

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
PIKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

The Pike County Board of Commissioners held a Special Called Meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 1:00 p.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..... Silent Invocation**
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 Daniel/Guy to approve the agenda, motion carried 5-0.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **PUBLIC HEARING:** To receive public input regarding the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget.

County Manager Rob Morton addressed the Board and stated that the proposed budget had not changed since the budget workshop and first reading that took place in an earlier meeting. He noted that additions to the budget would include a proposed 3% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) salary increase for employees, the Wired Technology contract for upgraded camera systems in an amount of \$9,237.00, and the purchase of a new Public Works F-450 Crew Cab 4x4 truck in the amount of \$92,000. Updated documentation and revised budget figures will be provided prior to the May 21, 2026 meeting.

The public hearing was opened to receive comments.

David Paulson inquired how Senate Bill 33, which freezes homestead fair market values, would affect the County budget, millage rate, and the school system budget.

Becky Watts thanked the Commission for the proposed 3% employee salary increase and the improvements to employee insurance benefits. Ms. Watts stated that the County should not be paying rent for Fire Department facilities since city residents do not pay impact fees while still receiving fire protection services from the County. She suggested the use of tracking devices for County vehicles to monitor location and mileage. Ms. Watts also questioned the increase in solid waste recycling costs, which was confirmed to be associated with required monitoring expenses. She requested clarification regarding “Department 73 – Forestry Resources” and emphasized the need for a truck for the Animal Control Department. Ms. Watts thanked Finance Administrator, Clint Chastain, for the great job he has done on the budget and making it easier to understand.

The public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Pullin stated that the budget is the budget and discussed the potential future impacts of Senate Bill 33. He explained that Senate Bill 33 freezes homestead property assessments at their current value and removes the opt-out provision previously allowed under House Bill 581. Commissioner Pullin stated that Senate Bill 33 would not impact the current FY 2026–2027 budget but is expected to affect future budgets. He further stated that the impact on the school system is expected to mirror the County’s impact. The Commission anticipates an increase in applications for homestead exemptions. Additionally, the State will require Tax Assessors to maintain two sets of records: one reflecting market value and another reflecting values limited under Senate Bill 33. To offset potential revenue losses in the future, the County may need voter approval for a one-cent Local Homestead Option Sales Tax (LHOST), potentially to be placed on the 2027 ballot.

In response to questions raised during the public hearing, County Manager Rob Morton clarified that “Department 73 – Forestry Resources” funds a contract with the Forestry Department for services not covered by local fire departments, including brush fire response. He further stated that county-wide residential property re-evaluations had been completed, with onsite visits prioritized for properties involving recent sales or appeals. The objective was to complete the re-evaluations within one year in order to avoid potential state fines.

County Manager Rob Morton reminded everyone that the second reading on the FY 2026-207 Budget will be May 21, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. with the final adoption scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Public Hearing only, no action taken.

6. **EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE**
7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Daniel to adjourn at 1:19 p.m., motion carried 5-0.

J. Briar Johnson, Chairman

Angela Blount, County Clerk