

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

The Pike County Board of Commissioners held its Regular Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Courthouse, Main Courtroom, 16001 Barnesville Street, Zebulon. Chairman Briar Johnson convened the meeting and Commissioners Tim Daniel, 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)).

- 1. **CALL TO ORDER..... Chairman J. Briar Johnson**
- 2. **INVOCATION.....Kyle Garner**
- 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/Daniel 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 May 22, 2025, Workshop.
- b. Minutes of the May 22, 2025, Special Called Meeting.
- c. Minutes of the May 27, 2025, Regular Monthly Meeting.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Daniel/Guy to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2025 Workshop, the May 22, 2025 Special Called Meeting, and the May 27, 2025 Regular Monthly Meeting, motion carried 5-0.**

- 6. **INVITED GUEST**

- a. Employee Recognition for service to Pike County

County Manager Rob Morton informed the Board that David Fields is being recognized for five years of dedicated service with Pike County Public Works. Mr. Fields officially retires at the end of this month and is currently using previously earned leave time, which prevented him from attending today’s meeting. County Manager Morton emphasized the Board’s desire to acknowledge Mr. Fields’ contributions to the County. Director of Public Works Chris Goodman expressed his appreciation for having Mr. Fields on the team during the past five years.

- b. Fulton-Kozak to present the FY 2023/2024 Audit

Reshann Adams of Fulton-Kozak presented the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 audit to the Board of Commissioners. She noted that this marks the fourth year they have performed the audit for Pike County. Doug Fulton of Fulton-Kozak was also present.

Mrs. Adams thanked the Board for the opportunity to complete the audit and reported that the County received a clean audit opinion. She commended Clint Chastain, Angela Blount, Heather Bell, and Rob Morton for their diligence and hard work. She stated that, ideally, the audit would be completed by December; however, the component units must submit their information before the audit can be finalized. Three component units did not provide their information by December, which delayed the audit’s completion.

Pike County maintained 16 individual governmental funds. Information is presented separately in the governmental fund balance sheet for the following four major governmental funds:

- General Fund
- American Rescue Plan Fund (Special Revenue Fund)
- LMIG Fund (Capital Projects Fund)
- 2022 SPLOST Fund (Capital Projects Fund)

As of June 30, 2024, Pike County’s governmental funds reported combined fund balances totaling \$22,889,223 — an increase of \$12,115,459 from the prior fiscal year. A substantial portion of this increase, \$10,385,000, reflects unspent bond proceeds received during the year. Of the total fund balance, \$4,260,735, or 18.61%, represents unassigned funds available for discretionary use.

Total revenues for the year were approximately \$21 million. The largest revenue source was property taxes, totaling \$8,329,658, followed by sales taxes at \$4,388,243. Other taxes, including motor vehicle and insurance premium taxes, brought in \$3,760,848. The County also earned \$502,718 in interest income, reflecting effective management of higher interest rates.

The largest category of expenditures was Public Works—including roads, buildings and grounds, and solid waste/water—followed by Public Safety, which includes the Sheriff’s Office, Jail, Fire Department, and Animal Control.

As of June 30, 2024, Pike County’s investment in capital assets for governmental activities totaled \$13,300,925, net of accumulated depreciation. This represents an increase of \$3,342,490 from the previous year. The County’s long-term debt related to these assets totals \$7,179,057, resulting in a net investment in capital assets of \$6,121,868. One of the most significant capital purchases was 238 acres of land on County Farm Road.

During FY 2024, the County incurred additional debt totaling \$15,725,624 and reduced existing principal debt by \$271,994. Borrowings included:

- \$3,148,642 from the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB) for resurfacing projects
- \$2,192,000 from United Bank for the County Farm Road property purchase
- \$10,385,000 in 2023 General Obligation Bonds for SPLOST projects

County Manager Morton informed the Board that he provided a summary of the audit findings, including those related to component units and the Board of Commissioners’ accounts. He read a portion of the audit summary that praised Clint Chastain’s responsiveness and the timely submission of required information. The auditors reported no internal control findings.

