

TOWN OF PINE LEVEL
MINUTES OF REGULAR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2009
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jeff Holt called a regular meeting of the Pine Level Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 12, 2009 at the Pine Level Town Hall.

ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONER KAREN ANDERSON
 COMMISSIONER JIMMY GARNER
 COMMISSIONER ANTHONY GUDAC
 COMMISSIONER PHIL PITTMAN
 MAYOR JEFF HOLT

STAFF PRESENT

Town Attorney Frank Wood, Police Chief Keith Sparks, Public Works Supt. Ray Stuckey, Consultant Dan Simmons, Town Clerk Sharon Thompson, Planning Board Chairman Randy Holloman

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Holt gave the invocation and Commissioner Pittman led the Pledge of Allegiance. The mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that a period for public comment on non-agenda items would be upcoming.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ADDITIONS:

DELETIONS:

- 10. C. Railroad licensing agreement (JH)
- 10. D. Rescue service for Pine Level (JG)
- 10. E. 2010 Census (PP)

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA: Gudac
SECOND: Garner
VOTE: unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 12-09-08

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES: Pittman
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sal Navarro asked about garbage and recycling pickup, and if the town ordinance says anything about securing garbage so it will not blow around in the wind. He said the town workers should not have to run all over the place to pick up recyclable materials and garbage. Mr. Navarro said that some places he has lived have required customers to tie up garbage so it will not get blown around. Commissioner Garner felt the matter could best be handled by putting a notice on the water bills to ask people to secure their garbage and recyclables so they won't get blown around in the wind.

Terry Rains asked about the post office issue and whether or not any progress has been made on that matter. Mayor Holt answered no; Commissioner Gudac said Pine Level would be lucky to maintain its own post office. The mayor said they could find no help from anyone at the post office.

Randy Holloman, Chairman of the Pine Level Planning Board, asked about plans that the town has for a new town hall. Mayor Holt said the plans were really no further along and it would be some time before any news come from the USDA on whether or not the project has been approved. He indicated that a new building is still on the town's wish list, but it would probably be no closer than eighteen months off. Dan Simmons said it was not a fast process and they were still working on some aspects of the application.

Mr. Holloman asked about a site for the town hall: Mayor Holt said they were still planning on the same site. Mr. Simmons said the application did not include funding for purchase of more property. The mayor said they would be prepared to take action if and when funding is approved. He said the cost of a new water tank has taken a big drop in recent months, so they would just have to wait and see what happens.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH CURFEW

At 7:16 p.m. the mayor opened a public hearing on a proposed Ordinance to Establish a Curfew in Pine Level, said hearing having been advertised on December 31st in *The Kenly News*. He said the attorney reviewed the ordinance and found it to be ready for approval. He said the purpose was not to prohibit local people from walking to or from the store or church or something like that, but to handle the criminal element that takes to the street under cover of darkness, and to give the police department a tool to deal with people without harassing them unnecessarily. Chief Sparks said the police would do nothing on the first offense, but maybe take the kids home and make the parents aware of what is going on. Janet Kleinert asked about 17-18 year old people out playing basketball at 2:00 a.m. and disturbing the peace. Chief Sparks said they could be treated as adults, and for her to call the police department if that should occur. The board then voted unanimously to close the hearing.

MOTION TO CLOSE HEARING: Garner
SECOND: Gudac
VOTE: unanimous

The mayor asked if the board wished to proceed with adopting the ordinance. It was unanimously adopted, becoming effective upon adoption. A copy of the ordinance is included with and hereby made a part of these minutes by reference.

MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE: Gudac
SECOND: Pittman
VOTE: unanimous

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Mayor Holt asked Randy Holloman if he had anything to report from the Planning Board, and who were the officers elected for the coming year. Mr. Holloman said the officers stayed the same, he was still the chairman, Bob Harvey the vice-chairman and Janet Kleinert the secretary. He said once again that this was his last year as chairman. He also noted that there are vacant positions on the committee.

Scottie Hayes reported that the seniors group would meet this Wednesday, January 14th.

The fire department reported that they would meet Wednesday with the seniors. Gary Harper said they were working to see that everyone in the fire district posts their 911 address visibly, to improve emergency response. Mayor Holt said that might be a good project for the planning board to take on, or the zoning administrator, or maybe even make that a scout project. Commissioner Gudac said everybody should be on the lookout for missing numbers. The mayor asked about the date for firemen's day, Gary Harper said they were trying to nail that down. Mayor Holt said the winery is planning their annual celebration on May 16th, and they should keep that date in mind.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

STREETS: Commissioner Garner. Everything going well; a lot of trash to get up after the holidays. Decorations have been taken down; everybody is getting the job done.

RECREATION: Commissioner Anderson. Offered following appointees to the Pine Level Recreation Committee: Ray Stuckey, Amy Morris, Jason Hall, Wayne Massengill and Paul Bailey. All were approved unanimously.

