



TOWN OF PINE LEVEL
MINUTES OF REGULAR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
JULY 11, 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, July 11, 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

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

MOTION: Gudac
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 06-13-13, 07-01-13

MOTION: Pittman
SECOND: Garner
VOTE: unanimous

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES

The mayor then recognized two employees for reaching anniversaries with the town. First was Police Lieutenant Gale Burleson who will reach his five year full time anniversary with the town on July 17, 2013. Mayor Holt presented him with a certificate of achievement and a gift card from the town. Second was the Town Clerk Sharon Thompson, who reached her thirty year full time anniversary with the town on July 1, 2013. The mayor also presented her with a plaque and a gift card from the town. He thanked the employees for their service with the town and he said he appreciated the contributions from all of the town's employees.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

PL SENIORS GROUP: Seniors met yesterday according to Commissioner Pittman. He said Scottie Hayes was to be commended for helping an older gentleman the day before who had car troubles. Mayor Holt said the seniors were an active group and they had many activities going on.

PL PLANNING BOARD: The planning board cancelled their last meeting since they had no business to transact.

REPORTS FORM DEPARTMENTS

WATER/SEWER: Commissioner Gudac. Everything okay at the present. Nothing to consider other than the proposal to update water infrastructure.

RECREATION: Commissioner Anderson. Asked Scottie Hayes to report on recreation programs. Mr. Hayes said the spring sports programs have concluded and that applications are coming in for football, cheering, and soccer with a cut-off date of August 1st. He said the July Fourth event went well and the fireworks were very good. Commissioner Pittman asked about the portapotties at the park and Mr. Hayes said they were working out well.

POLICE: Commissioner Garner. Police cars operating okay. Mayor asked about animal control and who would investigate a claim of possible animal abuse, such as no water or shelter. Chief Sparks said the police department would be responsible for investigating such a claim and they would work with the Johnston County Animal Control Department. Commissioner Anderson asked about the kids who are always in the street on Kornegay Avenue. Chief Sparks said he had talked with them once, but he could talk with them again. Commissioner Gudac said there was a very small child sitting on Kornegay Avenue when he drove through there. The chief also commented on the July Fourth event and how a truck mired down in the lot in front of the town hall, which is used for overload parking. He said Mr. James Overbee lets the town use that area for parking and he thought that the town should repair the place where the truck left ruts. The board agreed to fix that area.

STREETS: Commissioner Pittman. He said that he saw where the tree service had completed taking down the dead pine tree on the railroad right of way, and that it has been nothing but rain and more rain lately. He encouraged property owners to try and keep up with the grass mowing to avoid complaints on high grass. Commissioner Gudac said he wished that residents would not blow their grass clippings into the street; Mayor Holt said that would be tough to police. He asked about the paving on US 70-A, but it has not started yet. The mayor also asked about whether or not the town might want to develop a long-range plan for paving all of the municipal streets on a yearly basis and use part of the Powell Bill money to make that payment each year. He said that might be better than paving/patching on a piece meal basis from year to year. He said that was offered just for consideration. Commissioner Garner said it would be a waste of money to pave before they come to a decision on fixing the town's water lines. Commissioner Pittman said he and Ray Stuckey could look at the proposal.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Dan Simmons reported on a recent meeting with the county concerning maintenance of the county water lines that serve the towns. He said the county adopted a plan in 1991 to recoup some funds from the towns for repairs and maintenance on the lines. Mr. Simmons distributed a copy of that plan, which had a ceiling of \$2500 for the small local governments for repairs on the lines. He said their revised plan would do away with the ceiling of \$2500 and that Pine Level could be responsible for paying

up to \$20000 in a year, if multiple troubles occurred with the water lines. He said the town has been taking in more money on the sale of county water than they have been paying to the county. He said the water main that goes through town