County Manager Morton also noted that a proposal for the 2025 audit has been provided to the Board. The County’s portion of the audit is due by December 31, 2025, and he requested that the Board consider authorizing Fulton-Kozak to proceed.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Daniel/Guy to approve proceeding with Fulton-Kozak to conduct the Board of Commissioners audit for Fiscal Yar 2024-205, motion carried 5-0.**

c. Tyler Brock with Sun Tribe Development

Tyler Brock with TerraForm Power, representing Sun Tribe Development, addressed the Board and expressed appreciation to those who attended their recent community meeting, which he described as a great turnout.

Mr. Brock presented information regarding the application for a modification to Special Exception MOD-SE-17-03, submitted to Pike County by Flat Shoals Energy Center, LLC. The request seeks clarification of and limited modifications to several conditions of the previously approved Special Exception.

The proposed Flat Shoals Energy Center is planned to be a 100–120 megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic energy generation facility—commonly referred to as a solar farm. The project is described as producing consistent and reliable renewable energy. The proposed location is zoned Agricultural-Residential (A-R) and is situated between the cities of Concord and Molena, along GA Highway 18.

Mr. Brock noted that the facility would not require water or electricity for its operations. Once operational, the solar farm is expected to generate enough energy to power approximately 16,000 homes. Georgia Power is anticipated to be the primary purchaser of the energy produced by the facility. TerraForm Power would serve as both the owner and operator of the project.

It is estimated that the Flat Shoals Energy Center will generate approximately \$11,400,000 in economic benefit for Pike County over the life of the project.

Commissioner Pullin requested information on the project’s timeline. Mr. Brock responded that TerraForm Power is currently engaged with Georgia Power in the 2025 CARES Fund program. The Request for Proposals (RFP) process is currently active, with bid submissions due in July 2025. He noted that this project is included among those to be submitted for consideration. Georgia Power is seeking to secure approximately 1,500 megawatts of solar energy capacity statewide this year. The RFP review and selection process is expected to continue through the first or second quarter of 2026.

**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 Daniel/Guy to accept reports, motion carried 5-0.**

b. County Manager Report

Update on County finances for the following funds/accounts:

General Fund .....	\$431,461.64
Fire Dept. Donations.....	\$11,655.91
Cash Reserve Account.....	\$167,824.13
Jail Fund .....	\$16,873.71
E-911 Fund .....	\$11,548.17
DATE Fund .....	\$26,201.79
Juvenile Court Fund.....	\$13,775.83
Residential Impact Fees.....	\$183,196.46
Commercial Impact Fees .....	\$39,844.05
C.A.I.P FUND .....	\$85,221.87
General Obligation SPLOST 2022-2028.....	\$2,221,942.10
L.M.I.G. Grant (DOT).....	\$368,663.36

c. County Manager Comment

County Manager Rob Morton noted that the agenda was extensive and that he would not read the entire pre-meeting report, which had already been provided to the Board. He highlighted the following items:

- Employee Appreciation Day is scheduled for Friday, June 13, 2025, beginning at 12:00 p.m. CM Morton reminded the Commissioners to arrive by 11:30 a.m. to assist with serving.
- Tree Removal on Courthouse Grounds: Ken Lalumiere obtained five bids for tree removal services. The lowest bid came in at \$16,003.75 and the highest at \$18,500, with all bids falling within a \$1,500 to \$2,000 range. CM Morton noted that this is the cost range the Board will be considering should they choose to proceed with tree removal. No action was requested at this time.
- Compensation Study: All job description forms required for the compensation study being conducted by the University of Georgia have been received and are currently under internal review. Once reviewed, the forms will be forwarded to UGA to begin the analysis. CM Morton expressed hope that the forms will be submitted to UGA by the end of the month.
- Melville Brown Road Project: CM Morton provided the Board with a draft copy of the bid specifications for the Melville Brown Road project. The County has received LRA grant funding, which includes both Melville Brown Road and Woodard Road. While the County already has the figures for Woodard Road, it now needs to seek bids for the Melville Brown Road portion of the project.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Jenkins/Daniel to approve moving forward with preparing and advertising bid specifications for Melville Brown Road, motion carried 5-0.**

County Manager (CM) Rob Morton informed the Board that no action was being requested at this time regarding the parking lot at the Board of Commissioners Office, located off Highway 19 southbound on Thomaston Street. CM Morton noted that the transition at the apron into the administrative building parking lot is in poor condition and is, for the most part, crumbling. Preliminary assessments have been made, and cost estimates to address the issue have been provided. Additionally, there is a portion of the parking area that remains unpaved, and that area will need to be addressed prior to any repaving of the existing lot. CM Morton stated that he would provide the Board with specific estimates in a separate correspondence. The project may need to be completed in two phases: first, preparing and paving the gravel portion; second, repaving the existing pavement.