MOTION: Anderson
SECOND: Gudac
VOTE: unanimous

Reported that the town must get going on the recreation bond project by March. Mayor Holt said they would spend the grant money as far as it would go toward lighting, fencing, etc, for the new fields. Commissioner Anderson said they could get a lighting proposal from Progress Energy, since they will put up field lights and then lease them to you. She said they were ready to mark off the fields for the spring and they just need an okay to move forward.

Large field across the street getting really hard and compacted. Field is like concrete and several kids have broken bones trying to slide in at home plate. She said one company tills up the ground and puts in a new mixture of sand and soil that does not get as hard, plus they were looking at irrigation for the field.

Scottie Hayes said 14 teams were participating in winter sports, plus one cheering squad. Spring sports signup is to get underway next week, signup sheets should be ready for distribution. Mayor Holt asked if any of the teams travel. Mr. Hayes answered that they all travel. He also said the Reverse Raffle would be held on February 28th.

WATER/SEWER: Commissioner Gudac. Everything okay; projects include new waterline to Custom Assemblies and new water tank.

POLICE: Commissioner Pittman; Chief Sparks. Report on police car repairs from chief.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Town clerk reported that budget amendments through December 31st were in the board members' packets. Mayor mentioned that clerk had placed a pamphlet on his desk for a large outdoor artificial Christmas tree. He said some people had mentioned a tree lighting ceremony for Christmas and a musical program. He felt that the board should go ahead and consider this proposal early, and perhaps pick a date and/or appoint a committee. He encouraged them to think about a town tree, and whether it should be downtown or maybe at the park.

PROPOSAL ON REVENUE ENHANCEMENT CONSULTING

Mayor Holt reported once more on the proposal to have Robert Segal, CPA come in and do consulting work on the town's revenue sources such as the franchise tax, to see if the town is getting all of its revenues or if it is losing money. He said it was no cost to the town if no revenues are found. This firm has done work for Johnston County, Goldsboro, Smithfield, etc and they have a success rate of about 80%. He asked the board how they felt about the proposal and whether or not to participate. He said he could invite Mr. Segal to come and explain the proposal more in depth. The board unanimously approved to go ahead and participate in the program.

MOTION TO PARTICIPATE: Anderson
SECOND: Gudac
VOTE: unanimous

APPOINTMENT TO JC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The board then considered applications to the Johnston County Economic Development Commission, one being from Randy Jones who lives in LaBelle Acres and the other, from Walter R. Starling, Jr. of 677 WC Braswell Road, Selma, NC. Mayor Holt felt that either candidate would serve the town well, but the county commissioners asked the town to make a recommendation to them as to whom the town would prefer on the committee. The board unanimously recommended that Randy Jones be appointed to represent Pine Level.

MOTION TO RECOMMEND: Gudac
SECOND: Garner
VOTE: unanimous

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE BIG READ

Next, upon recommendation of the Johnston County Arts Council, the board voted unanimously to approve a resolution declaring the month of February as The Big Read in Pine Level, encouraging all residents to participate in The Big Read – Johnston County.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Gudac
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: unanimous

RAILROAD LICENSING AGREEMENT

Mayor Holt announced that the board had to approve a licensing agreement with Norfolk Southern and North Carolina Railroad in order to construct a new waterline on the railroad right of way. Dan Simmons said North Carolina Railroad would charge \$7038 and Norfolk Southern, a one-time fee of \$200. Mr. Simmons said this amount could come out of the town's grant money. The board voted unanimously to approve the agreement:

MOTION: Gudac
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: unanimous

RESCUE SERVICE IN PINE LEVEL

The board then considered the possibility of emergency service in Pine Level. Commissioner Garner said Pine Level was one of two towns without rescue service and that Pine Level citizens pay county taxes just like everybody else and they deserve emergency medical services. Mayor Holt asked if the fire department should be contacted first, but Commissioner Garner said they could get on-board later. He said the county funds such units everywhere else in the county and that a station needs to be placed in Pine Level. He said that only Pine Level and Wilson's Mills do not have emergency services. The board voted unanimously to forward the request to the county commissioners.

MOTION: Garner
SECOND: Pittman
VOTE: unanimous

CENSUS 2010

Commissioner Pittman said he had a census taker to come by his residence, asking why he did not return his census information. He said he had not received a census questionnaire. The census representative then called him back and said his Selma mailing address would make him be counted in Selma. He said Pine Level was going to lose revenues if all of the Selma mailing addresses are going to be added to Selma's census count. Commissioner Gudac said that he heard Pine Level might even lose its post office and the mail would be delivered from Selma. The clerk asked about not allowing Selma post office to deliver in Pine Level. Mayor Holt said they would put the post office issue back on the agenda and he would see to it that someone from the post office comes to next month's meeting to talk about it with the board.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mayor Holt said that Hinnant Family Vineyards would be having their local celebration called "Local Yokels" on May 16th. He said they would have bands, vendors, etc. He also read thank you notes from Nicholas Wall, Sarah Anderson, Commissioner Pittman and Mrs. Frances Oliver.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, at 8:00 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

MOTION: Gudac
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: unanimous

Sharon Thompson
TOWN CLERK

Jeff Holt
MAYOR