actually benefits Princeton more than it benefits Pine Level. He also mentioned the recent news article that said the county would not be able to use the old Princeton quarry as a water source, and the fact that Tim Broome was once again talking about the county purchasing water from Pine Level. Mr. Simmons said it would cost about \$1.2 million for the town to build another well and to be able to sell water to the county. He recommended that the town go back and negotiate a deal with the county, if they should decide to pursue selling water for an extended period to Johnston County. He said the town could test for a well for \$25,000 to \$30,000 and apply for an RDA loan for one well for a forty-year payback at 2.7%, with the reasoning that it would be a back-up well for the town. But if that plan works and the town should decide to expand the water sales, then RDA would not lend money for the town to pursue a money-making venture. Mayor Holt suggested that the town tell the county that they could pay to dig the well and then Pine Level could sell them water for a set period of time. Commissioner Pittman said he could only agree to that if the county would commit to a long term agreement, so the debt could be paid off. Mr. Simmons said that the county agreed to twenty years previously, with an offer to extend the agreement for another twenty years. He said the town could sell water to the county at a bulk rate, and he explained how the county's rates are higher than the town's rates. He said water from a regular 3/4" tap would cost \$15.00 a month with the county, with a rate of \$3.10 per 1000 gallons; whereas Pine Level's rate is \$12.00 a month, with a rate of \$2.50 per 1000 gallons. Commissioner Garner said the county was finally in need of something from the town, and he did not agree with the county charging the towns to repair the county's water lines. Ray Stuckey suggested talking with the other towns that will be affected by the county's charges. Commissioner Pittman felt the mayor could proceed with talking to the county and see what agreement they could come up with. Mayor Holt said he could also express the town's concern over the county's plan to increase maintenance and repair charges. Commissioner Garner asked how solid the agreement with the county is anyway, Ray Stuckey said the county adopted an ordinance with those provisions in it for repair charges. Frank Wood said that a county ordinance would have some teeth in it, as far as enforcement goes. Mayor Holt asked if this plan would just address the main county line that goes down US 70-A, and not the other smaller laterals. Dan Simmons said the line to Pine South belongs to the town and it does not show up on the GIS. The board then voted unanimously to have the mayor talk with the county and to speak against their proposal for charging for maintenance/repair of their lines.

MOTION: Garner
SECOND: Gudac
VOTE: unanimous

Dan Simmons pointed out that they would need to find out what limits will be established by the county, for which Pine Level would be responsible. Ray Stuckey said it currently runs from Firetower Road on the Selma end to Bizzell Grove Church Road at Princeton. Commissioner Gudac said Pine Level should not be responsible for all of that distance. Frank Wood again suggested talking with the other towns that will be affected. Mayor Holt said he would talk with those towns and the county, as well. Mr. Simmons said the county commissioners meet on the first Monday in August.

The proposal for improving Pine Level's water infrastructure was deferred until all of the water issues could be decided together, in one package.

REQUEST FOR GARBAGE EXEMPTION

The board considered a request for an exemption from garbage charges, filed by Arthur Stephenson, who runs Ideal Storage out at US 70 Highway. Commissioner Pittman said Mr. Stephenson does not want to get a dumpster or pay the town for garbage pickup. He recommended denial of the request, since the business should either get a dumpster or pay the town for pickup. The board voted unanimously to deny the request from Mr. Stephenson, since he did not want to abide by the town's policy which allows for an exemption from charges if a business has so much garbage they will utilize a private dumpster instead.

MOTION: Pittman
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: unanimous

MAYOR'S MINUTE

Mayor Holt commented on the Pine Level Woman's Club, which has been in existence since 1945. He said there was even a Junior Woman's Club in Pine Level at one point, but the club is fading away. He read excerpts from the by-laws in their scrapbooks, which said they wanted to work to beautify the town, to strengthen our school, and to promote the civic welfare of Pine Level and North Carolina. He explained that the club has been very active in town activities over the years, and he showed a picture from 1959 when the club donated garbage cans to the town for community betterment. He said there were pictures from 1972 from an annual party for senior citizens in town. He said they were a vital part of the town's growth and he hated to see the club disappear. Commissioner Pittman said that several of the Woman's Club scrapbooks are available at the town hall for anyone to browse through.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the way of announcements, Mayor Holt stated that Gordon Peedin passed away on Wednesday and his funeral would be held on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Peedin, who resided on Gor-An Farm Road, was 88 years old and was a well-known figure in the community.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, at 7:45 p.m. the meeting came to a close by unanimous decision.

TOWN CLERK

MAYOR