



TOWN OF PINE LEVEL
MINUTES OF REGULAR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MAY 13, 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, May 13, 2019 at the Pine Level Town Hall.

ROLL CALL

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

STAFF PRESENT

Town Attorney Will Barham, Consultant Dan Simmons, Public Works Supt. Ray Stuckey, Police Chief Ashley Woodard, and Town Clerk Sharon Thompson

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Holt stated how good it was to have Commissioner Baker back again, since he was out sick last month. The mayor then gave the invocation and asked Terry Rains to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

MOTION TO ADOPT: Anderson-Miller
SECOND: Pittman
VOTE: unanimous

MINUTES: 04-08-19

MOTION TO APPROVE: Pittman
SECOND: Baker
VOTE: unanimous

(Commissioner Garner in at this point – 7:05p.m.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Holt asked if anyone wished to address a non-agenda item. Commissioner Pittman commented that he has received several complaints on people speeding on Blanche Street. He said he was pleased to see the police department making an effort to control that problem. Commissioner Garner said the speed limit trailers were borrowed from the Town of Princeton. Commissioner Baker voiced a complaint over the overgrown yard in his neighborhood and Mayor Holt said that Chief Woodard and Scottie Hayes are working on the problem.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Pittman reported that the Seniors Group met last week and the Baptist Church fed them hot dogs and hamburgers. They also went to Raleigh for the Strawberry Festival at the Farmers Market. He said they had a great turnout for their meeting.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

WATER/SEWER: Commissioner Pittman. Public works has been patching water lines lately. Dan Simmons reported that they have completed the plans for the waterlines in the water/sewer project, and he brought them for Ray Stuckey to review, so they could be submitted to Rural Development next week for their review. Commissioner Garner asked how much money that project would take and how soon it should get underway because waterlines all over town keep busting. Dan Simmons said it was over two million dollars and that 600,000 would be grant money. He said they were waiting on Johnston County to finish their project, but things were moving forward. Mr. Simmons said that RDA must approve the application and it must go to the state as well, for their approval. Then the project would be let out for bids, and then on to the Local Government Commission for their approval. The whole thing should be less than six months.

POLICE: Commissioner Garner. Police department has grants submitted for new body armor, should be at no cost or hardly any cost to the town. Brought on new police officer, a local young man; just waiting on his paperwork to go through. Need to move forward on police cars for the department, before more of them break down and leave the department in a bind. Chief Woodard said the 2009, 2014 and 2016 cars are operational. Commissioner Garner suggested to go ahead and purchase three cars and make more money off of selling the 2014 car now instead of next year. He said the town keeps wasting money on the old equipment. After going back and forth on the purchase, the board considered a motion to go ahead and purchase two cars now, contingent upon the bank working with the town as discussed and the payments would not come due until the 2020 budget. Town Attorney Will Barham asked if they were amending the budget to cover the two cars, but the mayor said no, a payment would not be required upfront. Commissioner Pittman called the question on the motion on the floor, and it passed by unanimous vote. Mayor Holt recommended doing business with Southern Bank, since their proposal was best in the long run. Commissioner Garner said the police department is now checking in at the elementary school daily, and they have plans to meet with local businesses and churches and work with them toward a safer environment in town.

MOTION TO PURCHASE CARS: Baker

SECOND: Anderson-Miller

VOTE: unanimous

RECREATION: Commissioner Anderson Miller. Spring sports season is halfway over. She asked about the status of the paving that is needed at the park. Mayor Holt said they have not approved money for the paving yet, and the quotes have not come back on sealing the parking lot. Commissioner Pittman said he talked with Scottie Hayes and he thought he could paint the parking lines in the parking lot. Dugout on first base side is in need of repair, and the signs look bad, as well.

STREETS: Commissioner Baker. Ray Stuckey said they completed a large part of the paving project, but he got some complaints on a couple of streets that were left out. He said they would cost another \$25,000-26,000 to pave. He said he would meet with Commissioner Baker on that matter. Mayor Holt reported that the town should receive confirmation on the garbage truck loan from USDA this Friday. He said it would take \$200,000 in borrowed money, plus \$30,000 in grant money. The annual payment would run \$15,044 for a twenty year loan. The mayor said the town has some funds in the budget already, toward a truck purchase. To get the grant money, however, the town would have to finance through RDA, for 4.25%. Commissioner Pittman said he requested a \$5.00 raise in garbage fees last budget year, but the board only approved \$2.50, so maybe they could go up another dollar a month on garbage fees and use that for the truck. Mayor Holt asked if a payment would be required in the new budget, but Dan Simmons said the town would get the money when they take possession of the truck. Mayor Holt said the payment should not be required in the new budget. The board then voted on a motion to go ahead and order a garbage truck.

MOTION: Baker
SECOND: Anderson-Miller
VOTE: aye – Pittman, Anderson-Miller, Baker, Holt
no – Garner

Commissioner Garner said he wanted to get into budget talks and know more about what was being proposed for the new budget. Mayor Holt said they could recess the meeting tonight and set another meeting to talk about the budget.

FIRE DEPT: Greg Johnson. Had a good day Firemen's Day; vendors did well and they had good community involvement. Working toward ISO test on June 3. That could help every citizen with insurance rates. Commissioner Pittman said he had questions about Firemen's Day because people did not know when it was; Mr. Johnson said most of the firemen work out of town and they did not advertise the event very much. Commissioner Pittman asked if the insurance companies of the people who have fire calls are billed for fire services. Mr. Johnson said they quit doing that, since it was more trouble than it was worth. The commissioner also said he was asked about the price of painting the new fire truck, but Mr. Johnson said he did not remember the exact amount. Mayor Holt said he had talked with the fire chief, Brannon Barbee, and the department was requesting an additional \$20,000 from the town.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Town Attorney Will Barham looked into the question from last month about signs on the town ROW, and he reported that the town could prohibit all signs on town owned property. He said it is already on the town books and the town could prohibit all signage. He said they might have to look more into it, if they were basing removal of the signs on sign content. He also said he had prepared a response on nuisance abatement. He distributed notes on rezoning and some things the town should consider when looking at rezoning.

REZONING REQUEST FROM TONIA HILL

The board agreed to call for a public hearing on June 10 on a rezoning request from Tonia Hill to rezone property on East Pine Street from RH to C, and to refer the request to the Planning Board for their consideration and recommendation.

OTHER BUSINESS

The mayor recognized a couple who arrived late to the meeting, to see if they wished to address the board. The man identified himself as Kevin Caulder, resident at 420 West Blanche Street. He said they were concerned with the speeding traffic on Blanche Street, but he was glad to hear the board say the police department was working on that matter.

Mayor Holt said that some of the elementary school children will visit the town hall and meet with him on May 23rd. He also mentioned that the police department and public works department have a lot of old equipment they need to declare surplus and dispose of. He suggested having an auction and getting rid of all of it at one time. Attorney Will Barham said they have already given department heads the latitude to dispose of surplus equipment in their departments. Commissioner Garner thought it would be better to sell all of it on Gov.Bid. Mayor Holt said there was an old trencher, mowers, a chipper, police radios, light bars, etc., and they could do either way.

Commissioner Pittman encouraged everyone to remember all those who died while serving their country, this Memorial Day, and he pointed out the photographs on the wall of the conference room of those men from Pine Level.

MEETING RECESSED

There being no further business, the meeting was recessed until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 3rd, to discuss the upcoming budget.

MOTION: Anderson-Miller
SECOND: Baker
VOTE: unanimous

TOWN CLERK

MAYOR