CM Morton also reported that the Board had approved a change in fuel providers. The County is continuing to work through the process of replacing the existing fuel tanks to meet state specifications. Ken Lalaumiere and Public Works Director Chris Goodman are coordinating a meeting with an installer from Macon to review the required specifications and ensure compliance with state standards. CM Morton noted he would update the Board as more information becomes available on this project.

Atlanta Paving has completed the paving portion of eight designated roads:

- Caldwell Bridge Road
- Daniel Road
- Ward Road
- Scott Road
- Friendship Circle
- Gaulding Road
- McCard Lake Road
- Harden Road

Final tasks remain, including shoulder work, which requires a specialized piece of equipment. Atlanta Paving will return to each road, in the order they were paved, to complete the shoulder work and finalize the overall project.

Additionally, the intersection at Harden Road and Glover Road has been reconfigured. Surveyor Randy Davis is working with the property owner to complete the necessary plat work related to the property exchange for this project.

The Scott Road extension project has been completed. The County will be installing an additional stop sign and a “Local Traffic Only” sign to complete the project in full.

CM Morton also reported that the deed transfer for the 94 Gwyn Street property—previously authorized by the Board for transfer to the Public Facilities Authority—has been finalized. The deed has been signed, and the only remaining step is its formal recording, at which point the property will officially be under the ownership of the Public Facilities Authority.

d. Commissioner Reports

**District 1 – Commissioner Daniel**

Commissioner Daniel stated that he regularly receives calls regarding Fossett Road and Green Street, specifically concerning dust issues. He requested that someone from Public Works take a look at these roads. County Manager Rob Morton responded that he has previously asked the Board to provide a list of roads in each district that should be considered for paving or repaving. These roads can be added to

the list for evaluation. Commissioner Guy has already submitted Flowers Road and Shortcut Road. Once a comprehensive list is received from all districts, the roads can be rated and recommendations made for updating the paving priority list.

**District 2 – Commissioner Guy**

Commissioner Guy noted that while County Farm Road is not in his district, it is in serious need of shoulder work, particularly at the end of Highway 18. He emphasized that County Farm Road is one of the worst roads in the county, despite being home to the Parks and Recreation facility, one of the county’s most frequented locations. The road is riddled with potholes and requires attention. Part of the road lies within the city limits, and Commissioner Guy suggested that the County may want to work with the City to address necessary repairs.

**District 3 – Commissioner Pullin**

No report.

**District 4 – Commissioner Jenkins**

Commissioner Jenkins reminded the Board that Hutchinson Farms was discussed a year or two ago as needing resurfacing, and that the road remains in poor condition.

He also reported on the recent Tax Assessor’s meeting, where Norman Appraisals gave an informative presentation on the appeal process. Supporting documentation was later shared via email by the County Manager.

Commissioner Jenkins shared that he received a call from a citizen regarding a driveway on Patton Road. The individual implied the County had mishandled the matter. Commissioner Jenkins contacted the County Manager, who found no record of the issue. Rather than have Commissioner Jenkins relay the message, the County Manager personally contacted the citizen and resolved the issue. Commissioner Jenkins expressed his appreciation for the direct communication and efficient resolution.

**At-Large – Chairman Briar Johnson**

Chairman Johnson complimented the improvements made to Scott Road Extension.

He extended thanks to the Office Staff—Clint, Angela, Heather, and Rob—for their hard work in achieving a clean audit.

Chairman Johnson also announced plans to host an informal “Coffee with the Chairman” event at the end of July, inviting citizens to casually meet and converse with him. Any Commissioners who wish to attend may do so, but the gathering will be structured to ensure a quorum is not formed. The intent is simply to foster open communication monthly.

e. County Attorney Report to Commissioners

County Manager Rob Morton stated the deed was prepared for the transfer of 94 Gwyn Street. A long-standing litigation matter was dismissed based on the settlement that the Board was previously advised.

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Consider request from Christine Curry to use the Courthouse Lobby for the SlowExposures Photography Show (21<sup>st</sup> year), from Thursday, September 18, 2025, through Sunday, September 21, 2025, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. daily.

