



**TOWN OF PINE LEVEL**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**  
**MAY 9, 2013**  
**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, May 9, 2013 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, Consultant Dan Simmons, Public Works Supt. Ray Stuckey, Police Chief Keith Sparks, Recreation Coordinator Scottie Hayes, Town Clerk Sharon Thompson

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

ADDITIONS:

10 (C) Employee benefits/insurance (JH)  
12 Closed session on property acquisition (in lieu of mayor's minute) (JH)

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 04-11-13**

*MOTION TO ADOPT:* Pittman  
*SECOND:* Garner  
*VOTE:* unanimous

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

SENIORS GROUP: Met yesterday. Commissioner Pittman said it should soon be time to provide lunch again for the seniors group.

PLANNING BOARD: No activity.

## **REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS**

RECREATION: Commissioner Anderson. Scottie Hayes reported that baseball is underway, with seven teams; tee ball starts this week. Planning for July Fourth also. Mayor mentioned Fourth celebration and asked if it will be held on July fourth, as usual. Everyone agreed it should be on Thursday, July 4. He then mentioned the fireworks display and said it was just too short last year and it needs to be spread out this year. He thought it should be at least twenty minutes in length. Commissioner Anderson said she had information on a proposal to put porta-potties at the recreation park. She said the park's old bathroom building is in a bad state of disrepair and it would be really expensive to correct it. She said that Portable Sanitation out of Wilson's Mills would provide three regular and one handicapped porta-potty for \$295.45 the first month and \$272.55 each month thereafter, and they would be sanitized and cleaned weekly. She said another company offered two porta-potties for \$260.00 a month. Commissioner Garner asked how long the town would have to rent the portable toilets; Scottie Hayes said there would be no requirements on how long the town uses the toilets. Mayor Holt asked where would the toilets be placed and how long would they be needed. Kester Kornegay asked who would be responsible if the toilets are damaged and Commissioner Pittman asked what about if they are turned over by vandals. Commissioner Anderson said they were just a suggestion, unless someone had a better idea of how to provide toilet facilities. Mayor Holt said he would rather have the portable toilets than pay for repairs to the old building. Scottie Hayes said the bathroom facilities at the concession stand are open during game situations. Commissioner Gudac asked if the vendors supply the toilets with paper products. Mayor Holt asked how the board wanted to proceed; Commissioner Anderson said they could at least try them for a couple of months. The mayor said they should get a quote on how much additional toilets would cost, in case they are needed for additional occasions. Commissioner Pittman asked about tournaments, Commissioner Anderson said they would still be responsible for providing two additional toilets for tournament use. Commissioner Anderson then talked about the parking on Crescent Street during ballgames. She felt that it is a dangerous situation, since there are ball fields on both sides of the street and kids are back and forth across the street, with cars parking all along the street and visibility is very poor. The mayor asked about putting "no parking" signs there, or putting out cones, or curbing along the street. Scottie Hayes said they could block off that portion of the street on game nights. Commissioner Anderson said they would try signs to direct people to more parking areas off the street.

STREETS: Commissioner Pittman. Signs have been installed at Eagle Park in Pine South subdivision. Men have been working hard lately on repairing water leaks; streets have been patched. Commented on letter from Mike and Terre Keel, thanking the town and Ray for help with their drainage problem in LaBelle Acres.

POLICE: Commissioner Garner. Still working to slow down crime in town. Warm weather, more kids out on the streets. Commissioner Pittman said school will soon be out and they need to keep an eye on the parking problems at the school.

WATER/SEWER: Commissioner Gudac. Several water leaks all over town lately. Men out several nights working to repair water lines. Talked last month about replacing water lines, but they are not all in one area of town. Ray got together with Gene Cobb and Dan Simmons and reviewed water infrastructure. RDA has low interest money available, but a feasibility study would be required. Dan Simmons said a preliminary engineering report (PER) would probably cost around \$20,000, but that expense could be rolled into the project. He said money was available at 2.75% interest. The mayor asked what would traditional lenders offer, but Mr. Simmons said most banks are simply not interested in lending for long terms and at low rates. Mr. Simmons said there is a lot of AC pipe in town (12,900 feet) and galvanized pipe (14,700 feet) and there is low water pressure on the western side of town. He said a lot of water needs to be mobilized to the western side of town; Commissioner Gudac said town water needs to be delivered over there and not county water. Mr. Simmons said the six inch lines could be replaced with eight inch lines and all the services switched over to the new line, plus hydrants installed at intersections. He estimated about \$600,000 to replace all the faulty pipe. Mayor Holt said they perhaps were getting more information tonight than necessary, and they need to decide on how they could approach this project. Commissioner Garner asked if the low interest money was a certainty, so the study costs could be recouped. Mr. Simmons said Pine Level's bills are too low to qualify for any grant money. Commissioner Pittman asked if the estimates included repaving of streets and Mr. Simmons said yes. Commissioner Gudac suggested that the board members look over the information for another month before they try to arrive at a decision. Mayor Holt said it would have to be done sometime, either all at once or one line at a time.

