



TOWN OF PINE LEVEL
MINUTES OF REGULAR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 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, September 12, 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, Recreation Coordinator Scottie Hayes, Town Clerk Sharon Thompson

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved with the following additions:

- 11. (B) Railroad crossing closures (JH)
- 11. (C) Primitive Baptist Church property (JH)
- 11. (D) Senior Citizens meeting on Oct. 9 (PP)

MOTION: Gudac
SECOND: Pittman
VOTE: unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 08-08-13

MOTION: Anderson
SECOND: Gudac
VOTE: unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

PLANNING BOARD: No activity.

PL SENIORS: Next meeting on October 9th. Commissioner Pittman said the town board will be providing lunch for the seniors at the October meeting.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

STREETS: Commissioner Pittman. NCDOT and Watson Electrical performed electrical repairs on traffic signal on Hwy. 70-A and it seems to be working better. Leaf season coming up. Tile under Hwy. 70-A near Mike Renfrow's residence is collapsing; NCDOT has been contacted for repairs.

POLICE: Commissioner Garner. School is now in session. People need to look out for kids on the streets.

RECREATION: Commissioner Anderson. Football and soccer seasons getting ready to start. Less kids participating this year in programs. Scottie Hayes said there are 70 in football and 70 in cheering, and about 65 in soccer. He said traveling fall baseball is taking some of the kids away from fall programs. Mayor Holt said he had allowed the cheerleaders to use the town hall a couple of times for practice, when the weather was bad. Commissioner Anderson said the park has been sprayed for fire ants and they have all disappeared in the grassy areas. Scottie Hayes said it was time to start planning for the Christmas tree lighting; Mayor Holt said they might make changes in that program this year. Kester Kornegay asked about the porta potties at the park; Commissioner Anderson said they have worked out very well, they are kept clean and they have not been vandalized. She said the park looks much better with the old bathrooms torn down and the old fencing on the tennis courts needs to come down now.

WATER/SEWER: Commissioner Gudac. Sewer bill earlier in the month very high due to recent rains and infiltration. Manholes in low areas are supposed to be sealed, but the heavy rains got into them anyway. That is just something that will occur with the amount of rain that came down. Town now needs to purchase a new sewer pump for the Eastside station. One pump is out, and due to its age and the amount of wear, it is not repairable. Quote on new pump is \$11,975. There is one other old, spare pump, and between the two, they might be able to make one pump to keep on hand as a spare. The board unanimously approved the purchase of a new sewer pump for \$11,975.

MOTION: Gudac
SECOND: Pittman
VOTE: unanimous

Mayor said he received a phone call earlier today concerning East Johnston Industrial Park. Kenneth Lee (General Metals) is looking at purchasing property from the Overbees, but the property does not have water and sewer service extended into the industrial park. Mr. Lee asked if the town could help with extending the lines and the mayor said he needs direction from the town before he proceeds with the property. He said there may be money available in the form of grants from Rural Development or some other agency. Dan Simmons added that he spoke with Skip Green, who administered the town's former grant, and he said there is CDBG money available with 75% grant and 25% from the town. Mr. Simmons said Mr. Lee could pay the town the 25% required. He said Mr. Lee is talking about adding 50 jobs and it will cost \$100,000 to install the water and sewer. He said that the engineering fees and administration fees could be included in the project and he said it would be appropriate for them to work up their costs and have Mr. Lee include that amount when he posts the funds to match the grant. Commissioner Gudac said the town already has good water supply to the area; Mr. Simmons agreed, saying there is already a 12" water line to the area. Commissioner Pittman asked if the sewer would be gravity fed or a pressurized line. Mr. Simmons thought a gravity fed line could be extended along the back of the property, toward the Eastside sewer station. Mr. Simmons suggested that the town authorize the mayor to work with Mr. Lee on the proposal, and for him to be responsible for all the expenses over the amount of any grant money. The board unanimously approved the suggestion from Mr. Simmons for the mayor to work with Mr. Lee.

MOTION: Gudac
SECOND: Garner

VOTE: unanimous

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Town Attorney Frank Wood mentioned that he talked with the clerk about the town's ordinance to regulate grass overgrowth, and he said that someone in town had even contacted his office and made a complaint about a neighboring property that is unsightly. He suggested that he work with the police chief and help him enforce the town's ordinance. He said he had templates available for sending notice to the offending property owners. Scottie Hayes asked what teeth there are in the ordinance for enforcement. Mr. Wood said the town should send a notice of the violation, and that a civil penalty is included as well as placing a lien on the property. The board voted to enforce the town's current ordinance, with a charge of \$45 per hour for mowing. Commissioner Anderson suggested charging \$50 per hour, but the board kept the fee at \$45.

