

TOWN OF PINE LEVEL
MINUTES OF REGULAR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MAY 9, 2011
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. at "Eagle Park," the town's new recreational facility in Pine South Subdivision.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Holt gave the invocation. Eagle Scout Zack Wood then led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and the scouts of Troop 63 in reciting the Scout Pledge.

PARK DEDICATION

The mayor recognized Pine Level's Scout Master, Woody Wood. Mr. Wood said the scouts had put a lot of time and work into the recreation area, led by his son, Zack Wood, who developed the idea for one of his Eagle projects. He thanked everyone who came out and worked on the park project. He also thanked the project sponsors, the Town of Pine Level; Sandy Lee, who donated the Leyland cypress trees that are planted around the perimeter of the park; and Ashley Spain, who donated the two large oak shade trees for the park area. Mr. Wood then had Zack to come up and unveil the new sign, denoting the area as "Eagle Park." Mayor Holt next read a proclamation from the town, naming the park "Eagle Park," and dedicating it to the town's parks and recreation system. A copy of the proclamation is included with and hereby made a part of these minutes by reference.

MEETING RECESSED

At 7:10 p.m., the meeting was recessed, to be reconvened at the Pine Level Town Hall.

MOTION TO RECESS: Pittman

SECOND: Gudac

VOTE: unanimous

ROLL CALL

Upon reconvening at the town hall at 7:25 p.m., the mayor announced that the board had just attended the dedication ceremony for "Eagle Park," and he asked the clerk to call the roll.

 X COMMISSIONER KAREN ANDERSON

 X COMMISSIONER JIMMY GARNER

 X COMMISSIONER ANTHONY GUDAC

 X COMMISSIONER PHIL PITTMAN

 X MAYOR JEFF HOLT

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE: Gudac

SECOND: Anderson

VOTE: unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 04-11-11

MOTION TO APPROVE: Anderson

SECOND: Pittman

VOTE: unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Holt welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if anyone wished to comment on non-agenda items. Kester Kornegay asked if the town needed all the office help they now have. Mayor Holt said the workload has not changed, even though there may not be as much zoning going on. He said the town does not have contractual employees. Mr. Kornegay said he would like to hear from more of the board members. Commissioner Garner said the office staff still does the same amount of work and the town is not budget strapped where they need to cut employees. He said fuel prices are hitting hard, however. Commissioner Pittman said they could continue to monitor the situation. Mayor Holt said he could only imagine the state's or school board's woes over fuel prices, but the same could be said for the public works department, maybe they could operate with fewer employees. Commissioner Garner said they could look at other options before getting rid of employees, such as four 10-hour days.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

The planning board has not met recently. The Seniors Group has a trip planned to the Outer Banks. They went to Cary last month and most recently went to tour the rose gardens in Wilson, NC and eat lunch at Parker's Barbeque.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

STREETS: Commissioner Garner. Things are going well. Encouraged citizens to increase recycling, since town is now carrying recyclables to a company in Goldsboro that will reimburse the town for them. Equipment holding up at the moment. Commissioner Pittman asked if the company accepts additional items for recycling. Commissioner Garner said he could find out about that. Mayor Holt asked who is handling grass complaints in town, Commissioner Garner said the police department has been addressing those, as well as keeping an eye out for street lights that are malfunctioning.

RECREATION: Commissioner Anderson. Spring sports underway. Planning for July Fourth celebration. Commissioner Pittman asked about increasing participation fees next year. Commissioner Garner asked about in-town versus out-of-town participants. Commissioner Anderson said she already gave that information to the mayor and that she was against going up on fees for recreation programs for out-of-town kids. She wants the children to be able to play, whatever the cost. Commissioner Garner commented that it costs more to the taxpayers. Mayor Holt said one good thing was renting the fields out this year for tournaments. That brought in a little more revenue than in prior years. Commissioner Anderson added that the field sponsor signs would help too. Commissioner Garner said the tournaments brought more people to town and made more customers for other businesses in town.

WATER/SEWER: Commissioner Gudac. Located more infiltration problems in the wastewater system. Encouraged citizens to keep their eyes open around town and to report questionable things such as manhole covers that are askew.

