



TOWN OF PINE LEVEL
MINUTES OF REGULAR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2017
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 Thursday, January 12, 2017 at the Pine Level Town Hall.

ROLL CALL

 COMMISSIONER KAREN ANDERSON
 X COMMISSIONER GREG BAKER
 X COMMISSIONER JIMMY GARNER
 X COMMISSIONER PHIL PITTMAN
 X MAYOR JEFF HOLT

Mayor Holt explained that Commissioner Anderson contacted him and said that her brother, David, was taken to the hospital and she would be with him. He said they would certainly want to keep David, a former commissioner himself, in their prayers.

STAFF PRESENT

Town Attorney Will Barham, Consultant Dan Simmons, Public Works Supt. Ray Stuckey, Police Chief Keith Sparks, Recreation Coordinator Scottie Hayes, and Town Clerk Sharon Thompson

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Holt asked Commissioner Baker to give the invocation and the mayor then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, he welcomed everyone to the meeting.

AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE: Pittman
SECOND: Garner
VOTE: unanimous

MINUTES: 12-08-16

MOTION TO APPROVE: Garner
SECOND: Baker
VOTE: unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

Terry Rains asked about the change in meeting nights, and how could the board get the message out to citizens. The possibilities included to put it on the website, in the newspaper, on sign boards, on water bills, and post it at the town hall.

Mrs. Hilda Moore, who lives in Clearview Estates Subdivision, explained that she contacted the police department recently when she heard gunshots near her home. Chief Sparks said there were shots on a couple of nights, but he thought the ones Mrs. Moore heard might have been out of the city limits. Mayor Holt asked if you call 9-1-1, do you give a contact name, and he said that it would be good if the officer could give a callback to let the person that made the call know what was going on. Chief Sparks said they generally don't call back when the call comes in so late at night, but he would be sure to talk with his officers about responding. The board assured Mrs. Moore that they appreciated her input and they said she, or any citizen, is welcome to attend at any time.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

The Pine Level Seniors Group met Wednesday, January 11th. They said the group was smaller this month due to the icy weather. Terry Rains said the Planning Board would elect officers next meeting and that Randy Holloman has said that he will not serve as chairman again.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

RECREATION: Scottie Hayes. Basketball getting underway. Reverse Raffle coming up in March.

STREETS: Commissioner Baker. Waiting on weather to break so the paving and patching can be done.

POLICE: Commissioner Garner. There were a few incidents over the holidays with theft, but the police recovered the four-wheelers in five days. Chief Sparks said they were turned down for the grant for radios from State Farm. Mayor Holt asked if they were ok for radios, with the ones from Johnston County. The chief said they were okay but since they are old, you cannot get parts for them. Commissioner Garner said they could look at that for the new fiscal year.

WATER/SEWER: Commissioner Pittman. Commended men for hard work in recent bad weather.

FIRE DEPT: Paul Allen reported that the fire department has been working on their budget and they would like to go over it with the board. Mayor Holt said he would be glad to meet with them.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Ray Stuckey reported that Utility Service would be washing down the water tank interior at the end of the month, but they should be done in one day. He said they need to clean the tank exterior as well.

Town Attorney Will Barham said the town obtained two parcels of property from James Alton and Faye Starling, and the minutes should reflect that the town has accepted the property and the deeds have been created and properly recorded. He also reported that the town and related parties have been cleared with the earlier accident case involving one of the police officers. He said the case was settled out of court.

Mayor Holt said there were two properties given, one at Starfield for a well site, and one at the corner of US Hwy 70A and Peedin Avenue. He thought that two civic groups in town might give money for flagpoles at the US70A corner lot. He said the town would soon haul in some topsoil there, and the state plans to extend the curbing around that corner, so the wooden fence can be removed. He said the new sign was wired so that electricity would be available in the future for a Christmas tree.

Dan Simmons reported that they submitted a report to USDA, Rural Development for the town's water/sewer improvements. He said they also received the environmental report from the state and there was only one issue involving the soil being tested for a leaking tank. Mayor Holt said the project was a major undertaking and would not be quickly accomplished. He then asked Mr. Simmons about his father's health. Mr. Simmons said he was up and down, and depressed over his condition. The mayor said they would keep him in their prayers.

2015-2016 FISCAL YEAR AUDIT

Mayor Holt then presented Andrew Harris, CPA, who took the place of Keith Peedin, who did the town's audits for many years. He said Mr. Harris is from Farmville, NC and the mayor asked him to introduce himself to the board. Mr. Harris said he went to school at East Carolina University and that he had been involved with governmental auditing for seventeen years of his twenty years in business. He said he would just like to go over the highlights with the board and that he would gladly return and discuss the audit more in depth if the board should desire that at a later date. He quickly went through several pages of his report, ending with the tax collection rate of 99.88%, which he said was excellent. He said the town had a good report. Mayor Holt asked him why the report had "Draft" on it, and Mr. Harris explained that there were a couple of changes he had to make in the report and he hoped to have it finished Friday. The board thanked him for his work and approved the report subject to final acceptance by the LGC.

MOTION: Pittman

SECOND: Garner

VOTE: unanimous

STREET LIGHT REQUEST

Commissioner Baker said he went to review the area where Mrs. Sue Pate had requested a street light, but he was not in the right area. Chief Sparks said the area at 307/309 East Pine Street is rather dark, but he thought that some trees there could be trimmed and the light would be brighter. Commissioner Pittman agreed to go with Chief Sparks the next day and check out the area to see if a light is needed or just a trimming of the trees.

REZONING REQUEST

The board then considered a rezoning request filed by Greg Thomas, to rezone property on West Blanche Street from RS to RA. The board agreed unanimously to call for a public hearing on the request at their next regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 13, 2017.

MOTION: Pittman

SECOND: Garner

VOTE: unanimous

MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner Pittman said he ran into a group from the PL Baptist Church in Wilson earlier today and that Berry Oliver expressed concern to him about the drainage along the railroad track in Pine Level and whether or not the railroad is going to correct the problem. He explained to Mr. Oliver that the railroad is supposed to work on the issue, as soon as possible.

Commissioner Garner proposed that Pine Level initiate a program like the state's Adopt a Highway Program, and they could call it Adopt a Street and deal with the town streets. He encouraged the board members to think about the possibility, as he thought it would be a good idea.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

The board unanimously approved the re-appointment of Ray Stuckey to a three-year term on the Pine Level Recreation Committee.

MOTION TO APPOINT: Garner

SECOND: Pittman

VOTE: unanimous

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

MOTION: Garner

SECOND: Pittman

VOTE: unanimous

TOWN CLERK

MAYOR