MOTION: Garner

SECOND: Pittman

VOTE: yes-Pittman, Garner, Gudac and Holt, no-Anderson

The mayor then recognized Recreation Coordinator/Zoning Administrator Scottie Hayes for reaching his fifth anniversary with the town as of September, 2013. He thanked Mr. Hayes for his service with the town and presented him with a gift card.

SCHOOL BOND REFERENDUM ENDORSEMENT

Mayor Holt presented a resolution in support of the school bond referendum proposed by the Johnston County Board of Commissioners. He said the referendum for \$57 million would be included on the November ballot and would go toward building more schools in Johnston County and to Johnston Community College. He read the resolution and asked if the board wished to go on record in support of the referendum. The board voted unanimously to adopt the resolution in support of the \$57 million referendum. A copy of the resolution is included with and hereby made a part of these minutes by reference.

MOTION: Pittman

SECOND: Anderson

VOTE: unanimous

RAILROAD CROSSING CLOSINGS

The board then considered a proposal to close the railroad crossing west of town at Mt. Sinai Church and to extend West Pine Street through the lowlands over to service the church and two houses located beside the railroad tracks. Mayor Holt recognized Dennis Mooring with Dewberry Engineering, representing Norfolk Southern Railroad, to discuss the project. Mr. Mooring said there would be a meeting in town on September 23rd with all the parties involved. He said they are in a preliminary design stage currently, and they are looking at aligning an extension of West Pine Street. He said there is very little traffic involved with the area. Commissioner Garner asked who would be maintaining the road, since it is out of the city limits. Mr. Mooring felt that would have to be addressed with the project manager on the 23rd. He said they are designing a culvert suitable for a subdivision road, capable of dealing with a 25-year storm, instead of simply meeting driveway requirements. Commissioner Garner said that area tends to flood frequently, with the slightest of rain storms. Mr. Mooring said the street would overtop at a 50-year storm level and they would not want to see road washouts. He stated that the two tracks would remain the same and the railroad does not intend to move trains to the east of where they end now. Commissioner Pittman asked how long the railroad could let train cars just sit on the tracks and block railroad crossings. Mr. Mooring did not know that answer. He said they were planning for a 24 to 30 inch relief pipe in the bridged area, and it should have a 12 to 15 foot span. Commissioner Pittman said he could remember when trains stopped in Pine Level and picked up the mail and travelers, and he did not want to see trains stopped and sitting in Pine Level. He thought it would be detrimental for the town. Mayor Holt asked the town attorney if the board opposes the proposal to extend West Pine Street, does the issue end right then and there. Mr. Wood said he would have to do more research to provide an answer to that question and to say what approvals would be necessary from the town. Mr. Mooring asked what should be submitted to the town to introduce the project. Dan Simmons said they must get approval, just as with any other subdivision street. Commissioner Gudac asked if there are wetlands in that area and if the creek is a blue line stream. Mr. Mooring said they were very familiar with NCDENR guidelines. He also said that they are designing the project to contain any flooding on the railroad project land as much as possible. Mayor Holt advised Mr. Mooring to submit a formal request to the town that lays out the railroad's plans and reasons for why the project is necessary. He said the town would get together on what requirements, if any, that the project would necessitate.

PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Mayor Holt announced that he received a phone call from Craig Olive concerning the Primitive Baptist Church on Davis Mill Road. He said the church is disbanding and they are interested in finding out if the town would want to purchase their property, since it is adjacent to the town's recreation park. The church could possibly decide to give the property to the town, but they would like to see someone own it that will update the property and use it for a multi-purpose use. Dan Simmons suggested that the town first get an engineer to look at the building to determine its condition.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The mayor read a thank you note from Marie Price and Jeff Crocker, for the flowers sent by the town when Marie's mother passed away.

Mayor Holt announced that the school referendum discussed earlier would first construct a new middle school for the North Johnston school district. The elementary school in town would then revert back to Pine Level Elementary and the middle school in Micro would be Micro Elementary School. He said that Johnston County has a capacity for 16,311 elementary students, and they currently have 16,108 enrolled. He said the total capacity is 34,455 and there are 33,923 enrolled, with 120 mobile classrooms in use. He felt that Johnston County has to make a move to keep up with the growth and expanding number of students.

Commissioner Anderson said she had heard several complaints on the skateboarders in town, especially at the park area and the adjacent businesses. She said they were causing trouble and she thought the police department needs to get them under control.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, at 7:55 p.m. the meeting came to an end.

MOTION: Garner
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: unanimous

TOWN CLERK

MAYOR