and Flowers Road. He stated that he will coordinate with Public Works Director Chris Goodman, and they will visit and inspect both roads.

CM Morton provided an update on the remediation at the annex. He noted significant damage to the roof and roofing system that the county has had to repair on an emergency basis. There were some collateral issues that required carrier approval. The Building and Grounds Director, Ken Lalumiere, has been working with Serve Pro to address the moisture resulting from the roof damage. The carrier has approved the remediation related to Serve Pro and third-party repairs related to the flooring.

d. Commissioner Reports

District 1 – Commissioner Tim Daniel stated that he is pleased to see the county making progress with paving projects. He noted that many of the county's dirt roads have been rumored to be slated for paving for over 50 years but had never been paved. He expressed appreciation that the county is finally paving some of these roads and mentioned that the Board has been receiving positive feedback from constituents. Commissioner Daniel added that it is good to see the crews out there working.

District 2 – Commissioner Tim Guy stated that Mr. Morton brought up Shortcut Road and Flowers Road and that Mr. Morton plans to address those later in the week. Commissioner Guy also noted that he has been approached regarding the parking lot at the Senior Center and inquired if there are any updates on that project with adding parking places. County Manager Rob Morton replied that a third-party provider has been asked to identify lot lines so the county will know what areas they have control over. There were concerns about some of the property bleeding on to the adjacent property. The pins have been identified. CM Morton noted that he met with the Senior Center Director, Mrs. L., and talked about the different possibilities for a parking lot and will provide more information as it comes available. Mrs. L. seemed to be in agreeance with what was presented. CM Morton noted costs would need to be looked at to include resurfacing the existing parking lot because it has some needs as well.

District 3 – Ken Pullin – No report.

District 4 – James Jenkins – No report.

At-Large Chairman Briar Johnson – Absent

e. County Attorney Report to Commissioners – No report.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Consider one appointment to the Pike County Family and Children Services Board to fill a five-year term, set to expire December 31, 2029. *Applicant has met the criteria.*

The applicant is Ashley Brown of Concord, GA. County Manager Rob Morton stated he met with the applicant, and she meets all the criteria. It is his recommendation to appoint Ms. Brown to the Pike County Family and Children Services Board. Ms. LaShaundra Walley-Holmes, Pike County DFACS Director, was present at the meeting.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Pullin to approve the appointment of Ashley Brown to the Pike County Family and Children Services Board, motion carried 4-0.**

- b. Consider use of Courthouse Grounds from Keith Ford with Christ Chapel on Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. for National Day of Prayer.

County Manager Rob Morton stated the application has been reviewed by all involved and the recommendation is for approval of use of Courthouse Grounds from Keith Ford with Christ Chapel for National Day of Prayer.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Pullin/Guy to approve use of Courthouse Grounds from Keith Ford with Christ Chapel on Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. for National Day of Prayer, motion carried 4-0.**

- c. Consider use of Courthouse Grounds from Dan Dunnahoo with Pike County Arts Council on Saturday, June 14, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. for Concert on the Square.

County Manager Rob Morton stated the application has been distributed and reviewed by those necessary and the recommendation is for approval of use of Courthouse Grounds from Dan Dunnahoo with Pike County Arts Council for Concert on the Square. For clarification, it is only for the use of Courthouse Grounds.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Pullin to approve use of Courthouse Grounds from Dan Dunnahoo with Pike County Arts Council on Saturday, June 14, 2025 from 12:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. for Concert on the Square, motion carried 4-0.**

- d. Consider use of Courthouse Grounds from Patricia Beckham with Concerned Citizens for Pike on Saturday, June 21, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. for Juneteenth Celebration.

County Manager Rob Morton stated the application has been distributed and reviewed by those necessary and the recommendation is for approval of use of Courthouse Grounds from Patricia Beckham with Concerned Citizens for Pike for Juneteenth Celebration.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Pullin to approve use of Courthouse Grounds from Patricia Beckham with Concerned Citizens for Pike on Saturday, June 21, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. for Juneteenth Celebration, motion carried 4-0.**

- e. Consider Tax Refund application from Thomas and Carolyn Oxford in the amount of \$15.15.

