



TOWN OF PINE LEVEL
MINUTES OF REGULAR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
JUNE 12, 2014
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jeff Holt declared a quorum present and called a regular meeting of the Pine Level Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 12, 2014 at the Pine Level Town Hall.

ROLL CALL

 COMMISSIONER KAREN ANDERSON
 X COMMISSIONER GREG BAKER
 X COMMISSIONER JIMMY GARNER (in at 7:50 p.m.)
 X COMMISSIONER PHIL PITTMAN
 X MAYOR JEFF HOLT

STAFF PRESENT

Town Attorney Frank Wood, Consultant Dan Simmons, Public Works Supt. Ray Stuckey, Police Chief Keith Sparks, Parks & Recreation Coordinator Scottie Hayes, Town Clerk Sharon Thompson

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Holt gave the invocation and Commissioner Baker then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ADDITIONS: 11. (A) Drainage issues (GB)
 11. (B) Overgrown yards (GB)

MOTION TO APPROVE: Baker
SECOND: Pittman
VOTE: unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 05-08-14, 05-20-14

MOTION TO APPROVE: Pittman
SECOND: Baker
VOTE: unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

The mayor then recognized one of the regular full time policemen, Andrew J. Davis, who is leaving employment with the town at the end of June and moving his family to Texas. Mayor Holt presented him with a certificate from the town and thanked him for his years of service with the town.

FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

At 7:12 p.m., the mayor opened a required public hearing to consider the proposed budget for fiscal year 2014-2015, said hearing having been duly advertised on June 4th in *The Kenly News*. Mayor Holt said the board had deliberated over the budget for several meetings and arrived at what they thought to be a workable budget for the town. He went on to summarize the additional expenses in the budget, \$5000 to replace another police car, \$5000 toward upgrading police radios to work with the new county system, \$7500 toward correcting sewer infiltration problems, \$8000 for a water tank maintenance contract, an additional \$7000 to the fire department, proposed increases for employee health insurance, and 1.5% in salary increases overall. He said the tax rate would remain the same, as well as garbage and sewer rates, but water rates would increase by \$.50 per thousand gallons. He also said that water/sewer deposits would increase from \$150 to \$225, with the hopes of covering two months of bills for those customers that leave with their bill in arrears. He then asked if anyone wished to make a comment on the proposed budget, or to ask any questions. He said the board has been frugal with the town's funds, and tried to keep rates as low as possible but continue to give good service to Pine Level residents. Hearing no further comment, the hearing closed at 7:20 p.m. The mayor thanked everyone for their input and work on the budget. The board then voted unanimously to adopt the budget ordinance as presented. A copy of the ordinance is included with and hereby made a part of these minutes by reference.

MOTION TO ADOPT: Pittman

SECOND: Baker

VOTE: unanimous

EVANS S/D PLAT

The board then considered a subdivision plat submitted by Jerry Evans, Doyle Evans and Phillip Evans. Scottie Hayes explained that Mr. Evans is cutting one acre out of the old "home place" property that he wants to keep, and then he intends to sell the remaining property. He said that dividing the property into two lots constitutes what is called a "subdivision, " and since the whole parcel is over five acres, it must be treated as a major subdivision. The board welcomed Jerry Evans to the meeting and then voted unanimously to approve the subdivision plat as recommended by the Planning Board. A copy of the plat is included with and hereby made a part of these minutes by reference.

MOTION: Pittman

SECOND: Baker

VOTE: unanimous

SENIORS GROUP

Mayor Holt announced that the Pine Level Seniors will be meeting again on June 26th to discuss what direction for the group to take, since Mrs. Janice White has announced her resignation from leading the group's activities.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

RECREATION: Scottie Hayes reported that spring sports are finishing up, except for one coach pitch all-star team that will participate in the Johnston County tournaments. He said soccer sign-up would get underway next, and that a soccer camp would be coming up, to teach skills and drills to the kids. Plans for July Fourth are underway, the fireworks are settled, and there will be live music, karaoke, concessions, inflatables, and possibly kickball, on the Fourth. He also mentioned that he has distributed letters for the sponsor board at the park, for a \$100 fee, and he said all of that money goes right back into the

recreation programs. Commissioner Pittman asked if all the recreation programs are already finished, Scottie said there will be one junior league babe Ruth team still playing.

WATER/SEWER: Commissioner Pittman. Asked Ray Stuckey about repairs on well pump; Mr. Stuckey said he hoped to be on town water again by this weekend. He said they had to rework some older parts to make everything work together. Still waiting to hear on infiltration problems, since the manhole liners have now been installed. Mr. Stuckey said there was 3 inches of rain in the last two days, but there were no spikes recorded in the sewer flow. Reported on letter of approval from NCDENR for the town's Wellhead Protection Plan. Want to change town's disconnection policy that currently states bills must be paid by 5:00 p.m. on the 25th of the month, but also allows for a five day extension. He said that results in two cut-off dates, one after the 25th and one after the extended date. He proposed to allow payment through 5 p.m. on the last day of the month, and to then cut off unpaid accounts on the following workday. That would mean a longer period for everyone to pay their bill and there would only be one cut off day. He said the following Monday would be allowed for payment if the last day of the month falls on the weekend or a holiday, and then cut offs would be done the next workday, or Tuesday. The board agreed with that idea and voted unanimously to approve it.