## **REPORTS FROM STAFF**

Greg Johnson reported that Fireman's Day is coming up on Saturday, May 11th. He said they will serve barbeque pork from lunch until it is all gone, they will hold a raffle starting at 2:00 p.m., and there will be a plant sale. He said the department is closer to getting ready to start with building plans. He also reported that the emergency responders saved a woman's life this past week. Frank Wood said he had nothing to report. Dan Simmons informed the board that the sidewalk on Peedin Avenue has been turned over to the DOT department responsible for building the sidewalk. He indicated it might be installed by the fall.

## **REQUEST FROM HARBOR OF JOHNSTON COUNTY**

The board then received a report from Keri Christensen of Harbor of Johnston County. Harbor provides a "safe haven for women and children" of Johnston County. Mrs. Christensen, who has worked with Harbor for eighteen years, talked about their "New Choices" program as well as their retail store called Pizazz. She related a story of a young wife they helped to get out of an impossible situation and helped to get a job, a car and a new place to live. Mayor Holt said he had taken some items to donate at the Pizazz store and he observed a young woman there with her daughter, looking at the gently used prom dresses on the rack. He informed Mrs. Christensen that the board has helped with Harbor's needs in the past and he said they look forward to helping them again in the future.

## **REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF PARK FEE**

Next, the board heard a request from Mr. Robert Boyatt. He said that he and his 12 year old son sing gospel music and they want to raise money to make a CD. He felt they would need \$1200 to \$1400 to make the recording. He lives in Kenly and his son resides in Princeton. He said they would want to use the stage at the park about all day, and would sell hot dogs, etc., and would hope to get about 250 people out there. He would like to hold their sing on Saturday, June 29th. Scottie Hayes said the rate would be \$25 per hour, with a cap of \$125 for renting a park facility. Commissioner Garner said he hesitated because it was personal use, and other groups rent the facilities for charity causes, like the Reecey Cup tournament, and they have to pay. Commissioner Gudac said other people or groups could still use other areas of the park, while the singing is on-going. Commissioner Gudac volunteered to have the cost underwritten by local sponsors and he said to send the bill for park facility rental to him.

## **EMPLOYEE BENEFITS/INSURANCE**

Mayor Holt commented that the board had talked previously about allowing board members to participate in the town's health insurance coverage, at no cost to the town and with all costs being paid by the board member. He said Mr. Wood advised that it was allowable and that Keith Peedin said it would be no problem, but the budget should reflect the revenues and expenses as miscellaneous. Mr. Wood said the board should have it reflected in the minutes, if they choose to allow the participation in the town's insurance. Commissioner Pittman did not think there should be any expense to the town, and Commissioner Garner questioned if it would affect the town's rates. Mayor Holt felt the premium should be paid by bank draft, and he said it would only be allowable while a person remains on the town board. He questioned the pleasure of the board concerning the proposal, and the board voted unanimously to approve board members' participation in the town's insurance as outlined by the mayor.

*MOTION TO APPROVE:* Anderson

*SECOND:* Pittman

*VOTE:* unanimous

## **2013-2014 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET**

The mayor said the board had arrived at a working budget proposal and would need to hold a public hearing on the budget on June 13th. He explained that the budget would maintain the same tax rate of \$.44 per hundred, but that garbage rates would go up by \$2.00 a month. Commissioner Pittman said that garbage rates had not increased since the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

Mayor Holt said the town had experienced major repairs lately to the garbage truck, but that rates had not increased. He went on to review expenses, such as the town hall payment, water tank payment, fire department contribution, etc. He said the fire department submitted a request this week, asking for \$68,439, whereas they received \$65,000 last year. The mayor said the board could hold a public hearing on the proposed budget at the June meeting and they would make copies available at the hearing. He advised the board members to study it for next month and they could make changes or adopt it after the hearing. Commissioner Gudac said he would like to see the ad valorem tax rate stay at \$.44.

**CLOSED SESSION ON PROPERTY ACQUISITION**

At 8:18 p.m. the board entered closed session, pursuant to NCGS143-318.11(a)(5), to consider the possible acquisition of property. All board members, the town attorney and town clerk were in attendance. The closed session was brief and came to a close at 8:22 p.m. Regular session was then resumed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Holt made note of a “thank you” from Alex Pilkington, who was responsible for construction of the new brick sign at the town’s newest ballfields. The mayor said that Alex did a great job with his Eagle project and the town was more than appreciative. He also suggested that board members and/or department heads point out comparable projects that other scouts could undertake, since there were four new scouts that advanced to life scout recently, and they will be looking for projects to complete.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

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**TOWN CLERK**

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**MAYOR**