POLICE: Commissioner Pittman. Talked with chief about budget, concerned over gas prices. Need to turn off vehicles when parked. No major problems with cars.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Town Attorney Frank Wood said he had nothing to report, that it was a quiet month. Mayor Holt asked about the town hall project, Dan Simmons said it was on schedule and on budget, for an August completion date. The mayor said the new town hall was going to be very nice.

WATER SYSTEM REPAIRS

Dan Simmons and Gene Cobb then reported to the board on a proposal to replace the multi-port valve on the filter box at the water plant. He first reported on the testing done to the filter tank. He said the walls are thin above the sand line and it would need to be replaced in the near future, but it is functioning correctly for right now. He said the filter media is actually working as intended and it has grown over the years. They recommended leaving the filter media alone at this time, but to plan for replacement in the next five years. Mayor Holt asked what kind

of time frame were they looking at should there be a catastrophic failure of the filter. Mr. Simmons thought it would probably take 2.5 to 3 months to have the repairs made. Commissioner Garner asked if you could take out some of the media to give more space in the tank for backwashing purposes. Gene Cobb said you could probably do that, with some effort, but it would not really help the situation. Commissioner Garner asked if that was causing the problem with the town's water but Mr. Simmons said no, it was not the problem.

He went on to explain that the multi-port valve is leaking about 10 gallons a minute and that when you backwash the system and switch back and forth, it is letting the black manganese filled water slip through the valve and into the water distribution system. He said it seemed to be worse within days of backwashing at the water plant. He reported that only one company sells the valve that is needed for replacement, and it would probably take about 30 days to replace the piping and valve.

Mr. Simmons distributed copies of four alternative plans for replacing the valve. He said that replacing everything, to include the filter, valve, tank, etc., would cost \$188,610. He explained that there is still \$4,144 left from the water tank project and that it could be applied to purchasing new equipment at the water plant, but the town needs to make the purchase and not a contractor. The proposals for purchasing a valve included the following:

- (1) 6" multi-port valve, un-lined, suitable for 125 psig maximum pressure and 110 degree maximum temperature, valve is complete and manually operated, paint is standard shop paint. Unit price: \$15,600 FOB Bridgewater, NJ.
- (2) 6" multi-port valve, un-lined, suitable for 125 psig maximum pressure and 110 degree maximum temperature, valve is complete but with the motor, motor mounting-accessories, terminal box and encoder, paint is standard shop paint. Unit price: \$17,582 FOB Bridgewater, NJ.
- (3) Control panel NEMA 12 wall mount enclosure 24"Hx24"Wx12"D to house A-B MicroLogix 1100 programmable controller with integral display, start/stop push button and indicator, relay, terminals and accessories to complete the assembly. Unit price: \$10,081.

The different estimates (provided by RD Braswell) for replacing the valve were as follows:

- (1) Manual multi-port valve and new piping /shut off valves, \$45,000
- (2) Motorized multi-port valve with new piping/shut-off valves and start/stop bottom controller, \$57,663
- (3) Motorized multi-port valve with new piping/shut-off valves and programmable controller, \$67,255
- (4) Replace filter unit with #3 valve & controller, \$188,610

Commissioner Garner felt that the labor costs were out of line. Commissioner Gudac thought the 30-day time period was too long. Mr. Cobb said to remember that the piping had been there for 50 years and you never know what you will encounter. Commissioner Garner asked what percent of the problem with manganese in the water should the new valve eliminate. Mr. Cobb said the valve was the only thing left to change out, but he could not say exactly what it would do for the water. Mr. Simmons agreed that he could not guarantee this would eliminate the problem, but they felt strongly that the leaking valve was causing the town's problems. The mayor said they needed to get specs together on what the town wants to accomplish and get several bids on the project. Commissioner Pittman mentioned that it is peak watering season but Commissioner Gudac pointed out that it would probably be the fall before the parts come in for the repairs to be made. Commissioner Garner asked if there might be funds available for emergency repairs. Mr. Simmons said the state would not look at projects until about November. Commissioner Gudac asked about money from Rural Water, but Mr. Simmons was not familiar with any funding there.

