REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
PIKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Pike County Board of Commissioners held its Regular Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 6:30 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 Clerk Angela Blount was also present. (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e) (2)). Due to unforeseen circumstances, County Attorney/ County Manager Rob Morton was unable to attend the meeting.

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))**

   Chairman Johnson requested that, in the absence of the County Manager, the agenda be amended to include the following changes: postpone Agenda Items Q and R under New Business until the next regular meeting; remove Agenda Item T under New Business due to the applicant formally withdrawing the request; postpone Executive Session to a future meeting; and move Agenda Item 10. Public Comment (items A and B) to be heard immediately following the Invited Guest section.

   Motion/second by Pullin/Daniel to approve the amended agenda to postpone Agenda Items Q and R under New Business until the next regular meeting, remove Agenda Item T under New Business due to the applicant formally withdrawing the request, postpone Executive Session to a future meeting, and move Agenda Item 10. Public Comment (items A and B) to be heard immediately following the Invited Guest section, motion carried 5-0.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e) (2))**

   a. Minutes of the June 30, 2026, Regular Monthly Meeting.

   b. Minutes of the June 30, 2026, Executive Session.

   c. Minutes of the July 23, 2026, Special Called Meeting.

   d. Minutes of the July 23, 2026, Executive Session.

   Motion/second by Daniel/Guy to approve the minutes of the June 30, 2026 Regular Monthly Meeting, minutes of the June 30, 2026 Executive Session, minutes of the July 23, 2026 Special Called Meeting, and minutes of the July 23, 2026 Executive Session, motion 5-0.

6. **INVITED GUEST**

   a. Sam Trager with University of Georgia to present Compensation Study.

   Chairman Johnson read notes provided by County Manager Rob Morton stating that Mr. Trager will present a PowerPoint regarding the compensation study, along with a draft of the final report. The study includes job titles, employment grades, and two types of pay scales: a step scale and a pay range based on job grade. As previously stated, the recommendation for Pike County will be the pay-range model.

   The presentation will identify several items requiring clarification by the Board at a future meeting, specifically regarding employment grades for certain Pike County positions. These matters may be discussed in greater detail at an upcoming workshop or meeting. Following the presentation, Chairman Johnson stated he would request that the Board formally accept the draft report for review prior to finalization.

   Sam Trager presented the Pike County Compensation Study. He stated that the objectives of the study were to develop new job descriptions, rank positions, and analyze survey data to create appropriate compensation strategies. Thirty-four new job descriptions were completed. Positions were graded from 7 to 24 using the Factor Evaluation System (FES). A custom salary survey was distributed to nine jurisdictions—including Lamar, Spalding, and Monroe Counties—and three jurisdictions returned completed surveys. Overall, Pike County employee pay was found to be 6.2% below the market average.

   Mr. Trager presented two implementation options. Option 1, a step-scale system, would apply a 5% increase to place employees on the appropriate step, with an estimated cost of $116,470.00, not including benefits or part-time employees. Option 2, an open pay-range system, would apply a 6% increase and provide greater flexibility, with an estimated cost of $122,107.00. He noted that open pay ranges offer flexibility, ease in budgeting, and ease in maintenance, and he recommended Option 2.

   Regarding the Fire Department, Mr. Trager stated that current pay is competitive; however, the County may wish to consider additional compensation for certifications such as EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic. Pike County Fire staff are part-time. The average market pay for comparable positions is $45,700.00, and the minimum pay should be above $16.59 per hour.

   Mr. Trager noted that MIT publishes an annual Livable Wage Guide for all Georgia counties. The minimum livable wage for Pike County is $23.24 per hour. Forty-eight employees fall below the livable-wage threshold, representing approximately 41% of the County’s workforce. He suggested that the County may want to consider moving employees who fall below the livable wage at a faster rate than other employees.

   As part of the annual budget process, Mr. Trager recommended that the County consider using a standard index to adjust employee pay and pay tables. If not already in use, he suggested the Employee

Cost Index (ECI) from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Over the past 25 years, ECI has averaged 3%, while CPI has averaged 2.7%.

