

TOWN OF PINE LEVEL
MINUTES OF REGULAR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
JUNE 9, 2011
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro-tem Jimmy Garner called a regular meeting of the Pine Level Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 9, 2011 at the Pine Level Town Hall.

ROLL CALL

 X COMMISSIONER KAREN ANDERSON
 X COMMISSIONER JIMMY GARNER
 X COMMISSIONER ANTHONY GUDAC
 X COMMISSIONER PHIL PITTMAN
 MAYOR JEFF HOLT (out of town)

STAFF PRESENT

Town Attorney Frank Wood, Consultant Dan Simmons, Public Works Superintendent Ray Stuckey, Town Clerk Sharon Thompson

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Commissioner Pittman gave the invocation. The mayor pro-tem then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE: Gudac
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 05-09-11, 05-25-11

MOTION TO APPROVE: Pittman
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Pro-tem Garner asked if anyone had comments on non-agenda items. Kester Kornegay said he wished to make a comment but he would wait until after the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2011-2012 BUDGET

The mayor pro-tem next opened a required public hearing on the proposed budget for 2011-2012. He reviewed notes concerning provisions in the budget and then asked for comment. Sal Navarro asked why set aside money in the budget for possible pay raises, and why not drop the tax rate one penny. Mayor Pro-tem Garner said there was money set aside in the budget, to give employees a one-time bonus next year if funds are available. Commissioner

Pittman said it would be a bonus, not a pay raise. Mayor Pro-tem Garner said the employees do good work for the town, and asked why not reward them, if the funds are available. Commissioner Pittman pointed out that Pine Level's tax rate is still among the lowest in the county. Mayor Pro-tem Garner said the town has not raised their tax rate in many years, while expenses have continued to go up, and now the town has taken on a new town hall as well as a new water tank. He said the one cent would not really save any money. Mr. Navarro said all the towns and county are not going with a neutral revenue situation. Mayor Pro-tem Garner said his own tax evaluation went up too, and he had tried to fight it with the county. Frank Wood said property is re-evaluated every eight years and that inflation and expenses go up every year. The mayor pro-tem said the town operates well financially and that it provides the citizens with good services, and this year the town did not have to dip into fund balance.

Kester Kornegay commented that the employees would get the pay increases, short of a catastrophe happening in the meantime, and everybody knew that. He asked where were the cuts in the budget and he told the mayor pro-tem that he said there would not be any salary increases in the budget. Mayor Pro-tem Garner said he worked in a public job and he had not received a raise in seven years, but he said the town salaries are not high, and that the men work in all types of weather and all hours. He said that water rates were staying the same, garbage rates were the same and the tax rate was the same. Kester Kornegay said it was still a tax increase because the tax value increased. Mayor Pro-tem Garner said Pine Level did not cause the tax increase, but the town must still pay its bills and everything has gone up and equipment breaks down from time to time. Terry Rains asked why give the fire department any more money this year since the economy is still down. Commissioner Pittman said they try to match the fire tax paid by county residents. He said the town appreciates the firemen and their contributions to the community. Greg Johnson, Pine Level Volunteer Fire Department President, said they have a fire truck that is 23 years old and it needs to be replaced, and they are awaiting an ISO inspection and all their equipment will have to be in good working order. He also said their garage does not have tall enough openings to accommodate the equipment. He said they appreciate the town adding \$7500 but that will put the county people at 8% and the town people at 6%. Commissioner Pittman asked if the fire insurance rating would go down as the firemen get better training and equipment. Mr. Johnson said that was possible, but the town's hydrants do not provide enough pressure. He said they also bought 1000 feet of large diameter fire hose and they spent \$30,000 to increase to a level 2 rescue unit.

The mayor pro-tem asked if there were any other questions. Mr. Navarro and Mr. Kornegay asked about a couple of other items in the budget and the hearing was ended.

MOTION TO CLOSE HEARING: Pittman
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: unanimous

Frank Wood commented that the board could now adopt the budget, change it or delay consideration of it, but they had to adopt some sort of budget provisions by July 1st. The board voted by a vote of 3 to 1 to adopt the 2011-2012 budget ordinance as presented. A copy of the budget ordinance is included with and hereby made a part of these minutes by reference.

MOTION TO ADOPT: Pittman
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: yes - Garner, Anderson, Pittman
no - Gudac

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Sal Navarro reported that the Planning Board met and passed a conditional use permit for Dick Braswell.

Commissioner Pittman said he was working on the Historical Committee and would welcome any pictures from Pine Level's past. He said it would be an on-going process.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Frank Wood reported that it was a quiet month. The clerk had nothing further to report.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

POLICE: Commissioner Pittman. School is now out for the summer, more kids will be out on the street. Encouraged everyone to obey speed limits and to slow down.

WATER/SEWER: Commissioner Gudac. Everything going smoothly. Had waterline to break on South Peedin Avenue; men repaired it overnight. Dan Simmons reported that multi-port valve has been ordered and should arrive in 30-45 days. Awaiting notice of availability, shipping estimated to be \$200. If town sees fit to change out filter and valve all at once, it would probably work much better and cost less in the long run. Once valve comes in they will send out for bids, will bid job with just valve replacement and also with total replacement of filter and valve, then town can decide which way to go. Commissioner Pittman asked about a time frame. Mr. Simmons said it would be 30-45 days before valve comes in, and then another 30-45 days to get bids returned. Commissioner Gudac said he talked with some contractors and they said they had no idea how long the job would take, or if they would even mess with it. Mr. Simmons said there would be more interest in doing the whole job with filter and valve, rather than just changing the valve itself.

He also reported that town hall project is moving along. Windows had to be changed out for smaller windows, which saved about \$7,000. Gutters are rusted on back of building and will need to be replaced. Front gable beefed up in case town wants to put a sign there in the future. Suggest monument sign out front. Moving toward August completion and September occupancy.

RECREATION: Commissioner Anderson. Recreation programs moving along. July Fourth celebration planned for Saturday, July 2nd.

STREETS: Commissioner Garner. Everything okay. Dump truck starter caught on fire last week. Has now been repaired.

TIME SHARE OFFER

Frank Wood said he spoke with the citizen that is offering the timeshare to the town. It belongs to the Wyndham Vacation Resorts and is based on a point system. It can be used anywhere and you receive 210,000 points every two years to use at will. The monthly cost is \$43, or \$516 a year and there are various transfer fees that would have to be paid upfront. He said if the town accepts the offer, it could be in the town's name by next meeting. He felt it would best be used as a raffle item for the recreation department. He said he could probably get access to the Wyndham internet site so the board could review the offerings. A decision was deferred until next month.

2010-2011 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Budget amendments for 2010-2011 were unanimously approved. A copy of the amendments is included with and hereby made a part of these minutes by reference.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Pittman

SECOND: Anderson

VOTE: unanimous

REQUEST FOR REZONING

The board then considered a request for rezoning filed by Melvin's Termite and Pest Control, Inc, to rezone property at 1820 Us Highway 70 -A from RS to HB. The board called for a public hearing on the request at the next regular meeting on July 11, 2011.

2010-2011 AUDIT CONTRACT

A contract from Peedin and Sasser, CPA's, to audit the town's finances for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, was unanimously approved by the board. The clerk said the amount was the same as last year, \$9500.

MOTION: Gudac
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: unanimous

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kester Kornegay commented to the board that he was disappointed in their acceptance of the budget for 2011-2012.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Gudac
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: unanimous

TOWN CLERK

MAYOR