County Manager Rob Morton reported that extensive background investigation had been conducted regarding the request from SlowExposures. He emphasized there is no issue with the organization itself, which has been a longstanding event beneficial to the community. However, a criminal trial calendar call is scheduled by Judge Ben Miller for Thursday, September 18, 2025. These events are infrequent and typically result in a large number of people in the Courthouse. As such, having exhibits in the Courthouse Lobby during that time could pose logistical and security concerns.

CM Morton stated he had reached out to the Courts, District Attorney’s Office, and the Sheriff’s Office, given the Sheriff’s responsibility for Courthouse security. If the Board is inclined to approve the concept, additional security and overtime will be required throughout the weekend. That, he noted, is not an issue operationally but is something the Board should be aware of.

One person with an interest in the Courthouse suggested considering an alternative location for the exhibit due to the scheduling conflict. CM Morton clarified that the County is not opposed to the SlowExposures event itself but is concerned about logistical challenges with the selected weekend.

Commissioner Daniel inquired whether Chris Curry or the SlowExposures organization had been notified. CM Morton responded that the County had just received the request prior to the meeting and had hoped a representative would attend. Commissioner Daniel suggested postponing the item to allow time for communication, noting they may wish to withdraw the application once informed of the conflict.

Chairman Johnson asked whether there would be sufficient time to secure an alternative venue. Commissioner Daniel confirmed there would be, as the event is not until September. Commissioner Pullin asked about the policy on interior Courthouse use. CM Morton explained the process is similar to that for use of Courthouse grounds—it is presented to the Board with relevant concerns, and the

Board decides. He added that the Courthouse has been used for events before, including movie screenings in the main courtroom, as long as there were no scheduling conflicts.

The courts typically set their calendars six months to a year in advance, so date changes are not feasible. Commissioner Jenkins suggested the Parks and Recreation Community Center as a potential alternative. CM Morton agreed and said that option could be explored with the Recreation Authority.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Daniel/Guy to postpone this agenda item until someone has spoken with Christine Curry regarding the proposed use of the Courthouse Lobby for the SlowExposures event, motion carried 5-0.**

- b. Consider one appointment to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Region Six Regional Advisory Council to fill an expired three-year term, set to expire July 31, 2027. *Applicant has met the criteria.*

The applicant, Barbara Webb of Zebulon, has met the criteria. CM Morton confirmed her background is well-suited for the role and it is his recommendation to appoint Ms. Webb to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Region Six Regional Advisory Council.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Daniel to appoint Barbara Webb to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Region Six Regional Advisory Council, motion carried 5-0.**

- c. Consider one appointment to the J. Joel Edwards Public Library Board to fill an unexpired three-year term, set to expire December 31, 2026. *Applicants have met the criteria.*

The applicants are Sara Dupree of Zebulon, Commissioner Ken Pullin of Griffin, and Christina Takle of Concord. CM Morton stated all applicants were qualified and would serve well, but recommended Commissioner Pullin due to his background in budgets and policy, which would benefit the Library Board, especially as the vacancy involved financial matters. No conflict or prohibition was identified preventing Commissioner Pullin from serving.

Commissioner Jenkins noted Commissioner Pullin's strong performance and stated he would be an asset to the Library Board.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Jenkins/Daniel to appoint Ken Pullin to the J. Joel Edwards Public Library Board, motion carried 4-1, with Commissioner Pullin abstaining.**

CM Morton expressed appreciation to Ms. Takle and Ms. Dupree for their interest and encouraged them to reapply should another vacancy arise.

- d. Consider three appointments to the Parks and Recreation Authority to fill a three-year term, set to expire June 30, 2028. *Applicants have met the criteria.*

Four applicants applied: Kalum Alverson of Concord, Chris Childress of Molena, Joshua Follett of Zebulon, and Craig Smith of Concord.

CM Morton noted the Recreation Authority recommended reappointing the three current members: Childress, Follett, and Smith. He recommended reappointing Childress and Smith and suggested the Board choose between Alverson and Follett for the third position. Mr. Alverson was present and previously served three terms on the Authority. Both he and Mr. Follett have significant experience.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Pullin/Daniel to reappoint Chris Childress to the Parks and Recreation Authority, motion carried 5-0.**

**Motion/second by Commissioners Pullin/Daniel to reappoint Craig Smith to the Parks and Recreation Authority, motion carried 5-0.**

**Motion/second by Commissioners Daniel/Pullin to appoint Kalam Alverson to the Parks and Recreation Authority, motion carried 5-0.**

- e. Clarification of the employment status of the Board of Commissioners, part-time/full-time, and clarification of the Chairman's compensation structure.