Mr. Trager stated that a few outstanding matters remain, including finalizing certain job titles and finalizing pay grades. He noted that the County retains the ability to make adjustments as necessary. Mr. Trager stated he could attend the August 12, 2026 Board of Commissioners meeting, when the County Manager will be present, if the Board would like him to do so.

Motion/second by Daniel/Guy to approve acceptance of the draft Compensation Study as presented, motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Briar Johnson called Executive Session due to a matter germane to Personnel.

Motion/second by Commissioners Johnson/Daniel to adjourn Regular Session and enter into Executive Session at 7:04 p.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 7-28-2026.

2.

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

3.

The executive session was called to order at 7:04 p.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)*;

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

This the 28th day of July 2026.

Sworn to and subscribed
Before me this 28th day of July 2026.

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

My commission expires: August 10, 2026.

Commissioner Pullin left Executive Session at 7:08 p.m.

Motion/second by Commissioners Daniel/Guy to adjourn Executive Session and enter into Regular Session at 7:11 p.m., motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Pullin addressed the Chairman, stating that the Executive Session was the most "ridiculous Executive Session ever" and an embarrassment. Chairman Johnson responded that he was acting in accordance with policy.

Commissioner Guy replied to Commissioner Pullin, stating that while Commissioner Pullin may feel embarrassed, when concerns are observed and a member does not wish to stand behind addressing them, that does not mean the member is correct. Commissioner Pullin addressed Commissioner Guy, stating that he was speaking out of line. Commissioner Guy responded that he was not out of line.

Chairman Johnson noted that if he is made aware of a problem, it is his responsibility to address it and that he was following policy.

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	$425,131.75
Fire Dept. Donations	$11,585.43
Cash Reserve Account	$312,726.48
Jail Fund	$32,894.94
E-911 Fund	$30,072.72
DATE Fund	$20,189.48
Juvenile Court Fund	$15,852.65
Residential Impact Fee	$327,734.61
Commercial Impact Fees	$21,116.04
C.A.I.P FUND	$15,913.62
General Obligation SPLOST 2022-2028	$3,676,472.42
L.M.I.G. Grant (DOT)	$661,488.22

c. County Manager Comment - Absent

d. Commissioner Reports

District 1 –Tim Daniel – no report.

District 2 –Tim Guy stated the problem discussed in Executive Session needs to be investigated and if it is not investigated then it is not ethical.

District 3 – Commissioner Pullin addressed the Chairman and stated that he thought the Chairman was going to read the County Manager's comments. Chairman Johnson replied that he was doing so as he proceeded through the meeting. Commissioner Pullin asked when the County Manager's statement would be read, and Chairman Johnson responded that it would be addressed under his comments.

District 4 – James Jenkins – no report.

At-Large Chairman Johnson stated that courthouse security concerns have been raised regarding the safety of staff and citizens. He noted that he had spoken with the Sheriff and the District Attorney's Office, and that, with the assistance of the Sheriff's Office, he would like to address security measures in the near future, beginning with the downstairs entrance area. This would always involve security when the courthouse is open, not just during court hours.

Chairman Briar Johnson read a statement from County Manager Rob Morton in his absence. "I plan to transition from the dual role County Manager/County Attorney and ask for authorization to solicit applications for the position of County Manager through the end of August." Rob Morton will serve as County Manager during the search. An ad will be published in the newspaper for the County Manager position during the month of August and extended if necessary.

Motion/second by Commissioners Pullin/Daniel to approve running the County Manager vacancy advertisement throughout the month of August, motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Briar Johnson stated that three ethics complaints were filed approximately one month ago against the County Manager. Pursuant to County policy, such complaints require an investigation to determine whether a formal ethics hearing is warranted. Outside counsel Freeman Mathis & Gary LLP conducted an independent review and issued a ten-page report concluding that no unethical acts occurred under county policy or state law.

Chairman Johnson stated that, based on these findings, there is no reason to proceed with an ethics hearing and the investigation is officially closed. In accordance with state law, the full report will be available to the public in ten days.

Motion/second by Commissioners Daniel/Guy to approve not moving forward with an ethics hearing pursuant to policy based on the report provided by outside counsel Freeman Mathis & Gary LLP, and upon confirmation that the investigation is officially closed, motion carried 3-2 with Commissioner Pullin and Jenkins opposed.

