



TOWN OF PINE LEVEL
MINUTES OF REGULAR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
JUNE 13, 2013
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jeff Holt called a regular meeting of the Pine Level Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 13, 2013 at the Pine Level Town Hall.

ROLL CALL

 X COMMISSIONER KAREN ANDERSON
 X COMMISSIONER JIMMY GARNER
 X COMMISSIONER ANTHONY GUDAC
 X COMMISSIONER PHIL PITTMAN
 X MAYOR JEFF HOLT

STAFF PRESENT

Consultant Dan Simmons, Public Works Supt. Ray Stuckey, Town Clerk Sharon Thompson

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Commissioner Pittman gave the invocation and Commissioner Gudac led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Holt welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Keith Barnes, who is now reporting for The Kenly News. He said that Nathaniel Shelton left The Kenly News to take a new job with the school system.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE: Gudac
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 05-09-13

MOTION TO ADOPT: Pittman
SECOND: Gudac
VOTE: unanimous

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mayor Holt made note of a proclamation he signed, recognizing Matthew Price, Sr. for turning 95 years old on June 10th. He said that Mr. Price has lived in Pine Level since 1962 and is a World War II veteran, and that he has been married for 67 years to his wife Mattie. He said that Mr. Price could perhaps be recognized at a later date, since none of the family members were present tonight. Sal Navarro commented that all of the Price family might be in town around the Fourth of July.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The mayor asked if anyone had a comment to make on non-agenda items. Sal Navarro thought it would be a good idea if the town stopped picking up limbs, leaves and wastes beside the street every day and let citizens call in and get on a list at the town hall when they have put something out by the street, and then the men could go around and collect it every so often. Commissioner Pittman said he would look into that suggestion. Then Mr. Navarro asked about recyclables and whether the town is paid for them now; the clerk said that the town is being reimbursed but it is such a negligible amount that it is not separated out in the budget. He also thought the town should get a college student to tend to its information technology, such as the website. He said it would save money. And he questioned why the town was proposing a garbage rate increase of \$2.00 a month. Since he was talking about budget issues, the mayor said he would go ahead and open the public hearing on the upcoming budget.

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2013-14 BUDGET

The mayor then opened a required public hearing on the budget, said hearing having been duly advertised on 05-29-13 in *The Kenly News*. He began by briefly summarizing the provisions in the budget. Then he went on to talk about new issues that have arisen that affect the town's budget. He explained how the town will now be required to pay in to the State of NC an amount equal to 1% of the town's taxable wages, which the state will keep in a pool of funds that they will use for paying unemployment claims against the town. He said that in the past, the town elected to pay claims as they arose in lieu of paying on a quarterly basis, but that will no longer be an option for payment. The 1% must be paid in and kept funded with the state. If no claims are made or rates do not change, the money will remain and the town will owe nothing further; but if claims are paid, the town will have to reimburse the money that is paid out, so that the 1% remains on hand. He said it would cost roughly \$3200, based upon the town's immediately preceding four quarters. He felt, however, that the funds were available in other areas of the budget that could be moved around to fund the required amount.

He also mentioned a notice from the League of Municipalities, urging action from board members in opposition to a proposal under consideration by the legislature that would severely curtail the town's future revenues, from food tax, privilege licenses, sales tax reimbursements, and possibly even franchise taxes. He said there was no way of knowing at the present whether the proposal will pass, or exactly how it will affect the town's revenues. Commissioner Garner suggested adopting an interim budget, to get by until the state and county budgets are adopted; Commissioner Pittman agreed. Commissioner Gudac thought the impact to the town might be much higher than estimated by the League. The clerk asked if any of the board members had made contact with local legislators to voice opposition to the proposed bill, Commissioner Gudac and Commissioner Garner said they were planning to. Mayor Holt questioned why the legislators did not advise the towns that such legislation was under consideration. Commissioner Gudac said that the lobbyists have informed the legislature that small towns cannot absorb this type of loss and he was concerned over how the town could make up the revenues. Commissioner Anderson also agreed it might be best to wait on adopting a budget until these issues are settled. Commissioner Gudac felt the town's proposed budget was solid, as long as the state did not come along and take the town's revenues. Commissioner Pittman said that Pine Level is about the second lowest tax rate in the county, and that Pine Level's garbage rates would be right in line with the other municipalities in the county. Commissioner Gudac said it would not be prudent to adopt a budget tonight and the board agreed, putting off any further action until Monday, July 1st at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: Garner

SECOND: Pittman

VOTE: unanimous

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

PLANNING BOARD: Sal Navarro commented that the Planning Board had recently approved a variance for Playmates Day Care and a 5-day temporary permit for Parkside Café, to operate a summertime concessions trailer.

