



TOWN OF PINE LEVEL
MINUTES OF REGULAR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
APRIL 8, 2019
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, April 8, 2019 at the Pine Level Town Hall.

ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONER KAREN ANDERSON-MILLER
 COMMISSIONER GREG BAKER (out with surgery)
 COMMISSIONER JIMMY GARNER
 COMMISSIONER PHIL PITTMAN
 MAYOR JEFF HOLT

STAFF PRESENT

Town Attorney Will Barham, Consultant Dan Simmons, Public Works Supt. Ray Stuckey, Police Chief Ashley Woodard, Parks & Rec Coordinator Scottie Hayes, and Town Clerk Sharon Thompson

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Holt gave the invocation and then asked Terry Rains to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

ADDITIONS: Closed session (JH)

MOTION TO ADOPT: Garner
SECOND: Pittman
VOTE: unanimous

MINUTES: 03-04-19

MOTION TO APPROVE: Pittman
SECOND: Garner
VOTE: unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Holt asked if anyone wished to address a non-agenda item. Mr. Dennis Upton, who resides at 18 Terry's Way, spoke about trash in people's yards, and people leaving their garbage carts out all the time. He said the situation gets worse every year and nothing is done about it. He just wanted to see people take care of their stuff. He even volunteered to do code enforcement for the town, for free, if he had support behind him. Mayor Holt said there are ordinances in place to address these issues, but the town has not been pro-active in handling such. He said homeowners' associations would probably help in future subdivisions. The mayor said the police chief is up on this matter, and he and Scottie Hayes could follow up on the problem of trash in the yard and on the porch. Commissioner Pittman said that in some places you are required to pull your garbage cart back in within 24 hours. Mayor Holt said he paid extra at the coast for the town to pull his cart back in, because he was not there on the day of garbage pickup. Commissioner Pittman said Pine Level might have to consider some type of regulation or penalty.

Jon and Valerie Thompson, of 217 Oliver Street, were next to address the board. Jon informed the board that they have drainage problems at their home on Oliver Street, and it seems to be getting worse all the time. He said he has pictures as far back as 2015. Mayor Holt said they were familiar with the area and they are trying to get a water/sewer project off the ground and he hoped that would not make matters worse. He said there must be some way the town can trace the drainage routes and see if there is some problem downline from Oliver Street. Ray Stuckey said most of the storm drainage goes toward the park, and it does drain slowly, and is probably old aged. Valerie Thompson also mentioned the traffic on Oliver Street and how the vehicles speed through the area and it is dangerous for all the children in the area. She said she got an application for speed bumps but she did not know all of the property owners for the rental property. Dan Simmons said they could look that up on Johnston County GIS. The mayor said the town does not have enough police officers to have them stay in the area, but they could look into that as well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Terry Rains reported that the Planning Board did not address any issues in particular in March. Commissioner Pittman said the Seniors Group will meet this Wednesday, and the town will feed the group in the month of August. Mayor Holt said the "No Parking Signs" at the parking lot beside the American Legion are temporary, according to Tim Overbee, and they were put there for the construction work going on for the new post office. He said the seniors could continue to park in the lot Wednesday, if there were no construction trucks there already.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

STREETS: In Commissioner Baker's absence, Ray Stuckey reported that paving/resurfacing has been completed, although he had quotes on two other streets that could be added.

RECREATION: Commissioner Anderson-Miller said they had just held a tournament at the park. Scottie Hayes said there was another tournament coming up, as well as the circus on May 1-2. He also said that Deacon Jones Auto had donated \$500 for recreation, and they would pay \$25 each for up to twenty, for anyone who would take a test drive of an auto. Commissioner Anderson-Miller said the original park sign needs repair because it looks really bad. She also said the sponsor signs are looking faded too. Scottie Hayes said he had plans for taking care of those items. Town Attorney Will Barham said he has prepared a form for the town's use with contracts at the park, and that he is concerned with looking out for the town's liability. Commissioner Anderson-Miller said there needs to be some type of advertising done for the circus to be held at the park. Commissioner Garner said the town should not have to pay for extra part time police to cover the circus; Commissioner Anderson-Miller said that was addressed in the contract for park use. Mr. Barham asked for a copy of that information.

WATER/SEWER: Dan Simmons reported on progress with the water/sewer project. Commissioner Garner asked about that, since he said water lines are continuing to break all over town. A question came up about the county sewer treatment plant and their plans to install an equalization tank. Mayor Holt said the county was going to upsize the sewer transmission line and that should cover the town's plans for increased flow.

Mr. Simmons also said the application was completed for the purchase of a garbage truck, and the town could enter into a contract to replace it. Mr. Stuckey said that needs to go forward, since it will take a long time to place an order and receive a new truck.

POLICE: Commissioner Garner said one of the police cars, the 2009 Chevrolet, is out of commission and it has 187,000 miles on it. Chief Woodard reported that he was working on pricing for a new car, and it would be better to go with local financing when a purchase is made. Commissioner Garner said the second police car has troubles with idling. Mayor Holt said the town might

be better off to pay off the current annual car payments, and then to purchase more vehicles. Commissioner Garner said the new police chief has hit the ground running, and is in the process of meeting with the school and businesses in town. He thought he was doing a good job already. Chief Woodard said they also participated in a joint active shooter training session on Saturday. Mayor Holt said the kindergartners from the elementary school would be visiting the town hall this Friday.

FIRE DEPT: Greg Johnson reported that the fire department has been working with local churches on fire safety, and the department also participated in the active shooter training. He said Firemen's Day is coming up on May 11, and they will have open house, vendors and food trucks.

FINANCE: Mayor Holt mentioned the budget amendments included in the agenda packets. The board voted unanimously to approve the amendments as presented.

MOTION: Garner
SECOND: Pittman
VOTE: unanimous

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Ray Stuckey reported that the other garbage truck is in the shop now.

Town Attorney Will Barham asked about the on-line payment system and how it is working. The town clerk replied that it seems to be working well, and that customers are using it for bill payment.

NEW BUSINESS

The mayor stated that he will be working with the clerk in the next thirty days and looking at the budget. He said the things to consider will include a new garbage truck, new police cars, and the water/sewer project. He said there would probably not be payments due yet on that project, as far as the 2019-2020 budget is concerned. Another issue will be tax re-evaluations from the county, which currently leave the tax base up in the air. He also mentioned that the county will be increasing bulk water and sewer treatment prices.

He then mentioned the town's property at the corner of US 70-A and Peedin Avenue. He said that people have been sticking out advertisement signs on the corner, and he asked the attorney if it was okay to remove the signs. Mr. Barham said he would check on that matter.

Terry Rains asked about the claim that construction had to be curtailed in Pine Level, due to the county sewer plans. Mayor Holt said no, that was not an issue, and the county was in the process of upgrading the transmission line from Pine Level.

CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11, sections (5) and (6), at 7:55 p.m. the board entered closed session to consider personnel matters. The town attorney, police chief, town clerk and board members were all in attendance.

MOTION: Garner
SECOND: Pittman
VOTE: unanimous

After a brief discussion, the board ended the closed session and regular session resumed. The board then voted unanimously to adjust the starting salary for a new police officer to \$32,500, which is in line with like salaries in the neighboring towns of Kenly, Princeton and Four Oaks.

MOTION: Garner
SECOND: Anderson-Miller
VOTE: unanimous

MEETING ADJOURNED

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

TOWN CLERK

MAYOR