



TOWN OF PINE LEVEL
MINUTES OF REGULAR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
OCTOBER 10, 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, October 10, 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, Public Works Supt. Ray Stuckey, Recreation Coordinator Scottie Hayes, Police Chief Keith Sparks, Town Clerk Sharon Thompson

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Holt gave the invocation and Commissioner Anderson then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Gudac commented that Mark Pittman, a former employee, is quite ill, and he asked that people remember Mr. Pittman in prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved with the following additions:

- 10. (D) Moccasin Creek Drainage Board appointment (JH)
- 10. (E) Employee health insurance renewal (JH)

MOTION: Gudac
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 09-12-13

MOTION: Anderson
SECOND: Gudac
VOTE: unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Holt welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if anyone wished to comment on non-agenda items. He commented that Dan Simmons is not present tonight, since his infant grandsons have been hospitalized once again in Chapel Hill. Nester McClain stated that the Seniors Group appreciates everything that the town does for their group. He also said that he still wants to see the sidewalk constructed on South Peedin Avenue.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

SENIORS GROUP: Mayor Holt said the seniors met on Wednesday and had a good program and a good turn-out for the meeting.

PLANNING BOARD: Sal Navarro noted that the Planning Board has been inactive.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

WATER/SEWER: Commissioner Gudac. Everything going okay. Minor water leak on Hwy. 70-A.

RECREATION: Commissioner Anderson. Soccer program underway; football starts at the end of the month. Need volunteers for concession stand. Scottie Hayes said that basketball registration is getting underway too. Applications will be taken until November 4th. Civic group turkey shoots coming up. Board unanimously approved annual turkey shoots.

MOTION: Gudac

SECOND: Garner

VOTE: unanimous

There will be no tree lighting ceremony this year. Christmas parade is scheduled for Sunday, December 8th at 3:00 p.m., with same route as last year. Commissioner Anderson stated there would be no parade rain date. Mayor mentioned a request from the JC Visitors Bureau for local towns to support a county wide study on parks and recreational facilities. He said that since he just received the information today, they could study it for next month. Scottie Hayes said the Park Restoration Committee has scheduled a 5K run for October 26th. Mayor Holt said the police might need to help with that event.

POLICE: Commissioner Garner. Halloween coming up on Thursday, October 31st. Had several issues with police cars recently, and breaking down. Commissioner Anderson asked about golf carts going through LaBelle Acres. She said there is one cart in particular, that is pink, and they are going through and hollering out at the vehicle traffic, as if the cart has the right of way. She was concerned that they might pull out in front of a car. Chief Sparks said he would look into that matter. Commissioner Gudac asked about the police report and what did the phrase "transport for event" mean? Chief Sparks said it was most likely a transport to jail. He also said that some of the officers worked at Benson Mule Days and the Town of Benson paid them.

STREETS: Commissioner Pittman. Continual maintenance on older vehicles. Leaf season coming up. Residents need to bring in trash cans from the street after their garbage is picked up. Would like to address that matter after the election. Grass will soon die back due to the cooler weather, so mowing overgrown yards will cease to be a problem. Would like to have the town ordinance on overgrown yards working and enforced by next summer. Ray Stuckey informed the board that the garbage truck is soon going to need a motor, either a new one or rebuilt one, or rebuild the current one. He said it could run over \$20,000 for a new motor, or \$12,000-14,000 to rebuild one. The mayor said they would soon have to make a decision; he said Commissioner Pittman should make a recommendation to the board. Commissioner Garner thought he could help locate a rebuilt motor.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Town Attorney Frank Wood advised the town to require certificates from any companies that the town does business with, stating that they comply with e-verify regulations. He said it would be most important from companies with 25 or more employees, but it was a good idea to get a statement from all companies. He said he could supply the necessary forms for the town.

UPDATE ON PROPOSED RAILROAD CROSSING CLOSING

The mayor reported that he met in late September with the railroad and their engineering representatives and discussed the proposed railroad crossing closing and the extension of West Pine Street to the Mount Sinai Church community. He said a decision would have to come from the North Carolina Railroad, since they own the property in question. As they are still in the design stage currently, he said there is really no new information to consider on the issue.

