



TOWN OF PINE LEVEL
MINUTES OF REGULAR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MAY 20, 2014
6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jeff Holt called a regular meeting of the Pine Level Board of Commissioners back into session at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at the Pine Level Town Hall, after having recessed earlier on May 8, 2014. The mayor provided a pizza supper for all those in attendance.

ROLL CALL

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

STAFF PRESENT

Public Works Supt. Ray Stuckey, Town Clerk Sharon Thompson

FIREWORKS FOR JULY FOURTH

Mayor Holt discussed two fireworks options for the annual July Fourth celebration. Southeastern Pyrotechnics sent a proposal for \$5850 for July 3rd and \$8150 for July 4th. The board considered a change to Thursday night, July 3rd, but Commissioner Anderson said that Scottie Hayes had everything planned for Friday, July 4, 2014, and it is probably too late to change the date. The board deferred a decision until later in the meeting.

BUDGET FOR 2014-2015

The mayor then initiated a discussion on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. He briefly explained the budget process to new board member, Commissioner Baker. He also distributed copies of a balanced budget to the board members, with no increases and a one-time \$500 payment to all full time employees. Commissioner Pittman said he would not want to see that one-time payment taxed heavily, as bonus payments usually are. The mayor said everything in that budget could change, but the board would need to decide exactly what items they would want to see in the new budget. Commissioner Pittman said a one cent tax increase would only cost about \$10 more a year to taxpayers. Commissioner Garner said a water rate increase would hit every household, and not just the property owners. Mayor Holt also mentioned that the fire department has requested an additional \$13,000 from the town, to equal the fire district tax. Commissioner Garner said the contribution to the fire department has been under their request for several years already. Commissioner Pittman and Commissioner Anderson said they did not agree with giving the fire department all of the \$13,000. Commissioner Pittman said that any tax increase could be attributed to the fire department's request. Mayor Holt said he could see both sides of the argument, Commissioner Baker said the town could not afford to give them the whole amount, but he could agree with about half of it. The mayor stated

that the town would have to go an alternate route to provide fire protection to town citizens if the local department should stop operating. Commissioner Garner suggested a 50 cent increase per 1000 gallons added to the water rate, instead of a tax increase. Mayor Holt said it would be nice to receive a monthly log of calls from the fire department, like the police department provides each month. The board also looked at recreation expenses, and the need for new ball field lighting. Commissioner Garner felt that out of town residents should pay a higher registration fee for recreation programs. Commissioner Anderson said she would rather see the kids just be able to play and participate in the programs. Mayor Holt asked what the town has to market anyway, other than the park and recreation programs, and he said he did not have a problem with all the kids paying the same amount. Ray Stuckey reminded the board that he was in the process of getting quotes on a maintenance contract for the water tank, and that more of the town's sewer manholes would need repairs to stop the flow of infiltration. Ultimately, the board decided to include an increase of 50 cents on the water rates for all water customers, and to increase the fire department contribution by \$7000, to include money for a water tank service contract and for more manhole repairs, and enough salary increase for employees to get the \$500 increase, and to hold a public hearing on the budget at the next regular meeting on June 12th.

MOTION: Commissioner Pittman

SECOND: Baker

VOTE: unanimous

The board also approved the \$8150 proposal for the fireworks, plus \$500 for an additional 140 shells, and ask Southeastern Pyrotechnics to stretch the program out, so it would last longer than 12 minutes.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

MOTION: Anderson

SECOND: Baker

VOTE: unanimous

TOWN CLERK

MAYOR