



TOWN OF PINE LEVEL
MINUTES OF REGULAR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MAY 14, 2015
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

After declaring a quorum present, Mayor Jeff Holt called a regular meeting of the Pine Level Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 14, 2015 at the Pine Level Town Hall.

ROLL CALL

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

STAFF PRESENT

Consultant Dan Simmons, Public Works Supt. Ray Stuckey, Town Clerk Sharon Thompson

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Commissioner Greg Baker gave the invocation. Commissioner Phil Pittman then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE: Pittman
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 04-09-15

MOTION TO APPROVE: Anderson
SECOND: Baker
VOTE: unanimous

SPECIAL PRESENTATION TO CONNIE CAPPS

The mayor then asked Connie Capps, Deputy Clerk, to step forward. He recognized Mrs. Capps for reaching her thirty-year anniversary with the town. She started working with the town on May 20, 1985. He said she must have seen many changes take place during those thirty years. He said Mrs. Capps has been an appreciated employee and a valuable asset to the town. He presented a plaque to her plus a gift card from the town. The mayor also thanked her family members who were present, for supporting her work with the town. Mrs. Capps thanked the mayor and commented that Pine Level has been a good town to work for and that it truly is the "best little town in NC."

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Holt then asked if anyone had a comment they wished to make on a non-agenda item. Robert Davis stepped forward and stated that he has recently moved to this area and he is looking for a place that he, his kids, and others, can skateboard. He said they have to travel back and forth to Raleigh to skate with his kids. He asked permission to put his skateboard equipment at the park so everyone could have access to it. Mayor Holt said the town had allowed a mini skate park area at the recreation park in the past and it became a hangout and park vandalism occurred. He said there was also a concern over liability, as well, since the town would ultimately be the responsible party. He said he would talk with the town attorney about the issue. Commissioner Anderson said she would talk with Scottie Hayes to see if there was anywhere available at the park, and she would also want to consult with the attorney. Mayor Holt told Mr. Davis they were not agreeing or disagreeing to the idea at this time, because they needed to consult other people about the possibility.

Mrs. Elaine Littleton then addressed the board. She said that she has an issue with a neighbor up the street running water from his in-ground pool onto her property. She said the water runs into her yard and overflows the ditches and stands in her yard. And she added that now the school buses are turning at her corner and running off the pavement in her yard and adding to the problem. She explained that Bruce Parrish has been pumping the water out every week and she is tired of it causing problems for her. She asked if that side of the street could be tiled. Mayor Holt commented that Mr. Parrish does not use the pool for recreational purposes anymore, and he thought that he was pumping down the water because ground water is seeping into the pool from a hole in the liner. He asked if the water could be directed to Peedin Avenue instead of Blanche Street. Ray Stuckey explained that Mr. Parrish did that one time before, and he heard complaints on that too. Commissioner Pittman said they need to look into the matter and talk with Mr. Parrish, and perhaps the town attorney, to determine what path to pursue. Commissioner Baker said the standing water would cause a mosquito problem also. Mrs. Littleton then informed the board that her son Johnny's oldest daughter recently graduated from Peace College and she was very proud of her. (Johnny was a former policeman with the town, who suffered from diabetes and passed away while employed with the town.)

Mrs. Anne Crawford said she wanted to discuss a few issues with the board. She asked about the house numbering problem she brought up to them previously. She said she did not approve of the house behind hers having the same number as her house. She lives at 404 West Main Street, and John Moore's home is at 404A West Main Street. The clerk explained that the town's numbering was done many years back, according to the Governor's Highway Safety Program, and that numbers along the street changed for every fifty feet of road frontage. Therefore the houses on West Main Street, which are very close in proximity, are already numbered 402, 404, 406, etc. and there is not another number to put on Mr. Moore's residence. Mayor Holt agreed to talk with Barry Gray at the county and see what the possibilities might be. Commissioner Anderson said the county would have to re-number the whole street to make any changes to the numbering. Mrs. Crawford also complained that her neighbor at 402 West Main Street is dumping food scraps into the front ditch and it is causing large rats in the area. She also wanted to know when that ditch is going to be repaired, since she has water standing under her house. She complained that her neighbors are too lazy to get the toys and trash out of the ditch, when the wind blows things around. She said her neighbor also parks the car in the yard next to her and plays the music really loud, and it disturbs her. Commissioner Pittman said she should call the police when the music is so loud, and let them take care of the problem. Mayor Holt thanked Mrs. Crawford for coming to the meeting and he assured her that they did not take her comments lightly and that they would look into every one of them and take action to correct them if at all possible. He directed the various board members to look into the complaints and handle Mrs. Crawford's issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nester McClain reported that the Seniors had a good meeting earlier this week and they continue to have good attendance. He also reported that the Planning Board has not been active lately.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

STREETS: Commissioner Baker. New paving has been completed in town, except for the speed bumps on James Drive. He felt there was a discrepancy on how many speed bumps would be installed on that street. Mayor Holt said that should fall under the discretion of the department head; he advised him to talk with Chief Sparks on how many bumps would be effective.