UPDATE ON PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH PROPERTY

The mayor said that he also talked with the representatives from the Primitive Baptist Church, and informed them that the town would probably be interested in their property, but they would first need to know what the church intends to do with the site, either sell it or donate it to the town, or what. He said that issue depends on whatever decision is made by the church.

UPDATE ON WATER/SEWER FOR EAST JOHNSTON INDUSTRIAL PARK

Mayor Holt met earlier in the day with Chris Johnson, Skip Green, and the owners of General Metals as well as the town's engineering representatives. He said they are looking at running water and sewer to all of the industrial park, and perhaps upgrading the street, and the proposal is somewhere between \$375,000 and \$425,000. The good news is that the grant writer says there is grant money available, with little participation from the town. He commented that the matter is now back in the property owner's lap, and they must decide what direction to pursue and they have to create new jobs to qualify for the money.

SCHOOL CELEBRATION OF RED RIBBON WEEK

The mayor then discussed the proposal from Abigail Stephenson, Counselor at Micro-Pine Level Elementary School, to celebrate "Red Ribbon Week" by holding a parade that will start at 10:00 a.m. at the elementary school. The students will parade from Herring Street to West Pine Street, and then over to North Capps Street, ending on West Blanche Street. Ms. Stephenson said parents are invited to attend, as well as town residents, the board members, and anyone else that would support the school's efforts to promote the "Say No to Drugs" program. Mayor Holt said he plans to participate in the parade on Wednesday, October 23rd, along with the students, school staff members and the North Johnston High School band.

RESOLUTION IN OBSERVANCE OF HALLOWEEN

The board voted unanimously to adopt a "Resolution Urging Residents to Observe a Safe Halloween," on Thursday, October 31, 2013. A copy of the resolution is included with and hereby made a part of these minutes by reference.

MOTION TO ADOPT: Garner

SECOND: Gudac

VOTE: unanimous

USE OF TOWN HALL FOR POLLING LOCATION IN NOVEMBER ELECTION

Mayor Holt mentioned that he was contacted by Donald Ray Thompson, who is election Precinct Chairman for Pine Level, to inquire about holding the upcoming municipal election at the town hall, due to the construction underway at the fire station. Commissioner Pittman asked if they pay a fee to use that facility. Mayor Holt said the Board of Elections charges the town to hold a municipal election, however they do not charge for presidential elections. Commissioner Garner said he talked with Leigh Ann Price, who heads up the Johnston County Board of Elections, and they were also looking at the Pine Level American Legion building. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to allow the November election at the town hall, but the motion died for lack of a second. Mayor Holt said he would talk with Mr. Thompson and let him know about the board's decision.

MOCCASIN CREEK DRAINAGE BOARD APPOINTMENT

The board then considered an appointment to the Moccasin Creek Drainage Board that would represent the Pine Level area. The county clerk supplied two applications that have been submitted for the position, one being from Jeff Holt, who is currently serving on the board, and the other from Elton Evans, who owns property within the District and Pine Level's ETJ. The county commissioners have requested that the town board review the applications and make a recommendation on an appointment to the board. The board voted unanimously to recommend to the county commissioners the re-appointment of Jeff Holt to serve on the drainage board representing Pine Level.

MOTION: Gudac
SECOND: Garner
VOTE: unanimous

HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL

Next, Mayor Holt informed the board that he had approved an early renewal date of December 1, 2013 with Blue Cross Blue Shield for employees' health insurance. The customary renewal date would have been May 1, 2014, when the town's premiums were estimated to increase by 39%. By renewing early, before the Affordable Care Act kicks in, the rates would remain the same until December 1, 2014, thereby giving the town an additional seven months of reduced rates.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The mayor said that the fourth grade from Micro-Pine Level Elementary School would be visiting the town hall on Wednesday, November 6th, and he would be meeting with them. He also said that the town was approved to receive \$52,000 in Powell Bill funds.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, at 7:35 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

MOTION: Pittman
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: unanimous

TOWN CLERK

MAYOR