



TOWN OF PINE LEVEL
MINUTES OF REGULAR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
JANUARY 08, 2015
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

After declaring a quorum present, Mayor Jeff Holt called a regular meeting of the Pine Level Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at the Pine Level Town Hall.

ROLL CALL

- COMMISSIONER KAREN ANDERSON
- COMMISSIONER GREG BAKER
- COMMISSIONER JIMMY GARNER
- COMMISSIONER PHIL PITTMAN (out of town)
- MAYOR JEFF HOLT

STAFF PRESENT

Town Attorney Frank Wood, Consultant Dan Simmons, Public Works Supt. Ray Stuckey, Recreation Coordinator Scottie Hayes, Town Clerk Sharon Thompson

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Holt gave the invocation and Commissioner Anderson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE: Anderson
SECOND: Garner
VOTE: unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 12- 11-14

MOTION TO APPROVE: Baker
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

2013-2014 AUDIT REPORT

The board then received a financial report from C. Keith Peedin, CPA. The mayor first welcomed Mr. Peedin and his wife to the meeting and he congratulated them on their recent nuptials. Mr. Peedin quickly went through the audit report with the board. He said the town is growing and continuing to provide services for its citizens, and the board seems to be managing well. He commented that it is difficult to meet the demands without rate increases, but towns must generate the revenues needed to provide uninterrupted services. He stated that the town is in a sound financial position. Mayor Holt commented that the town's net position increased and the total debt decreased, so things were looking good. He asked if anyone had questions for Mr. Peedin. Commissioner Garner thanked Mr. Peedin and the office staff for the work required for the audit report. Mayor Holt said it was a good tool for the board to use in planning for the upcoming budget. He also thanked Mr. Peedin for the report he gave. The board then voted unanimously to approve the audit report.

MOTION: Garner

SECOND: Baker

VOTE: unanimous

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

PLANNING BOARD: Scottie Hayes stated that a new business has opened on US 70 HWY at the Pine Valley Commerce Center. He said the business includes arcade games, pool tables, dance floor, DJ, etc., and that it probably requires a conditional use permit for continued operation. He advised the owner to come and talk with the board and he asked if the business could continue to operate as it is, until a decision is made on the conditional use permit. Jerry Huffman, the owner, introduced himself. He was accompanied by his son. He said that he wants to operate a teen center, for 14-18 year old young people, and his hours of operation are 7:00 p.m. to 12 p.m. Mr. Huffman said his business could also be used as a party venue, and that he has a DJ for music. He commented that the chief of police is okay with the idea, and he explained that he has four or five adults working there and they have experience in operating teen centers. He went on to say that participants must pay a cover charge and the parents may come in and sign in their youngster. Once inside, Mr. Huffman said they cannot leave the business and come back in. He said they are currently operating on Friday and Saturday nights. Mayor Holt commented that this type of business may not be spelled out exactly in the zoning ordinance, and it would be a planning issue for the Board of Adjustment to consider. Frank Wood advised the board to let the Planning Board take up the issue at their January meeting. Mayor Holt said they would go on like there were no issues until a decision is rendered. Mr. Hayes asked about the requirement for hours of operation and if that could be handled with the conditional use permit. Frank Wood said that Mr. Huffman should include his hours of operation in the application. Mayor Holt said for Mr. Huffman to come back to the town hall the next day and make the proper application and pay the applicable fees, and let the request run its course through planning.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

RECREATION: Scottie Hayes reported that basketball is getting started, with a good number of kids participating. He said they would play until the end of February. He also said that the recreation raffle is coming up on March 7th and that tickets are available for \$50.00. Commissioner Anderson said that includes a meal for two people. She said the recreation teams were able to practice over the holiday break, thanks to the school principal. Mr. Hayes said that Johnston County approved for the town's expenditure for park fencing repairs to be included for grant reimbursement from the county. He said he would submit for reimbursement as soon as he finishes additional fencing at the park.

