REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
PIKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Pike County Board of Commissioners held its Regular Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Courthouse, Main Courtroom, 16001 Barnesville Street, Zebulon, GA. Chairman Briar Johnson convened the meeting and Commissioners Tim Guy 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, Commissioners Tim Daniel and Ken Pullin were unable to attend the meeting.

1. **CALL TO ORDER ..... Chairman J. Briar Johnson**
2. **INVOCATION……..…….....Jonah Thompson**
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/Jenkins to approve the agenda, motion carried 3-0.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e) (2))**
   a. Minutes of the September 29, 2026, Special Called Meeting.
   b. Minutes of the September 29, 2026, Executive Session. (SCM)
   c. Minutes of the September 29, 2026, Regular Monthly Meeting.
   d. Minutes of the September 29, 2026, Executive Session. (RMM)
   e. Minutes of the October 2, 2026, Special Called Meeting.
   f. Minutes of the October 2, 2026, Executive Session.

   Motion/second by Commissioners Jenkins/Guy to approve the minutes of the September 29, 2026 Special Called Meeting, the minutes of the September 29, 2026 Executive Session (SCM), the minutes of the September 29, 2026 Regular Monthly Meeting, the minutes of the September 29, 2026 Executive Session (RMM), the minutes of the October 2, 2026 Special Called Meeting and the minutes of the October 2, 2026 Executive Session, motion carried 3-0.
6. **INVITED GUEST**
   a. Employee Recognition for service to Pike County.

   County Manager Rob Morton recognized **Rose Marie Fields** of the Pike County Tax Commissioner's office for fifteen (15) years of dedicated service to Pike County. CM Morton noted he has known Ms. Fields throughout her entire tenure and expressed appreciation for her dedication, camaraderie and service to the community. Tax Commissioner Donna Chapman also thanked Ms. Fields for her years of service. Ms. Chapman remarked that there has been a lot of laughter over the years and stated that she values Ms. Fields time and friendship more than anything. Marie Fields was presented with a 15-year certificate and pin in acknowledgment of her milestone and continued dedicated service.

   b. Brooklyne Wassel, Extension Office, to present a request for Board consideration to support the establishment of an AmeriCorps position within the Pike County Extension Office.

   Brooklyne Wassel with the Extension Office presented an opportunity to establish a grant-funded AmeriCorps position that would require future county budget support. The proposed position includes 900 hours of direct youth service, assisting with in-school and after-school club meetings, camps, and field trips. County obligations would include providing workspace, supervision, and an annual $3,000 contribution.

   For the current fiscal year, Pike County Extension will fund the initial $3,000 using program funds. County Manager Rob Morton noted that the annual $3,000 county contribution would need to be incorporated into next fiscal year's budget preparations.

   Brooklyne Wassel reported that the Extension Office is collaborating with Dr. Mussie Habteselassie on a Georgia EPD grant proposal titled "Improving Elkins Creek Water Quality Through Monitoring, Source Tracking, and Education." The project focuses on DNA source tracking of fecal coliform and *E. coli* contamination in Elkins Creek and its estuaries across Zebulon, Molena, and Pike County to guide targeted educational outreach. Depending on the DNA source, whether livestock, wildlife, or septic contamination, the Extension Office will implement corresponding educational activities.

   The primary goal of the project is to implement specific educational activities outlined in the Upper Flint Water Management Plan and to improve water quality monitoring and assessment.

   Ms. Wassel requested a letter of support for the grant and noted that EPD is seeking a cash match from the county. She stated she is able to contribute a portion of her salary toward the match, and that EPD indicated municipalities may contribute $1,000 to $2,000 as a good-faith investment in the project.

   Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Jenkins to approve the Letter of Support for the Improving Elkins Creek Water Quality Through Monitoring, Source Tracking and Education grant and to authorize Chairman Briar Johnson to execute the letter on behalf of the Board of Commissioners, motion carried 3-0.
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 Guy/Jenkins to accept the reports, motion carried 3-0.

b. County Manager Report

Update on County finances for the following funds/accounts:

General Fund	…$892,900.55
Fire Dept. Donations	$11,587.29
Cash Reserve Account	….....$281,973.72
Jail Fund	$37,136.03
E-911 Fund	$60,452.61
DATE Fund	$19,097.38
Juvenile Court Fund	$17,555.41
Residential Impact Fees	$413,706.73
Commercial Impact Fees	$21,116.99
C.A.I.P FUND	$139.14
General Obligation SPLOST 2022-2028	….. $4,434,269.18
L.M.I.G. Grant (DOT)…….…….....$447,834.75	

c. County Manager Comment

County Manager Rob Morton reported that he accompanied Chris Goodman and his crew for the installation of the historical marker for the Hilltop Community. CM Morton stated that he understood the Hilltop Community intends to hold a second presentation and unveiling. He noted that the invoice for the marker installation must be paid and will be paid using private contributions, not county funds.

County Manager Rob Morton further noted that the Chamber of Commerce has invited County Clerk Angela Blount to serve as an Ex-Officio member of the Chamber Board. CM Morton stated that the County looks forward to her involvement in community affairs, as this is an area in which the County is regularly engaged. He thanked Ms. Blount for her commitment to Pike County and for her continued involvement with the Chamber.

d. Commissioner Reports

District 1 – Commissioner Daniel – Absent.

District 2 – Commissioner Guy – No report.

District 3 – Commissioner Pullin – Absent.

District 4 - Commissioner Jenkins – No report. .