CM Morton noted documentation was provided to the Board regarding the classification of Commissioners as part-time or full-time employees. Angela Blount has conducted background research, including action taken by the Board in 2001 and review of ACCG-provided salary worksheets. Discrepancies were found in previous calculations. CM Morton recommended the Board formally accept that all Pike County Commissioners, including the Chairman, are considered part-time for the purpose of calculating salaries.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Pullin/Daniel to clarify that the Pike County Board of Commissioners, including the Chairman, are classified as part-time positions, motion carried 5-0.**

For discussion, CM Morton noted the issue arose due to a recent inquiry related to salaries. Upon review, past administrative errors were identified and have since been corrected, including approval of compensatory payments.

- f. Discuss request from the City of Zebulon regarding the placement of Bicentennial Celebration banners on the Courthouse grounds and the use of the County parking lot in support of the event.

CM Morton requested this item be postponed allowing time to follow up with Cami Hoopes and Mark Nalls of the Bicentennial Committee regarding the intent for use of the Courthouse square and adjacent County parking lot. The lot in question is situated between the Joint Board of Elections and Registration and the Sheriff's Department.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Daniel to postpone this agenda item until further information is received regarding the proposed placement of the Bicentennial Celebration banners on the square and the use of county parking lot, motion carried 5-0.**

- g. Approve/deny the FY 2026 Contract for Indigent Defense Services provided by the Griffin Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office in Pike County.

County Manager (CM) Rob Morton stated this is an annual contract. He met with the Public Defender during the budget process, and the contract aligns with those discussions. CM Morton recommended approval.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Daniel/Guy to approve the FY 2026 contract for Indigent Services and to authorize Chairman Johnson to sign all necessary documents, motion carried 5-0.**

- h. Consider request to use Impact Fees allocated to the J. Joel Edwards Public Library for purchase of a storage building.

CM Morton provided documentation related to the request. He noted there is no opposition to increasing storage capacity due to the county's population growth and increasing use of the library. While ideally a storage building would not be placed in the library's parking lot, this is the only feasible location without incurring significant costs. The proposed building will be accessible via a ramp. CM Morton recommended approval of using \$4,662.00 in Impact Fees for the purchase. Chairman Johnson noted his concern about placing the building in the parking lot. Ken Lalumiere, Director of Buildings and Grounds, was present and confirmed that the building would occupy the last parking space. CM Morton added that the Library Board has approved the purchase.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Daniel to approve the use of Impact Fees allocated to the J. Joel Edwards Library in the amount of \$4,662.00 for the purchase of a storage building, motion carried 5-0.**

- i. Discussion of the status of McKinley Road and the potential need for curb and gutter improvements.

CM Morton provided the Board with ongoing updates regarding the McKinley Road project. He noted the County encountered an unexpected cost of \$300,000 from Georgia Power to relocate utilities, based on the design developed by Whitley Engineering. Chris Goodman, Public Works Director, was present to provide additional information. A potential solution is to implement curb and gutter improvements, allowing the County to remain within the existing right-of-way and avoid the utility relocation. Updates from Whitley Engineering and contractor McLeRoy indicate the County can likely remain close to the original contract price, with additional costs only expected for drainage components such as catch basins and storm pipes. CM Morton recommended moving forward with the curb and gutter modification.

Commissioner Daniel inquired about the City's water line under McKinley Road. CM Morton responded that one section would need to be relocated and that coordination is ongoing with Whitley Engineering and Carter & Sloope. Commissioner Daniel asked if the project could still be completed within this paving season. CM Morton replied that was the goal.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Daniel/Pullin to approve a modification to the McKinley Road project to include the addition of curb and gutter, motion carried 5-0.**

- j. Second Reading of Text Amendment to Article 16, US Highway 19 & 41 Overlay District, of the Unified Development Code to add a provision outlining the allowable and prohibited colors allowed within the Overlay District.