POLICE: Commissioner Garner. Things went well during the holiday season. School is back in session now, along with all the congestion that brings. Still waiting on state contract to order new police car. He said the department operates with part-time officers, although they had utilized auxiliary officers in the past. He said they want to do away with auxiliary officers and use part-time help only. The mayor said that should be up to the chief to make that decision and if he did not want to use auxiliary officers, then he should just tell any future applicants for auxiliary status that no such positions are available.

STREETS: Commissioner Baker. Gave a big thank you to the public works men who came out and worked on Christmas Eve to pick up household garbage. Spoke to the school principal and he also wanted to thank the town and the men for helping the school with the banners for their 100th anniversary. Commissioner Anderson questioned if anything could be done to ease the drainage problems at the houses on US HWY 70-A, in front of the park. Commissioner Garner said the problem was not inside the city limits and Mayor Holt said it would be an involved project to work on that drainage issue.

WATER/SEWER: Mayor Holt reported on behalf of Commissioner Pittman. He said that the NC General Assembly approved the funding for the drainage project on West Main Street and that he already has the engineered drawings from the NCDOT. He said that he sent letters of appreciation to Representatives Leo Daughtry and JH Langston. He said the men have worked to repair a couple of water lines and that the frigid temperatures have caused some lines to freeze up and break.

FINANCE: The clerk reported that over 130 delinquent accounts were sent in to the Debt Setoff Program, and that when tax refund season gets underway, perhaps the town will receive additional funds. Mayor Holt commented that some money had already come in as a result of the initial contact letters.

JC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

Mayor Holt stated that Randy Jones, who resides on Dogwood Lane, has applied for re-appointment with the county as Pine Level's representative on the JC Economic Development Advisory Board. The mayor questioned the board's wishes concerning Mr. Jones and the board voted unanimously to recommend to the county that Mr. Jones be re-appointed to the advisory board. Mayor Holt said he would talk with Mr. Jones and ask him to come to the board meeting sometime and to give a report on the advisory board's activities.

MOTION: Anderson

SECOND: Baker

VOTE: unanimous

ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE

Commissioner Baker announced that he attended a public meeting on January 7th, concerning the proposed natural gas pipeline from West Virginia to southeastern North Carolina. He said the pipeline will come through Johnston County, and the closest it will be located to Pine Level is somewhere near the Crocker Cemetery on the west side of town. The tap fee on the pipeline will be one million dollars. Mayor Holt questioned if it would affect the town's sewer main on that side of town. Commissioner Baker said it would be buried seven feet deep. The mayor commented that natural gas would be beneficial to industrial growth. According to information distributed at the public meeting, the "pipeline construction could result in as much as \$2.7 billion in new economic impact throughout the region, support 17,240 jobs, help stabilize both home heating and electricity prices, promote more economic development, improve air quality, and generate significant state and local tax revenue," with every county along the pipeline benefiting from it.

SUPPORT CHANGING SCHOOL MASCOT BACK TO "GREEN HORNETS"

Commissioner Baker also addressed the idea of changing the name of the local school mascot from Bobcats, back to the original Green Hornet name. He said he was not originally from Pine Level, but he remembered the school mascot being the Green Hornet. He said there was community pride associated with that name, and since the local elementary school is to change from Micro-Pine Level to simply Pine Level Elementary, it would be a good opportunity to reclaim that name for the school mascot. Mayor Holt said Commissioner Baker spoke with the school principal, Alan Sasser, and school officials about the idea, and they felt it was a good idea, that would best be promoted if the Town of Pine Level took action to support the idea. Commissioner Baker then read a resolution that he drew up in support of the idea of changing the mascot name for the local elementary school back to the Green Hornets. The board voted unanimously in support of the idea by adopting the resolution as proposed by Commissioner Baker. A copy of the resolution is included with and hereby made a part of these minutes by reference.

MOTION: Baker

SECOND: Anderson

VOTE: unanimous

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, at 7:55 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

MOTION: Anderson

SECOND: Baker

VOTE: unanimous

TOWN CLERK

MAYOR