MOTION: Pittman

SECOND: Baker

VOTE: unanimous

Commissioner Pittman then discussed an issue that has surfaced, concerning water taps on Davis Mill Road. He said there were several taps made on the line down Davis Mill Road, but no tap fees were paid either to the town or the county, and the town has not been sending a monthly bill for those taps because no one knew of their existence. One of the taps will be taken over by the Highway 70 project, one has just hooked up to the town's water, and for the other three taps he suggested that they be billed a minimum bill starting in July, at out of town water rates. He said all of those properties would owe the town's impact fee, regardless of whether they pay for a tap or pay the monthly fees. He said if those three property owners should choose to not pay the monthly fees, then they would have to pay the water tap fee of \$1365 if they should need to hook on at some time in the future. Mayor Holt said that anyone going forward would need to pay the tap fee and the impact fee. Commissioner Pittman said the town lost money all along because no one knew about the taps. He said they would just be enforcing the existing policy on record.

He also mentioned that the drive through window in the town hall leaked during the Wednesday thunderstorm, and it might need some attention. The clerk said it needs a cover, because the building overhang runs water directly into the customers' open car windows, when they try to pay at the window in the rain. Mayor Holt said he has an awning that just might fit the bill and he would check on it and get the measurements.

STREETS: Commissioner Baker. Received word from the NCDOT concerning the S. Peedin Avenue sidewalk. Dan Simmons said that sidewalk construction should begin in August. Commissioner Pittman asked if there would be additional funds for other sidewalk projects. Mr. Simmons said he would not know about that until the DOT has bid the project on S. Peedin Avenue.

FIRE DEPT: Fire dept. president Greg Johnson said Firemen's Day went well this year and they made about \$8000. He said they have a picture drive coming up in the near future. He also said that the EMS is working out well at the Fire Department and they are there 12 hours a day. He thought their response times had been shortened for this area.

POLICE: Chief Sparks. Vehicles continue to be a problem for the police dept. Only one car is functioning now, that has less than 100,000 miles on it. He said the transmission on AJ's car went out two nights ago. He also talked with Frank Wood about the ordinance on weeds and overgrowth, and he came up with a letter to send out to the offending property owners. He said he would make two copies of any such letter, and send one in the mail with return receipt requested. He would then keep a folder in the administrative office, so there would be a record of what has been addressed already, if complaints should come into the office. He said he rode around town and came up with 4-5 more properties that need notification letters sent to the property owners. (7:50 p.m. – Commissioner Garner in at this point.)

The chief also mentioned animal complaints and how he plans to manage them. He said he would first talk with the owners and let them know that a complaint had been registered. After that he would come up with a list of all those that had made the same complaint, and there would be a subpoena issued. He said he did not want to see the police dept. get a bad reputation with the local judges in the court system, clogging up the courts with animal complaints. The mayor asked the chief to communicate with the board members anytime he has to send out such a letter on nuisances or animal complaints, so they will be aware of what is going on. Frank Wood said everyone would be getting at least one warning before the chief takes any action. Mayor Holt said everything is not always in black and white, and there are usually some gray issues. He said there are still some other unsightly areas in town that need to be addressed, and he personally was working to correct one of them. Chief Sparks asked what happens when a house is in foreclosure, who is responsible then for maintaining the property. Frank Wood said the town may have to cut some properties and put a lien on the properties. He said the town could then recoup its money and the house should be posted.

Commissioner Garner asked about disposing of two police cars. Frank Wood said the information should be published at least once and then the sale could take place ten days later. Chief Sparks asked if the posting on a legal website covered the requirement for posting. Mr. Wood said to publish it in a local paper one time. Commissioner Garner suggested a sale date of August 14th. The mayor commented that it should be published once in *The Kenly News* and Frank Wood said the last meeting should cover the required order. Commissioner Garner asked if it would be okay to go ahead and order the new police car, which will be for the new budget year. Everyone agreed with the order for a car, since it would not come in until sometime later.

FINANCE: Mayor Holt suggested that the clerk be approved to make the final amendments to the current budget and report them to the board at a later date. The board voted unanimously in favor of the mayor's suggestion.

MOTION: Pittman
SECOND: Garner
VOTE: unanimous

DRAINAGE ISSUE

Commissioner Baker reported that he received a call from John Moore of 406 West Main Street, concerning a bad drainage issue. He explained that the water coming from the railroad drowns that end of town, and he said they really do have a problem. Ray Stuckey said the town does not have the proper equipment needed to do the repairs. Mayor Holt said the problem is on the railroad's right of way and he agreed to call the County Maintenance Engineer, Jimmy Hawley, and encourage him to get to work on the problem. He said they are aware of it and know what needs to be done, and they just need to get on it. Commissioner Baker said there is no fall in that area and it was going to be a mosquito problem. He said he did not know whose responsibility it should be, but he promised the resident that he would address it with the board. Ray Stuckey said there is no easy fix to that problem, because the drainage ditch goes under the corner of the house and it is stopped up.

He also said there was a problem with the yard next door, and it is very much overgrown. Chief Sparks said he talked with Bobby Green about cutting that yard, but Anne Crawford ran off the last man that tried to work on that yard. Commissioner Pittman commented that the rental house is an issue every year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The mayor encouraged everyone to participate and support the town's July Fourth event. He also asked the board members to fill out a questionnaire provided by the Lions Club. He said to list any kind of community service projects that the Lions could assist with, such as the seniors group.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, at 8:13 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

MOTION: Pittman
SECOND: Baker
VOTE: unanimous

TOWN CLERK

MAYOR