



TOWN OF PINE LEVEL
MINUTES OF RECESSED
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MAY 29, 2018
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jeff Holt called a regular meeting of the Pine Level Board of Commissioners back to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 29, 2018 at the Pine Level Town Hall, after having recessed earlier on May 14, 2018.

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, Police Chief Keith Sparks and Police Lt. Ashley Woodard, and Town Clerk Sharon Thompson

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Mayor Holt brought up budget amendments for 2017-2018, that were left out of the earlier meeting. The board voted unanimously to approve the amendments, a copy of which is included with and hereby made a part of these minutes by reference.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Garner
SECOND: Pittman
VOTE: unanimous

BROWN FIELDS REDEVELOPMENT GRANT

The mayor recommended that Pine Level participate in an application with the Town of Princeton and Johnston County for a grant for Brown Fields Redevelopment funds. He said it would be no cost to the town and the Town of Princeton had already received one grant. The board unanimously approved the recommendation.

MOTION: Garner
SECOND: Baker
VOTE: unanimous

BUDGET FOR 2018-2019

Mayor Holt said the purpose for reconvening tonight was to consider the budget for 2018-2019. He said the proposed budget keeps the tax rate at \$.46 and that it increases the contribution to the fire department by \$4,000, from \$83,000 to \$87,000. He explained that he received a copy of the fire department budget and they requested \$90,000 from the town. He also said that Johnston County voted to approve an increase in the PI-LE fire tax rate to \$.10. He said last year the town gave \$78,000 to the department, and went up to \$83,000 in the current budget. Mayor Holt said the town's increase in insurance rates was negligible, that retirement rates went up and that rate was set by the state, and that 3% in salary increases were included. He went on to say that no new vehicles were requested, but lap tops were included for the police department and funds for replacing the server at the town hall were included. He pointed out that many expenses remained the same and there was \$50,000 included for equipment replacement. He said the county was going up on landfill fees, wastewater treatment charges and water charges. The mayor stated that the town's generator project would be paid off in the upcoming budget year and would mean about \$25,000 more in next year's budget.

Commissioner Pittman proposed an increase in garbage fees of \$5.00 per month. He said that would mean an increase of roughly \$50,000 a year and that would be set aside for the purchase of a new garbage truck. Commissioner Baker seconded the recommendation, and Commissioner Garner said he was dead set against an increase of \$5.00. Commissioner Anderson agreed that it was a big increase. Commissioner Garner suggested a charge for picking up large items by the street, such as a chair, sofa, refrigerator. He said the town had money sitting in a CD and they could use that money to buy the truck and not borrow money. Commissioner Anderson said she might support half of that amount, but Commissioner Garner said he would not agree with that. Commissioner Pittman said he would withdraw his original motion. Commissioner Baker agreed, and said he would like to consider an increase of \$2.50 in garbage fees, to be set aside for purchasing a garbage truck. Commissioner Anderson said she would second that motion. After further discussion, the board voted to approve the increase in garbage fees.

MOTION: Baker

SECOND: Anderson

VOTE: yes – Commissioners Baker, Anderson, and Mayor Holt
no – Commissioners Pittman and Garner

Commissioner Pittman said he wanted to see the increase to \$5.00 and not \$2.50. Ray Stuckey said it would take at least \$200,000 to replace the garbage truck. Commissioner Pittman said the town was adding subdivisions one after the other. Mayor Holt brought up the topic of post employee benefits for retiring employees. He said there was \$6500 in the budget for that item, but the board had not settled how they were going to handle that. Commissioner Garner said they definitely need to have a concrete plan. He suggested \$500 a month with 30 years of service, at any age. He said the state does not pay health care for new state employees, although the existing employees were grandfathered in. Commissioner Anderson said she wanted to get the parking lot at the park taken care of. Mayor Holt said he would send an email to the fire chief tomorrow and let him know about the fire department contribution. He said he would rather see the town employees get the money rather than the fire department employees.

The board agreed to call for a public hearing on the budget at the next board meeting on Monday, June 11, 2018.

MOTION: Baker

SECOND: Anderson

VOTE: unanimous

PLANNING BOARD ISSUES

Commissioner Garner voiced concern over the Planning Board and their handling of a recent subdivision in town, and about their complaining about Scottie Hayes and about certain junked cars in town. He commented that the town needs to find somebody to run the Planning Board, because they cannot treat some one way and the next one, another way. Otherwise he said they need to get off the board because the Planning Board was not working efficiently for the town. He said the board of commissioners put Scottie in that position and they were not doing him right. Mayor Holt agreed the town needs to have another plan in place. Commissioner Baker said he had another meeting to attend, so he had to leave at 8:07 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Anderson

SECOND: Garner

VOTE: unanimous

TOWN CLERK

MAYOR