Commissioner Guy addressed the Chairman, stating that there was an ethics situation occurring that evening which was being overlooked. Chairman Johnson replied, "Yes sir, that is your opinion." Commissioner Guy reiterated that the matter had been brought to the Chairman and was being overlooked. Chairman Johnson stated that, under policy, such matters must be submitted in writing.

Commissioner Pullin began speaking without having the floor and was stopped by Chairman Johnson. Chairman Johnson then addressed Commissioner Guy, stating that if he felt the issue discussed in Executive Session had not been handled properly, he needed to submit his concerns in writing. Commissioner Pullin stated that it did need to be in writing and that the matter was based on hearsay.

Commissioner Pullin further addressed the Chairman, stating that the Chairman had brought forward a charge against a Commissioner without providing any detail, noting there was no text message or evidence and that the Chairman expected the Board to rely solely on his statement that he had received a complaint and called an Executive Session based on hearsay. Commissioner Guy replied that if the Chairman had just learned of something, then he should handle it. Commissioner Pullin stated that if the Chairman had just learned of the matter, that was fine, but the Chairman should have disclosed who brought the complaint forward, reiterating that the matter was hearsay.

A heated argument ensued between Commissioner Pullin and Commissioner Guy. Commissioner Guy stated that a problem had been brought to the Chairman and that the county has a process to follow to determine whether it is true. Commissioner Pullin asked Commissioner Guy whether he was the one who brought the accusation to the Chairman, stating that Commissioner Guy appeared very invested in the matter.

Commissioner Guy left the meeting at 7:25 p.m., stating that a Commissioner present at the meeting and seated at the table was drunk. Commissioner Pullin requested that the statement be removed from the record, stating it was not true and that Commissioner Guy's action constituted an ethics violation.

Commissioner Guy returned to the meeting at 7:26 p.m., stating that the matter should not be overlooked. Commissioner Pullin addressed Commissioner Guy, stating he thought Commissioner Guy had left. Commissioner Guy replied that he had left "until he heard Commissioner Pullin's mouth." Commissioner Pullin stated that Commissioner Guy's conduct was out of line. Commissioner Guy stated that if he was in the wrong, then he was in the wrong, but right is right.

e. County Attorney Report to Commissioners

County Attorney Rob Morton was not present.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Discussion of 3-way stop sign at Melville Brown Road and Hunter Road.

This matter was postponed at the previous meeting to allow Commissioner Jenkins time to poll his constituents. Chairman Johnson stated he supported the installation of the 3-way sign due to safety concerns now that the road has been paved.

Motion/second by Commissioners Jenkins/Daniel to approve a 3-way stop sign at Melville Brown Road and Hunter Road, motion carried 5-0.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Consider use of Courthouse Grounds from Cami Hoopes with the City of Zebulon for Trick or Treating on the Square on Saturday, October 31, 2026 from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

The application has been reviewed and found to meet all required criteria. Approval is recommended.

Motion/second by Commissioners Daniel/Pullin to approve use of Courthouse Grounds from Cami Hoopes with the City of Zebulon for Trick or Treating on the Square on Saturday October 31, 2026 from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. , motion carried 5-0.

b. Consider use of Courthouse Grounds from Bryan Richardson with Pike County American Legion Post 197 for Pike County Patriot Day (9-11) Observance Program on September 11, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

The application has been reviewed and found to meet all required criteria. Approval is recommended.

Motion/second by Commissioners Daniel/Pullin to approve use of Courthouse Grounds from Bryan Richardson with Pike County American Legion Post 197 for Pike County Patriot Day (9-11) Observance Program on September 11, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. , motion carried 5-0.

c. Consider use of Courthouse Grounds from Bryan Richardson with Pike County American Legion Post 197 for Pike County Veterans Day Observance Program on November 11, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. (Should there be inclement weather, Post 197 would like to use the Courthouse main courtroom to proceed with the event.)

The application has been reviewed and found to meet all required criteria. Approval is recommended, including authorization for use of the Courthouse main courtroom in the event of inclement weather, with coordination through the Sheriff's Department.