SENIORS: Met Wednesday. Will meet again on July 10th, and board members will provide lunch.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

STREETS: Commissioner Pittman. Ray and men doing a good job. Weather has heated up now, making garbage pickup tougher. June 14th is Flag Day, encouraged everyone to fly their US flags.

POLICE: Commissioner Garner. State enacted program that will save police department on the cost for computer software maintenance; should be updated this week. People need to keep a watch on observing speed limits; children are out playing since it is summertime. Citizens should call 9-1-1 if they observe anything that appears suspicious.

RECREATION: Commissioner Anderson. She first said that Scottie Hayes and his wife are at the hospital awaiting the birth of a new baby tonight. She said that sports signups are underway for fall sports and that tee ball is coming to an end. July Fourth plans are coming together, with carnival type food and refreshments and activities, and that fireworks will end the evening of festivities. Mayor Holt said last month the board expressed concern over the length of the fireworks show from last year, and that Southeastern Pyrotechnics offered another proposal. He said the town could go with the \$5000 show from last year, or pay \$7500 and they would add more shells to the program. He suggested going with the same program as last year and just asking them to slow it down a little. Commissioner asked about a rain date; Mayor Holt said there was no rain date, but the contract did specify what would happen if a rainout occurred. The board agreed with the suggestion on fireworks.

WATER/SEWER: Commissioner Gudac. There has been a lot of rain lately and it has created some problems. He mentioned the discussion last month over the town's aging infrastructure. He said he received the results of a study and proposal on the issue, and it was too much in depth and too much information to absorb at tonight's meeting. He again suggested putting off a decision until he could meet with Ray and Dan Simmons and consider the information and formulate a decision. He said the Rural Center has money available now, but it might go away with all the changes in the legislature. He said he would bring back a report for the July meeting. He felt that a more pressing matter was the lift station pumps at Pine South, because the impellers are completely worn out. He thought it would be about \$10,000 just for the parts to repair the two pumps, and then labor on top of that. Commissioner Pittman asked how long would the pumping station be down, but Commissioner Gudac said that Mack Liles repairs the pump right on the spot and he has the equipment to pull the pump up out of the wet well and everything. He said there should be no chance of a sewer spill. Commissioner Pittman asked about a spare pump, but Ray Stuckey said he did not have spare submersible pumps. The board agreed to go ahead with the necessary repairs and to get the parts on order.

MOTION: Gudac
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: unanimous

FINANCES: Mayor Holt said Keith Peedin, CPA had submitted a contract for the 2012-2013 audit and it was approved by unanimous vote. He also read a note of thanks for the flowers sent from the town upon the recent loss of Mrs. Lois Peedin, Keith's wife.

MOTION: Garner
SECOND: Gudac
VOTE: unanimous

PARKING REQUEST

The mayor asked the board about a request received from the Veterans' Administration, asking if a government owned vehicle could be parked overnight at the town hall parking lot. He said they had a change in their policy and an employee could no longer park a government vehicle at their home. He asked if the board was okay with that request, as long as there was no liability for the town. The board agreed that it would be okay to park such a vehicle overnight at the town hall.

MOTION: Gudac
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: unanimous

RECREATION ISSUES

Commissioner Anderson reported that the porta-potties have been installed at the park, and she has heard several good comments about the town supplying them. Commissioner Pittman asked about the old bathroom building, Commissioner Garner said to tear it down. Commissioner Anderson said she wanted to get rid of the old tennis courts too. Ray Stuckey said it would not be a problem to remove the old building. Commissioner Pittman said he would like to at least see the doors closed off. After a bit more discussion the board voted unanimously to go ahead and tear down the old bathroom building.

MOTION: Garner
SECOND: Gudac
VOTE: unanimous

The board then voted to take down the chain link fencing around the old tennis courts.

MOTION: Anderson
SECOND: Pittman
VOTE: unanimous

MEETING RECESSED

There being no further business, at 8:05 p.m. the board voted to recess until Monday, July 1st at 7:00 p.m. to reconsider the town's budget.

MOTION: Anderson
SECOND: Gudac
VOTE: unanimous

TOWN CLERK

MAYOR