Chief Appraiser Greg Hobbs addressed the Board, stating that Mr. and Mrs. Oxford filed an appeal on their property value in 2022. Several outbuildings on the property were determined to have no value, and the Tax Assessor's Office removed them from the assessment accordingly. The buildings were not listed for 2023; however, in 2024, there was an error, and the buildings were inadvertently added back onto the assessment. The buildings have since been removed again, and Mr. and Mrs. Oxford are entitled to a refund in the amount of \$15.15.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Jenkins to approve the tax refund application submitted by Thomas and Carolyn Oxford in the amount of \$15.15, motion carried 4-0.**

- f. Consideration of removal for cause of a member of the J. Joel Edwards Library Board of Trustees.

County Manager Rob Morton stated the Board has in their packet a letter dated April 10, 2025, from the J. Joel Edwards Library Board of Trustees signed by each Board member requesting the removal of Board member Curtis Ward for failure to fulfill his duties. CM Morton noted that since the Board of Commissioners makes the appointment, it is their responsibility to remove a member at the recommendation of the J. Joel Edwards Library Board of Trustees.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Jenkins to approve the removal of Curtis Ward from the J. Joel Edwards Library Board of Trustees, motion carried 4-0.**

- g. Discussion of Starks Road.

County Manager Rob Morton stated the county has received ongoing requests regarding the paving of Starks Road. The county has an adopted road list related to the paving schedule. Within recent months, the Board of Commissioners modified that schedule to include the paving of Woodard Road and asked for consideration to include Starks Road. The Board has been provided with a proposal from the current contractor paving Woodard Road, since this is essentially an extension of that project. The current contractor for Woodard Road, McLeRoy, is offering the county the same per-ton rate as for Woodard Road, which is much lower than the other Woodard Road bids.

McLeRoy provided two options for Starks Road: one paving from Woodard Road to Patton Road (1,495 LF) and one paving the entire Starks Road (1,697 LF). The total Starks Road price is \$192,589.00. Funding is available through SPLOST. CM Morton noted there is a section on the western end of Starks Road that dead-ends into private property, it is distinguishable.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Jenkins/Guy to approve adding Starks Road to the SPLOST funding list and to proceed with paving the entire road using the current contractor, McLeRoy, in accordance with existing contract terms, motion carried 4-0.**

- h. Approve/deny paving contractor for CDBG Grant – Tanyard Road.

County Manager Rob Morton stated that the Board has been provided with a letter and bid tabulation from Hofstadter and Associates, Inc., dated April 10, 2025, identifying bidders for the paving contractor for the CDBG grant for Tanyard Road. The low bidder was Atlanta Paving and Concrete Construction in the amount of \$1,467,124.94.

Chairman Pullin asked about when the roads are finished being paved and the process to install speed limit signage on the roads, especially McCard Lake Road and potentially Tanyard Road once it is completed. Commissioner Daniel stated that Public Works does the signage. CM Morton stated it is his understanding that speed limits are typically set by the state, and he will check into it.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Pullin/Guy to approve Atlanta Paving and Concrete as the contractor for the paving of Tanyard Road as part of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project, motion carried 4-0.**

- i. Discussion regarding pruning and maintenance of trees located on the courthouse grounds.

County Manager Rob Morton stated one of the biggest issues that he has heard about for years now is the Courthouse Grounds. There are mixed opinions about the long-standing trees, and one suggested way to improve the appearance of the Courthouse grounds is to remove them. Building and Grounds Director, Ken Lalumiere, addressed the Board, stating that the Courthouse is the centerpiece of the county and noting that the oak trees have grown significantly over the past five years.

Mr. Lalumiere explained that he was not recommending simply cutting down the trees but was instead providing options. Option one: prune the trees to remove low limbs on all eight oak trees and raise the canopy to improve visibility and accessibility around the Courthouse; this would cost approximately \$6,962.50. This option would improve aesthetics but would not solve the problem of the grass not growing. The Bermuda grass will not thrive because the large trees block sunlight, which Bermuda grass requires. The existing Bermuda could be removed and replaced with a more shade-tolerant Zoysia turf grass. This alternative is estimated to cost between \$13,800.00 and \$16,179.00.