Motion/second by Commissioners Daniel/Pullin to approve use of Courthouse Grounds from Bryan Richardson with Pike County American Legion Post 197 for Pike County Veterans Day Observance Program on November 11, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and to authorize use of the Courthouse main courtroom in event of inclement weather, motion carried 5-0.

d. Approve/deny issuance of alcohol license (Retail Pouring – beer and wine) for Marlon Justo, Asian Bites Kitchen LLC dba Maneki Neko Hibachi and Sushi House, 806 Plaza Drive, Zebulon, GA. *Applicant has met criteria.*

The application has been reviewed and found to meet all required criteria. Approval is recommended.

Motion/second by Commissioners Jenkins/Pullin to approve issuance of alcohol license for Marlon Justo, Asian Bites Kitchen LLC dba Maneki Neko Hibachi and Sushi House, motion carried 5-0.

e. Consider Tax Refund application from Dennis and Patricia Talley in the amount of $118.22.

This request is based on a reduction in square footage, and the Board of Tax Assessors has approved the adjustment.

Motion/second by Commissioners Daniel/Pullin to approve tax refund application from Dennis and Patricia Talley in the amount of $118.22, motion carried 5-0.

f. Consider removal of the primary structure located at 205 Alabama Road The Rock, GA, from the 2026 tax digest due to the dwelling being destroyed by a structure fire on January 14, 2026.

Per County Manager Rob Morton, it is his understanding that, under Georgia law, the Board of Commissioners does not have the authority to waive individual tax obligations unless the subject property is located within a declared disaster area. In the absence of such a declaration, there appears to be no legal provision that would allow the Board of Commissioners to authorize removal of the primary structure from the 2026 tax digest.

No motion entertained.

g. Consider removal of the primary structure located at 1358 Drew Allend Road Williamson, GA, from the 2026 tax digest due to the dwelling being destroyed by a structure fire on February 5, 2026.

Per County Manager Rob Morton, it is his understanding that, under Georgia law, the Board of Commissioners does not have the authority to waive individual tax obligations unless the subject property is located within a declared disaster area. In the absence of such a declaration, there appears to be no legal provision that would allow the Board of Commissioners to authorize removal of the primary structure from the 2026 tax digest.

No motion entertained.

h. Consider removal of the primary structure located at 141 Starks Road Zebulon, GA, from the 2026 tax digest due to the dwelling being destroyed by a structure fire on February 8, 2026.

Per County Manager Rob Morton, it is his understanding that, under Georgia law, the Board of Commissioners does not have the authority to waive individual tax obligations unless the subject property is located within a declared disaster area. In the absence of such a declaration, there appears to be no legal provision that would allow the Board of Commissioners to authorize removal of the primary structure from the 2026 tax digest.

No motion entertained.

i. Consideration of the previously interviewed applicants for the vacant seat on the Pike County Parks and Recreation Authority.

The Pike County Parks and Recreation Authority is requesting that the Board waive the solicitation of new applications for the appointment to the newly vacated seat. The Authority recently interviewed five applicants and recommended Steven Fontana for appointment; however, the Board selected Timothy "Crews" Ledbetter at the last meeting to fill the prior vacancy.

Because this new vacancy occurred immediately following the recent review of applications and appointment, the Authority is asking the Board to consider appointing Steven Fontana without reopening the application process. If the Board is inclined to proceed, this action will require a motion to waive the policy due to the circumstances.

Motion/second by Commissioners Pullin/Daniel to waive the policy for advertisement and appoint Steven Fontana to the Pike County Parks and Recreation Authority, motion carried 5-0.

j. Approve/Deny Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Auditor Engagement Letter from Fulton & Kozak.

This letter of engagement aligns with the five-year proposal considered by the Board of Commissioners in 2023. Specifically, the not-to-exceed amount of $34,034 for the FY 2025/2026 audit matches the figure outlined in the 2023 proposal. For reference, the five-year proposal also included the audit for FY 2026/2027.

Motion/second by Commissioners Daniel/Pullin to approve Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Auditor Engagement Letter from Fulton & Kozak, motion carried 5-0.

k. Fiscal Year 2027 Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program.