Commissioner Anderson asked what the town's plans were. Sal Navarro asked how long the USDA would allow the money to be used toward new equipment, Mr. Simmons said USDA was already asking about the possibility of spending the remaining funds. Mayor Holt said the town could go ahead and purchase the valve, depending on which one they wanted to purchase. Commissioner Gudac said he did not favor electronic ones because that just gave more opportunity for something to break down. He made a motion to purchase the manual valve from Siemens for \$15,600.

MOTION: Gudac

SECOND: Pittman

VOTE: for-Pittman, Gudac, Garner, Holt
against-Anderson

Mr. Simmons said they would put together a simple set of specs to put out for bids, if the board would give them about 30 days to get the specs together. The bids should be available in about 60 days.

TIME SHARE OFFER

Next, the board considered the offer to the town of ownership of a time-share vacation rental. Mayor Holt said it is for different sites, that it can be upgraded, and used at different times of the year. He asked if the town could own such property and what would the town be allowed to do with it. Frank Wood said he could find nothing to prohibit the town from owning the time-share, but it could be a problem for employees to use it and might be taxable under IRS rules. He said the town could declare it surplus and sell it or use it for the recreation department. Commissioner Garner asked about the liability that would come with someone using the time-share. Mayor Holt said the annual fees probably covered some type of insurance covering the use of the facility. Mr. Wood said they should probably talk with the family that is making the offer and determine their feelings about it. The board agreed for Mr. Wood to contact the family and talk with them about the offer. Mayor Holt said it was a very generous offer on their part and he would get the contact information to Frank Wood.

MOTION: Gudac
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: unanimous

JULY FOURTH FIREWORKS

Mayor Holt pointed out that the town has no one to shoot fireworks for the town on July 4th, although Zambelli Internationale can provide a technician on Friday, July 1st, or Saturday, July 2nd. The mayor said they already contract with everyone that is certified in pyrotechnics, and they have already filled all their slots on the Fourth. He said that Scottie Hayes has been working to line up kids' activities, food vendors, inflatables, at no cost to the town, and they could have the celebration on Saturday, July 2nd, with fireworks, or Monday, July 4th, with no fireworks. Commissioner Gudac asked what would be wrong with Saturday night, Commissioner Anderson said Saturday would be good. She then made a motion to hold the town's annual celebration on Saturday, July 2nd and it passed unanimously.

MOTION: Anderson
SECOND: Gudac
VOTE: unanimous

Mayor Holt said he would hate to not continue with the fireworks, which started in 1976. Commissioner Garner suggested that an employee get certified to shoot the fireworks. Mayor Holt said Scottie Hayes would consider it if the town purchased an electronic firing board, and Keith Sparks said he would too. Commissioner Pittman reiterated that the town would accept all donations for the Fourth.

BUDGET PLANNING

Mayor Holt indicated that the board should set a date in the next couple of weeks to discuss the budget for fiscal year 2011-2012. He suggested May 23rd, but that was not agreeable with all the board members. After going through several dates, the board settled upon Wednesday, May 25th at 6:30 p.m. The mayor said they would get copies of the budget as soon as possible, and they should contact the clerk prior to the May 25th meeting, if they had any questions.

JUNE MEETING DATE

Commissioner Anderson stated that she would not be able to attend the meeting on June 13th and asked about changing the meeting. The board agreed upon Thursday, June 9th at 7:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Pittman said he would like to form a historic preservation committee and collect old pictures of the town and townspeople to display in the new town hall. He said he would be glad to serve on the committee. Mayor Holt said he would be happy to appoint Commissioner Pittman to serve as chairman of the committee, and he could get as many volunteers as he would like to serve with him. He agreed it would be nice to have pictures of old points of interest in town.

Commissioner Pittman also said he would like to see Dick Braswell billed once again for delinquent tap fees/impact fees and have the matter put to an end. He made a motion to that effect and it passed unanimously.

MOTION: Pittman
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: unanimous

MEETING RECESSED

There being no further business, at 8:30 p.m. the meeting was recessed until 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 25th.

MOTION: Pittman
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: unanimous

TOWN CLERK

MAYOR