If all eight oak trees are removed and disposed of, including stump grinding, the cost would be \$17,309.50. Once the trees are removed, Bermuda grass could be re-seeded to restore the lawn. Mr. Lalumiere noted that the Courthouse grounds are prone to erosion; army worms were also a problem last year. Some limbs from the magnolia trees would also need to be pruned. Mr. Lalumiere stated that the county does not have the equipment to prune the oak trees except for low limbs if that is the Board's decision.

Commissioner Jenkins mentioned that he had planted Fescue grass, and it grew well. Mr. Lalumiere explained that while Fescue is a cool-season grass, it may not be a good long-term solution because it struggles in hot weather, and watering it heavily could still be insufficient, especially if there is a drought and water restrictions are in place. Commissioner Pullin noted that Upson County had removed all their trees on the Courthouse grounds, and the result looked good. Mr. Lalumiere added that if all the trees were removed, an alternative would be to plant maple trees that only reach 20-30 feet tall.

CM Morton emphasized that no immediate decision was required. Mr. Lalumiere stressed that the trees are healthy and trimming alone will not resolve the issue of the grass not growing. CM Morton recommended that the Board review all options, and this matter will be brought back to a future agenda for a decision on whether to prune the trees or remove them.

**Discussion only, no motion entertained.**

j. **Presentation of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget.**

County Manager Rob Morton stated the Board has been provided with the draft Fiscal Year 2025/2026 proposed budget. There is a summary sheet that has the totals. General Fund total is \$20,673,739.00. The total Special Funds Revenue is \$37,947,877.00. The County Manager noted that the budget reflects about a \$3 million difference from last year's budget, most of which is due to the outstanding short-term note due in November. CM Morton mentioned there is a lot of information for the Board to study and reminded them of the budget calendar: a Public Hearing is scheduled for May 14, 2025 at 1:00 p.m., the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of the Budget will be at 9:00 a.m. on May 14, 2025, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reding will be at 6:30 p.m. on May 22, 2025 and the Final Adoption is scheduled for June 11, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

CM Morton noted the budget is a draft and that the county is still awaiting data on insurance costs, the cost of live streaming meetings, etc. These items are not yet included in the budget. CM Morton commended Commissioners Jenkins and Pullin for attending several department meetings related to the budget and thanked Clint Chastain for his work. CM Morton reminded everyone that this is just a proposed budget; the motion will be to accept the budget draft, not to approve it.

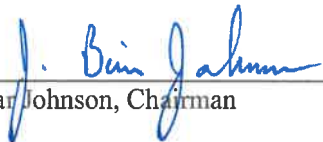
**Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Pullin to approve the acceptance of the proposed draft of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget for review, motion carried 4-0.**

**10. PUBLIC COMMENT (Limited to 5 minutes per person) - NONE**

**11. EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Pullin to adjourn at 7:18 p.m., motion carried 4-0.**

  
J. Brian Johnson, Chairman

  
Angela Blount, County Clerk

## A RESOLUTION OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the District Attorney's Office of the Griffin Judicial Circuit serves the three counties of Spalding, Pike and Upson and is jointly funded by appropriations from the State Legislature, appropriations from the three counties and federal grants; and

WHEREAS, only approximately one-third of the District Attorney's Office are funded by the State of Georgia with all of the fringe benefits of State employees, including medical, dental and life insurance options; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to offer the same benefit package to all employees of the District Attorney's Office; and

WHEREAS, the 1997 Session of the Georgia General Assembly, at O.C.G.A. § 15-18-20.1, allows the counties to contract with the State in order to allow non-State paid District Attorney employees to be processed through the State payroll system, thereby entitling those employees to the same fringe benefits as other State employees; and

WHEREAS, this Commission previously passed a Resolution allowing non-State paid employees of the District Attorney to become members of the State Employees Retirement System;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Pike County Commission hereby authorizes and designates the District Attorney of the Griffin Judicial Circuit as its designee for the purpose of contracting with the State of Georgia in order to comply with the provisions of O.C.G.A. §15-18-20.1 and the District Attorney shall be responsible for transferring to the State the required funds as are necessary to cover the compensation, benefits, travel and other expenses for such personnel.

SO RESOLVED, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025.

The Pike County Board of Commissioners, by:

  
J. Briar Johnson, Chairman

Attested by:

  
Angela Blount, County Clerk