The county received the announcement for the 2027 LMIG, which was included in the Board materials. The proposed LMIG 2027 Project Sheet has been completed for submission for the allocation amount of $652,762.74. Approval of the project sheet is requested. Please note that LMIG funds will be used primarily for the debt service associated with the GTIB financing utilized for road improvements, including the roads listed on the project sheet.

Motion/second by Commissioners Pullin/Daniel to approve Fiscal Year 2027 Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program, motion carried 5-0.

l. Approve/deny Pike County DFCS to retain the Fiscal Year 2026 county budget surplus in the amount of $7,885.11 for the purpose of establishing a General Assistance Program to support eligible residents in need.

In prior years, DFCS returned any budget surplus to the county at the end of the fiscal year. The return of funds was based in part on an agreement executed between Pike County and DFCS; however, DFCS no longer utilizes this form agreement. Based on our review of the records, the last agreement in place was for FY 2023–2024, ending June 30, 2024.

DFCS is requesting to use the current surplus funds to establish a General Assistance Program for qualifying residents, which is one of DFCS's stated purposes. As you consider this request, please keep in mind that the county provides DFCS with a monthly payment based on the annual budget allocation approved by the Board. In short, Pike County commits to the annual allocation paid in monthly increments, and DFCS is responsible for administering those funds.

LaShaundra Walley-Holmes addressed the Board describing residents needing assistance outside child welfare. The assistance would go to county residents.

Motion/second by Commissioners Pullin/Daniel to approve Pike County DFCS retaining the Fiscal Year 2026 county funded budget surplus in the amount of $7,885.11 for the purpose of establishing a General Assistance Program to support eligible residents in need, motion carried 5-0.

m. Consider Resolutions calling for Referendums on HB 1563 and HB 1562.

In connection with the passage of HB 1563, establishing an additional homestead exemption for seniors, and HB 1562, establishing an additional homestead exemption for disabled citizens, it is necessary to call for the required referendums so that the citizens may vote on the proposed increased homestead exemptions. Recommendation for approval of the Resolutions calling for the elections was requested. Once approved, the Notices of Election can be submitted to the legal organ by Thursday, July 30th, for publication beginning August 5th.

Motion/second by Commissioners Pullin/Daniel to approve the resolutions calling for Referendums on HB 1563 and HB 1562, motion carried 5-0.

n. Consider Quotes for Public Works F-450/4500 Truck.

Three quotes were provided for the acquisition of an F-450/4500 truck for Public Works, which was included in the adopted budget. Included with the quotes is Mr. Goodman's recommendation to accept the proposal from Speedway Ford, based on prior business dealings and the fact that Ms. Cagle is a Pike County resident. The proposal amount is $89,930.00.

In connection with this proposed purchase, Mr. Goodman was asked to research used trucks as well. He advised that he conducted the research but was unable to locate a viable comparable used truck with fewer than 180,000 miles.

Motion/second by Commissioners Daniel/Pullin to approve the purchase of a F-450/4500 truck for Public Works from Speedway Ford, motion carried 5-0.

o. Discussion of McKinley Road punch list.

Information was provided from Mark Whitley regarding the remaining "final items," or punch-list, to be completed on McKinley Road. The estimated cost for the extension of storm pipes, flumes, related work, the filling of the affected area, and the reinstallation of the existing fence along McKinley Road is $41,872.00. Staff has reviewed the remaining ARPA funds allocated for this project, and approximately $58,000 remains available to cover these expenses. Approval is requested for the extension of the storm pipes, flumes, associated work, and the reinstallation of the fence at the estimated cost of $41,872.00.

Mr. Whitley's correspondence also notes the need to relocate two Georgia Power poles located directly behind the new curbing. He is continuing to work with Georgia Power to obtain the relocation cost. Once those costs are confirmed, the matter will be brought back to the Board for consideration, including whether additional funding beyond ARPA will be required. After payment of the storm pipe extensions, flumes, and related work, approximately $16,128 in ARPA funds will remain available for the utility pole relocations. If additional funding is needed, staff anticipates requesting the use of SPLOST funds to cover any amount exceeding the remaining ARPA balance committed to the McKinley Road project.