CM Morton noted that Planning and Development Director Jeremy Gilbert and Planning and Zoning Board member Kacie Edwards were present to answer any questions. The Planning and Zoning Board has worked extensively on the color guidelines. No changes have been made since the first reading. CM Morton recommended approval of the second reading and authorization to sign the necessary documents.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Daniel to approve the second reading of Article 16, US Highway 19 & 41 Overlay District, of the Unified Development Code, adding a provision outlining the allowable and prohibited colors allowed within the Overlay District and to authorize Chairman Johnson to sign all necessary documents related to the resolution, motion carried 5-0.**

- k. Final Adoption of the FY 2025/2026 Budget.

CM Morton stated the Board had been provided budget documentation in advance. Updates include the addition of a Fire Department position. The proposed budget increased from \$20,673,739 to approximately \$20,805,412. A recent email from Brooklyne Wassel with the Extension Office requested some minor changes. The County pays a lump sum under its contract with the University of Georgia and no longer handles Extension employees directly. The Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Georgia provides that if the county gives a cost-of-living increase to county employees, the extension office employees receive the increase.

Additional items to be added back to the budget include line items for Tri-Copy and DeLage, which were inadvertently omitted, and adjustments for cost-of-living increases (2.5%) per the Extension's Memorandum of Understanding. CM Morton recommended approval of the final budget with the additional \$3,000 to cover these adjustments.

Commissioner Daniel clarified that this approval does not affect the millage rate, which will be addressed separately. CM Morton noted that the Tax Assessor's Office is expected to submit its digest

to the state by July 15, with tax appeal deadlines on July 12. The County has contracted with Norman Appraisals to conduct assessments and manage appeals, including on-site visits and subsequent adjustments.

Commissioner Daniel asked if the budget includes anticipated revenue from paving equipment sales. CM Morton responded that some revenue is expected through GovDeals, though exact figures are not finalized. Chris Goodman has requested to retain one piece of equipment for patching and other Public Works functions.

CM Morton emphasized that once the tax digest is certified, the Board will need to determine whether to adjust the millage rate to match the approved budget or reduce the budget to avoid a tax increase. He cautioned against using Fund Balance due to being at the required minimum threshold, which under County Policy 35.09 is a three-month reserve. The current unrestricted Fund Balance is \$4.2 million, but its use is not recommended but can be used if the Board deems it necessary in an emergency.

Commissioner Pullin expressed concern about the 40% increase in the Tax Assessor's Office budget, amounting to approximately \$186,000. He criticized the department's lack of a clear plan and noted that the Board of Commissioners has limited oversight. He also questioned the \$462,000 decrease in the Public Works budget despite roads being a major focus. CM Morton explained the reduction is due to fewer gravel and maintenance costs, additional funding from the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB), SPLOST allocations, and the decision to contract major paving projects instead of maintaining a full paving crew.

As for the Tax Assessor's Office, some of last year's allocated expenditures were originally expected to be covered by ARPA funds but had to be moved back to the General Fund due to not being able to be confirmed by the deadline of December 31, 2024. CM Morton reminded the Board that budget adjustments can be made after the digest is received. Commissioner Jenkins stated that in his experience, he has not seen budgets being adjusted after the County receives the digest.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Daniel to approve the final adoption of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget, including an additional \$3,000 allocation for Tri-Copy and DeLage, motion carried 4-1, with Commissioner Jenkins opposing.**

**Motion/second by Commissioners Daniel/Pullin to authorize Chairman Johnson to sign the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Resolution for submission to the State, motion carried 5-0.**

**10. PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE**

**11. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a. County Manager Rob Morton requests an Executive Session to discuss the possible acquisition of real property pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b)(1).

**Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Daniel to adjourn Regular Session and enter into Executive Session at 10:12 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 6-11-2025.

2.

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

3.

The executive session was called to order at 10:12 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:

No 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);

No 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.)  
Ken Pullin, Commissioner (L.S.)  
James Jenkins, Commissioner (L.S.)

This the 11th day of June 2025.

Sworn to and subscribed  
Before me this 11th day of June 2025.

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

My commission expires: August 10, 2026.

**Motion/second by Commissioners Daniel/Guy to adjourn Executive Session and enter into Regular Session at 10:52 a.m., motion carried 5-0.**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Daniel to adjourn at 10:52 a.m., motion carried 5-0.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
J. Briar Johnson, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Blount, County Clerk