

TOWN OF PINE LEVEL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
JUNE 14, 2010  
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 Monday, June 14, 2010 at the Pine Level Town Hall.

ROLL CALL

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

STAFF PRESENT

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Holt commented that the son of Johnston County Commissioner DeVan Barbour was involved in a boating accident over the weekend and he wished for him a return to good health. He then asked Commissioner Pittman to give the invocation. Next, Commissioner Garner led the Pledge of Allegiance. The mayor then welcomed all those in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*MOTION:* Gudac  
*SECOND:* Garner  
*VOTE:* unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 05-10-10, 05-24-10

*MOTION:* Gudac  
*SECOND:* Anderson  
*VOTE:* unanimous

PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET FOR 2010-2011

The mayor then opened a required public hearing on the proposed budget for FY2010-2011, said hearing having been duly advertised on June 2nd in *The Pine Level News*. He pointed out a few provisions in the proposed budget: 2.75% salary increase, 1.55% increase in retirement contributions, \$6300 for a new SCAG mower, \$20000 in capital reserve for a future garbage truck, \$57000 in capital reserve for replacing aged water lines and the tank, and payments on long-term debts for the backhoe and water/sewer line purchase. He said no funds were specifically earmarked for the town hall project or water tank project. The total budget is 1.5 million, which is below last year's budget of 1.6 million. The budget includes no tax increases, sewer rate increases, or garbage rate increases. He said the budget does include a \$3.00 increase in the base monthly water charge, which will increase from \$9.00 to \$12.00 monthly on all water customers, whether their first or second meter. The water rate would remain \$2.50 per thousand for residential in-town usage.

Several Pine Level residents expressed concern over the increase and asked questions about the proposed budget, including Sue Newcomb, Millard Garner, Kester Kornegay, Terry Rains, Billy Corbett, Queen Reid and Jeffie Haskins. Inquiries were made as to how many employees the town has, how much retirement contributions will increase, if the increased water rate is temporary or a permanent move, whether to give all employees an equal increase or percentage increase, compensation for overtime work, not charging on second meters, questions on the new town hall, tax valuations and tax rate increases, uses for the old town hall building, renting space for cell usage on the water tank, contributions to the fire department, and selling the old water tank for scrap metal.

Mayor Holt said the board members were working hard to offer the best services to the town's citizens and to use money wisely. He said that Pine Level is indeed a good place to live and the board appreciates the input from Pine Level citizens. After closing the hearing he said the board could adopt the budget or delay adopting it until June 30th. Commissioner Pittman followed with a motion to adopt the budget as presented and Commissioner Gudac seconded the motion. Commissioner Garner said he could not vote for the motion because he was concerned with citizens not being able to pay the bills, and he said he would like to see a monthly spending report. Commissioner Anderson suggested e-mailing the information to save on printing costs. The board then voted on the motion to adopt the budget, with the following results:

*MOTION TO APPROVE:* Pittman

*SECOND:* Gudac

*VOTE:* for - Commissioners Anderson, Pittman, Gudac, Mayor Holt  
against - Commissioner Garner

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Holt recognized Chuck Hardison, a Pine Level resident who wished to make a presentation to the town. Mr. Hardison came forward and presented a US flag to the town, on behalf of the Woodmen of The World Lodge 543 in Selma NC. Mayor Holt thanked Mr. Hardison and suggested that the new flag be used at the new town hall facility.

#### REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

The mayor asked Nester McClain, a Planning Board member, if the Planning Board has anything going on; Mr. McClain answered no, that the Planning Board has not been active in recent months. He also reported that the PL Seniors group is still very active, with trips and all sorts of activities going on. Commissioner Pittman said he would like to see the seniors program expanded. Mayor Holt said they were pleased to support the seniors' activities.

#### REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

**WATER/SEWER:** Commissioner Pittman. Still working to locate infiltration problems in the sewer system. Tank construction should be complete next week; then all of the welds must be x-rayed. Experienced problems with debris clogging up sewer pumps; had to repair pumps.

**POLICE:** Commissioner Gudac. Meeting periodically with chief; department stepping up patrols. Everyone should be on the lookout for more kids out on the street, since the school year has ended.

**RECREATION:** Commissioner Anderson. Spring sports drawing to a close, already registering for fall activities. July Fourth plans still underway, including truck rides, amusements, live music and fireworks. Mayor said plans for next year should include a rain date for fireworks. Said old tennis courts need to be repaired or taken out of service. Mayor Holt advised her to come back with a recommendation on the courts. She also said they were contemplating closing Crescent Street for recreation activities. Chuck Hardison reported that kids at the park are tearing down the corn in the field next to the park. Commissioner Garner asked about lowering the in-town rate for kids to participate in sports programs, and increasing the out of town rate by \$5.00 per child. Mayor Holt said the board could review that idea if Scottie Hayes would get them a breakdown on the number of kids involved.

**STREETS:** Commissioner Garner. Everything ok. Said he was still pursuing a sidewalk down South Peedin Avenue, but the DOT never has funds available. Chuck Hardison commented that the big ditch along Peedin Avenue was

the problem, not the money for the concrete. Commissioner Garner advised citizens to contact their legislators and express their desire for a sidewalk on South Peedin Avenue.

#### REPORTS FROM STAFF

Dan Simmons reported that plans and specifications are now available for the new town hall facility. He said that USDA would review the plans next week. Once they are approved, bidding could be advertised. A couple of items on the plans will need to be changed and bid out as alternative issues. He said all the loan money must be spent before the grant money of \$100,000 will be available. Mayor Holt said a lot of contractors are out of work and wanting to bid on the town hall job. Mr. Simmons said that LGC would then have to approve the borrowing of money to pay for the construction, which should start around October 1st.

Millard Garner again said the town should just demolish everything and start from the ground up and build a new building. Dan Simmons explained that the town was saving a significant amount of money on the building. Mayor Holt said the board had already held countless public hearings on the construction project, and he said the original plans for a new building from the ground up came in at 1.2 million dollars.

#### APPROVE PLANS/SPECS FOR NEW BUILDING

The board then voted to approve the plans/specifications for the new town hall, subject to minor changes in the interior plans.

*MOTION:* Gudac  
*SECOND:* Anderson  
*VOTE:* unanimous

#### WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN

Next, the board considered revisions to the town's Water Shortage Response Plan, to bring it into compliance with general statutes. Commissioner Pittman said he would not want the town's plan to be more stringent than the county plan. The board voted unanimously to approve the plan as presented.

*MOTION:* Gudac  
*SECOND:* Pittman  
*VOTE:* unanimous

#### AUDIT CONTRACT

Mayor Holt presented a proposal from C. Keith Peedin, CPA for doing the town's audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010, for a total of \$9500. The board voted unanimously to approve the contract.

*MOTION:* Gudac  
*SECOND:* Anderson  
*VOTE:* unanimous

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Holt announced that he would be attending a meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee on Monday, June 21st at the Land Use Center in Smithfield. He anticipated an update on the plans for Peedin Avenue and US Highway 70 as well as an update on the Highway 70 Corridor project. He also asked if all the board members are still planning to attend the Town Hall dinner Wednesday evening in Clayton.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, at 8:20 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

*MOTION TO ADJOURN:* Gudac

*SECOND:* Anderson

*VOTE:* unanimous

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TOWN CLERK

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MAYOR