Engineer Mark Whitley addressed the Board stating two Georgia Power poles behind curb need relocation. The project came in at $70,000.00 under budget by redesigning to curb-and-gutter. The recommendation is to resolve drainage now.

Motion/second by Commissioners Daniel/Jenkins to approve the McKinley Road punch list presented, motion carried 5-0

p. Consideration of accepting the donation of four (4) vehicles to the Pike County Fire Department.

The list of proposed donated vehicles from the City of Chattahoochee Hills and the City of Molena has been provided to the Board for review. As Pike County is the legal entity authorized to accept these donated vehicles, approval is requested so the vehicles may be added to the County's inventory and insurance.

Fire Chief Bobby Wilkerson addressed the Board stating some of the vehicles require parts or have issues; may serve as placeholders. It would be ideal to use the donated vehicles for certain calls rather than deploying the pumper truck or engine for minor incidents.

Motion/second by Commissioners Daniel/Pullin to accept the donation of four (4) vehicles to the Pike County Fire Department, motion carried 5-0.

q. Approve/deny the Adoption Resolution for the Capital Improvements Element (CIE) Annual Update.

Agenda Amended; item postponed.

r. Approval of the second reading of the Impact Fee Ordinance.

Agenda Amended; item postponed.

s. Consideration of Butler Snow LLP Letter of Engagement for 2028 SPLOST renewal.

Information was previously provided regarding the renewal of SPLOST collections, which must occur prior to the September 2028 end date of the current SPLOST. A calendar and update from Raymond James, the financial consultant used for prior SPLOST cycles, were included for your review. Blake Sharpton of Butler Snow has served as bond counsel for Pike County in connection with previous SPLOSTs, and the Board has been provided with a proposed engagement letter for Butler Snow to again serve as bond counsel for the 2028 SPLOST renewal. Approval of the engagement letter and authorization for execution by the county are recommended.

These services will be necessary if, as with the last SPLOST, Pike County intends to pursue upfront financing for the projects to be included in the proposed 2028 SPLOST renewal. As noted in the previously provided calendar, it is recommended that the Board consider working toward a referendum in March 2027 for the SPLOST renewal.

Commissioner Pullin stated that he supports the SPLOST but does not support holding the election in March 2027, noting that elections cost the county a significant amount of money.

Motion/second by Commissioners Pullin/Daniel to postpone the item to the next Board of Commissioners meeting, support the 2028 SPLOST but not the proposed election date, motion carried 5-0.

t. Consideration of confirmation-certification letter related to the modified special exception permit regarding proposed solar farm at Highway 18 and North Madden Bridge and Nixon Roads.

Agenda amended; applicant withdrew request.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT (Limited to 5 minutes per person) Moved per amended agenda

a. Laine Dupree to address the Board regarding Air Evac Life Team and provide educational information on air ambulance services.

Laine Dupree introduced Air Evac Life Team, an air ambulance service based at the Thomaston airport. She stated that the service provides rapid transport for time-critical emergencies and carries blood products. Each aircraft is staffed with a pilot, paramedic, and nurse. Ms. Dupree explained that the membership program eliminates out-of-pocket costs for flights, covering both scene responses and inter-facility transfers. She expressed interest in increasing community involvement and enhancing operational coordination with local public safety agencies.

b. Eugene Allison to address the Board regarding Domestic Violence.

Eugene Allison addressed the issue of domestic violence in both Georgia and Pike County. He noted that more than 35,000 cases of domestic violence were reported statewide last year. Pike County data reflects 32 domestic violence incidents, resulting in 15 arrests, with 18 children present during those incidents with 16 of the 18 being victims.

Mr. Allison shared a personal account regarding his late girlfriend, a domestic violence victim who later passed away due to related health complications. He emphasized the need for increased public awareness, stronger support systems, and improved funding for victim services.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Agenda amended; item postponed)

a. County Manager Rob Morton requests 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.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/second by Commissioners Daniel/Pullin to adjourn at 8:02 p.m., motion carried 5-0.

J. Briar Johnson, Chairman

Angela Blount, County Clerk