At Large Chairman Briar Johnson reported that he attended the First Responder Award Ceremony hosted last night by American Legion Post 197, under the leadership of Commander Bryan Richardson. Chairman Johnson stated that Commander Richardson does an excellent job coordinating these events. He noted that award recipients are selected from among Pike County citizens.

- Pike County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year -Jeff Oliver
- Pike County Firefighter of the Year - Lieutenant Fred J. Leonard III
- Pike County Emergency Medical Technician of the Year - Rachel Landrum
- Pike County Dispatcher of the Year - Jennifer Vennett

All recipients were presented with plaques in recognition of their service. Chairman Johnson encouraged citizens to congratulate the honorees when they see them. He noted this is the seventh year the ceremony has been held and that it is an annual event.

Chairman Johnson also addressed the matter of the trees on the courthouse square. He stated that he has received comments from citizens both in favor of removing the trees and in favor of keeping them. He wished to bring the matter back before the Board for discussion once all Commissioners are present. Chairman Johnson noted that the County previously received four estimates for tree removal.

County Manager Rob Morton stated that, with two Commissioners absent, he will ask Ken Lalumiere to obtain updated quotes. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next Board of Commissioners night meeting.

e. County Attorney Report to Commissioners

County Attorney Rob Morton reported that several years ago the County initiated the process of updating its code through Municode/ CivicPlus**.** He stated that the project is now in its final stages, and once complete, the updated code will be accessible online. The County received notification last week that the vendor is moving into the final editing phase.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Consideration of the purchase of ten (10) Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) for county facilities and departments.

County Manager Rob Morton stated that, as discussed at the last meeting, the Board has been provided with an updated estimate for ten (10) AEDs and nine (9) AED cabinets. The estimated total cost is $20,349.05. He noted that two of the AEDs are considered replacements and therefore do not qualify for Impact Fee funding; however, the remaining eight (8) AEDs do qualify.

CM Morton stated he would need a motion to approve the purchase of ten (10) AEDs and nine (9) cabinets with funding allocated as follows:

- Five (5) AEDs/Cabinets funded through Fire Department Impact Fees;

- Two (2) AEDs/ One (1) Cabinet funded through Public Works Impact Fees;
- One (1) AED/Cabinet funded through Library Impact Fees;
- Two (2) AEDs funded through the budget allocations of the two departments where the replacements will occur.

Motion/second by Commissioners Jenkins/Guy to approve the purchase of ten (10) Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and nine (9) wall cabinets, with funding allocated as follows: five (5) AEDs and wall cabinets from Fire Department Impact Fees; two (2) AEDs and one (1) wall cabinet from Public Works Impact Fees, one (1) AED and wall cabinet from Library Impact Fees; and two (2) AEDs and wall cabinets from the budget allocations of the two departments where the replacements will be provided, motion carried 3-0.

b. Declare the Fire Department list of equipment as surplus.

County Manager Rob Morton stated that Fire Chief Bobby Wilkerson is seeking permission to declare equipment surplus and donate thirty (30) SCOTT air packs (approximately 25 years old) with bottles and face masks, older fire hoses, five (5) AEDs (approximately 20 years old), and any additional equipment deemed unusable due to safety concerns. The request is to surplus the items and allow donation of these surplus items to any organization in need.

Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Jenkins to approve declaring as surplus thirty (30) SCOTT air packs (25 years old) with bottles and face masks, older fire hoses, 5 AEDs (20 years old) and any additional equipment deemed unusable due to safety concerns, and to donate the surplus items to any organization in need, motion carried 3-0.

c. Approve/deny the Second Reading of proposed revisions to Chapter 114 of the Code of Pike County concerning Economic Incentives.

County Manager Rob Morton stated that there have been no suggested changes since the first reading. He noted that he is requesting approval of the second reading and adoption and has provided the enacting language for approval and signatures.

Motion/second by Commissioners Jenkins/Guy to approve the Second Reading of proposed revisions to Chapter 114 of the Code of Pike County concerning Economic Incentives and authorize Chairman Briar Johnson to execute the resolution, motion carried 3-0.

d. Discussion of the 2026 Employee Christmas Luncheon.

County Manager Rob Morton stated that, in past years, until last year, the Board of Commissioners provided an employee luncheon. Last year, employees were instead given an additional day off at Christmas, which was greatly appreciated.

Since providing the extra day off does not result in any additional financial cost, staff recommends approving an additional day off for the Christmas holiday again this year in appreciation of county employees in lieu of an employee luncheon. The additional day would be Monday, December 28, 2026 if the Board opts for this option.

Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Jenkins to approve giving county employees Monday, December 28, 2026, as an additional day off in lieu of the annual Christmas luncheon, motion carried 3-0.

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

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

a. Chairman Briar Johnson 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.

Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Jenkins to adjourn Regular Session and enter into Executive Session at 9:25 a.m., motion carried 3-0.

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 10-14-2026.

2.

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

3.

The executive session was called to order at 9:25 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)*;

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:

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 14th day of October 2026.

Sworn to and subscribed
Before me this 14th day of October 2026.

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

My commission expires: August 4, 2030.

Motion/second by Commissioners Jenkins/Guy to adjourn Executive Session and enter into Regular Session at 9:47 a.m., motion carried 3-0.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/second by Commissioners Guy/Jenkins to adjourn at 9:48 a.m., motion carried 3-0.

_____ _____
J. Briar Johnson, Chairman Angela Blount, County Clerk