RECREATION: Commissioner Anderson. Baseball, tee ball underway. Planning for July Fourth celebration underway as well. Fireworks will be on Saturday night. Mayor Holt said the fireworks need to be at least twenty minutes in length this year, and the company that is putting on the show needs to understand that. Commissioner Anderson thanked Ray Stuckey for the work they did to improve the drainage at the park. She said water was not standing anywhere near as bad as before. Ray Stuckey questioned tearing down the old stage at the park. He said the roof is in very good shape and he hated to tear it down. He asked about pouring concrete under the roof and using that area as a stage instead of just tearing it down. Mayor Holt asked if a stage is necessary anyway; he asked if the Lions Club might take that on as a project. The board approved for Mr. Stuckey to talk with the Lions Club and see if they would take on that project.

MOTION: Garner

SECOND: Baker

VOTE: unanimous

POLICE: Commissioner Garner. Reported that new police car will arrive after June, and it will be a 2016 model at the same price as the 2015 cars. He said the police have extra men on duty addressing some problem issues in town, trying to make a difference in crime. They are also looking at purchasing the radios that will be required for the department.

WATER/SEWER: Commissioner Pittman. He said there are major problems in the sewer department due to inflow and infiltration problems in the system. He said that manholes have been re-lined and the men have smoke tested and found a few problems but they cannot seem to locate major problem areas. He talked with Dan Simmons about the issues and there will hopefully be grant money available to work on the issues. He explained a shortfall in the sewer budget and said they need to increase sewer rates by \$.16 per hundred gallons, according to Mr. Simmons, effective in May 2015. He said he hated to have an increase in sewer rates but it was a necessity if the sewer fund is to remain sound. Dan Simmons said the proposed increase would bring in about \$60,000 and it would allow the town to approach the state for grants/loans to make needed repairs to the aging system. He said the town could be ready in September to make an application to the state for a low interest loan and do a study to find the problems in the system. He said the 8 million gallons of sewage in January affected the county pump station and they are looking at improvements to that station, which would then be passed along to the town in the treatment rates. Commissioner Garner said the men have done a good job, but he asked if there are companies that would come in and locate the problems. He said the town cannot continue to lose money on the sewer system. Mayor Holt added that the town's finances would affect whether or not the town could borrow money for future projects. Dan Simmons said every town in the county is having the same problems. Ray Stuckey said every system has the same problems, and that continued operation and maintenance of the system also adds to the expenses. Commissioner Pittman recommended approving the \$.16 per hundred gallons increase in sewer rates as proposed by Dan Simmons, effective with the May billing. The board voted unanimously to approve his recommendation. Mayor Holt said it was a necessary action.

MOTION: Pittman

SECOND: Garner

VOTE: unanimous

FINANCE: The town clerk presented budget amendments to the board for 2014-15. She pointed out the expenses in equipment repairs, sewer pump repairs, and the sewer treatment costs. The board voted unanimously to approve the budget amendments as proposed.

MOTION: Garner

SECOND: Anderson

VOTE: unanimous

BUDGET 2015-2016

Mayor Holt commented on the proposed budget in the agenda packets. He said the board members should take it and review it, that it maintains the same rates for garbage, taxes, utilities, a 3% raise for employees, etc. He said there are no new equipment expenditures included, or new projects. He said any new spending would require an increase in fees of some

description. He suggested holding a public hearing at the June 11th meeting, and then they could adopt it as is, or refigure it as necessary, and adopt a final budget prior to July 1. The board agreed with the June public hearing.

Commissioner Garner questioned Mr. Simmons on what rights does the town have to make homeowners fix broken sewer caps. Dan Simmons said the town could repair the caps and bill the homeowner for the repairs. (Commissioner Anderson had to leave at this point in the meeting, at 8:22 p.m.) Mr. Simmons said there seemed to be a problem with things getting into the sewer system as well, like a commercial mop head. He said there are ways to stop that type of problems, such as a bar screen at the sewer pump stations, which will catch any unusual material and keep them from damaging the sewer pumps. Ray Stuckey said they need to look at changing out the last pumps to submersible pumps as well.

MAYOR'S MINUTE

Mayor Holt displayed a 1984 map of the town of Pine Level, on which 25 businesses purchased advertising spots. He said the town was missing the opportunity to recognize the long-standing businesses in town, such as Pine Level Hardware, Cyn-Mar, Starling Homes, and Pine Level Barber Shop. He said they could perhaps recognize any business that has been in existence for 25 years. He suggested that they put together a short list and recognize those businesses at a future meeting, for the contributions they have made to the town.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

TOWN CLERK

MAYOR