



**TOWN OF PINE LEVEL**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**  
**JUNE 11, 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, June 11, 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**

Town Attorney Frank Wood, Consultant Dan Simmons, Chief Keith Sparks, Public Works Supt. Ray Stuckey, Town Clerk Sharon Thompson

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Mayor Holt gave the invocation. The mayor then asked Frank Wood to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*MOTION TO APPROVE:* Baker  
*SECOND:* Pittman  
*VOTE:* unanimous

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 05-14-15**

*MOTION TO APPROVE:* Anderson  
*SECOND:* Pittman  
*VOTE:* unanimous

## **PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET**

At 7:06 p.m. the mayor opened a required public hearing on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2015-2016, notice of said hearing having been duly advertised in the May 27, 2015 edition of the Pine Level/Kenly News. Mayor Holt began the discussion by pointing out highlights of the proposed budget, such as the tax rate, water rate, sewer rate, garbage rate, etc. He said \$78,000 was included as fire tax contribution to the Pine Level Fire Department, and that 3% was included for salary increases across the board for town employees. He asked for any comment or questions on the proposed budget. He commented to Mr. Nester McClain and to Kester Kornegay that he appreciated their attending town meetings and keeping up with town business. He said the board constantly tries to keep fees as low as possible and to maintain quality services for town citizens. Commissioner Garner added that he felt the town has been frugal with the funds that are available. Mr. Kester Kornegay stated that he would like to thank the board for their efforts. There being no further comment, the hearing was closed by unanimous vote of the board.

*MOTION:* Garner

*SECOND:* Baker

*VOTE:* unanimous

The board then voted unanimously to adopt the budget ordinance for 2015-2016, a copy of which is included with and hereby made a part of these minutes by reference. Mayor Holt expressed appreciation to the board members and employees for their work on the budget and for all they contribute to the town.

*MOTION:* Garner

*SECOND:* Pittman

*VOTE:* unanimous

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Holt then asked if anyone had a comment they wished to make on a non-agenda item. Commissioner Anderson commented that something needs to be done concerning animal control in town. She said she has three kittens at her house that someone has thrown out, and she did not want to turn them over to the county to be euthanized.

## **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

Mr. Nester McClain reported that the seniors group is still having a good time at their meetings, and they are running out of space for all the people that are attending the meetings. Keith Barnes commented that he was at the seniors meeting yesterday, and he counted 89 attendees, which he thought was a very good group for a small town. Mayor Holt stated that Gerald and Brenda Peedin are stepping down as heads of the senior group as of September, and he hoped someone would step up and take over the job of running the seniors group. He advised the board members that they would be feeding the seniors at their meeting on July 8th.

Mr. McClain also reported that the Planning Board met last month and they are working on a couple of issues.

## **REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS**

**STREETS:** Commissioner Baker. Paving is completed, with four speed bumps on James Drive. Checked on issue from last meeting with pool water draining down East Blanche Street, but did not find it to be a problem. Tile under street at Blanche and Church Street must be clogged up; water is not flowing through under the street. Mayor Holt reported that Giles Harrell, the NCDOT district engineer, said that the West Main Street project is still in the hands of the railroad and they are reviewing it for any problems that it might cause with loading trains on the tracks.

**RECREATION:** Commissioner Anderson. Spring sports are now over. Water did not flood at park with the last heavy rain, cleaning out the tile seems to have helped. Worked out a deal with some of the Hispanic groups that would allow them to use the soccer fields, if they keep them cleaned and all the trash picked up. Still having problems with the basketball players, however, with their bad language and loud music. No answer yet on skateboarding request. Frank Wood advised that allowing skateboarding would require some strong insurance to cover liability for the town, because that is a sport that will inevitably

cause injuries. Old stage has been torn down; would like to develop a master plan for the recreation park. Porta-potties still working out well, new play equipment is really being put to good use. Mayor Holt again stressed that the company putting on

the fireworks for July Fourth needs to stretch out the pyrotechnics show. Commissioner Anderson commented that the dug-outs at the park need some attention, because they stay full of dirt.

**POLICE:** Commissioner Garner. New police car still not in. Sending one officer to a grant writing class for the police department. Pine Level has the second lowest incidence of crime, out of all the towns in Johnston County, being second to Archer Lodge. While that is a good thing, it does not help with grant applications, when you don't have crime statistics to report.

**WATER/SEWER:** Commissioner Pittman. Still working to find problems with infiltration in sewer system. Recommended authorizing Triangle Civilworks to proceed with an application to USDA for Search Grant for up to \$30,000 to find where the problems are with the town's sewer system. Dan Simmons said the money could be used to find the problems with the system, but not for the repairs. He said he would need some updated items from Keith Peedin for the grant application. The board voted unanimously in favor of the recommendation to proceed with the grant application.

*MOTION:* Pittman  
*SECOND:* Garner  
*VOTE:* unanimous

**FINANCE:** Board unanimously approved budget amendments for 2014-2015, as presented by the clerk. A copy of the amendments is included with and hereby made a part of these minutes by reference.

*MOTION:* Garner  
*SECOND:* Anderson  
*VOTE:* unanimous

**FIRE DEPT:** Everything going well with fire dept. Mayor encouraged some of the firemen to attend a class and become certified as pyrotechnicians. He said the companies selling the fireworks have offered to hold the certification course and provide the necessary training. He said the town could then purchase the fireworks and pay the firemen to put on the July Fourth show.

#### **NC 457 PLAN**

Next, the board heard a presentation from Tripp Madden, Retirement Education Manager with Prudential Retirement. Mr. Madden explained how they administer the town's supplemental retirement, whereby the town contributes 5% of their salary for law enforcement officers. He said they also offer the NC 457 Plan, which offers regular employees, as well as law enforcement officers, a plan that they can contribute funds into, where they can withdraw funds with no penalty and no age restrictions. Only employees of local governments or state governments can enroll in this plan, and it is at no cost to the town. One restriction of the plan is that contributions must be made through payroll deduction. He said that board members could enroll in the plan as well as employees, whether full time or part time. Mayor Holt said the town's responsibility would be payroll deduction and reporting, and that it would be totally funded by the employees and not the town. Mr. Madden said the town could choose to contribute on behalf of the employees and that contributions could be implemented at any time, by any method, whether by a dollar amount or a percentage amount. He added that the plan is a good recruitment tool for an employer. The board voted unanimously to participate in the NC 457 Plan and to allow employees to enroll in the plan immediately upon hire. A copy of the resolution is included with and hereby made a part of these minutes by reference.

*MOTION:* Garner  
*SECOND:* Pittman  
*VOTE:* unanimous

#### **JOHNSTON COUNTY TOURISM**

Mayor Holt commented that JC Tourism has \$70,000 available in grant money for projects to promote tourism in the county. He said there was a July 15th deadline. The clerk pointed out that the grants are dollar for dollar match, and the mayor said he would look into it.

**MAYOR'S MINUTE**

The mayor read excerpts from a Civil War letter written on April 11, 1865, from General O. O. Howard to General Sherman, while General Howard was traveling along the Neuse River with troops from the Army of Tennessee. The troops were in Pine Level when the letter was written. Mayor Holt commented on how much information there was available on the internet, relating to Pine Level and the Civil War Period.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

---

**TOWN CLERK**

---

**MAYOR**