



TOWN OF PINE LEVEL
MINUTES OF REGULAR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
OCTOBER 13, 2016
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 13, 2016 at the Pine Level Town Hall.

ROLL CALL

 X COMMISSIONER KAREN ANDERSON
 X COMMISSIONER GREG BAKER
 X COMMISSIONER JIMMY GARNER
 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 Baker gave the invocation and Commissioner Anderson led the Pledge of Allegiance. The mayor then welcomed everyone to the meeting and he commented on the recent occurrence of "Hurricane Matthew" and the resulting damages and flooding from the storm. He said that North Carolina experienced great loss of both life and property, and he said that we were very fortunate in Pine Level to have not experienced the destruction like other areas of the county.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE: Pittman
SECOND: Garner
VOTE: unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 09-08-16

MOTION TO APPROVE: Anderson
SECOND: Pittman
VOTE: unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

The mayor said he appreciated everyone's contributions due to the recent hurricane. He then asked if anyone wished to comment on a non-agenda item. Terry Rains commented on the tremendous amount of water from the storm and the mayor explained how Mr. Rains had concerns at recent meetings about the Moccasin Creek Drainage District and the ditch that runs beside his property. He said the district representative met with Mr. Rains and told him that the ditch in question was not a part of the Moccasin Creek district. Mr. Rains said he could not find his paperwork, but he remembered there being a fifty foot easement on his side, but he said it would not have mattered this past weekend anyway. Mayor Holt said the bad news was that the ditch backs up, but that it starts at his house and goes all the way to Holt's Pond. He mentioned talking with Richard Braswell about the problem, and he said they were going to look into detention ponds along the creek and perhaps changing out some undersized culverts. He said the district has money available and they need to spend some on maintenance in the district. Commissioner Garner agreed, since Pine Level residents pay taxes to the district. Commissioner Pittman asked how long did it take for the water to recede; Mr. Rains replied that it did not take long at all.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

RECREATION: The board first addressed an application to serve on the Pine Level Recreation Committee, from Carrie Moore. A resolution appointing Mrs. Moore to the committee was unanimously approved by the board. A copy of the resolution is included with and hereby made a part of these minutes by reference. Mayor Holt said welcome to Carrie; Scottie Hayes said she would hopefully be the first of many more new members.

MOTION: Commissioner Pittman

SECOND: Commissioner Garner

VOTE: unanimous

PLANNING: The board then considered applications from Randy Holloman, Berry Godwin and Terry Rains, for re-appointment to the Pine Level Planning Board. A resolution re-appointing the three members to the Planning Board was unanimously adopted by the board. A copy of the resolution is included with and hereby made a part of these minutes by reference.

MOTION: Garner

SECOND: Baker

VOTE: unanimous

SENIORS: Nester McClain said the Seniors had a good group Wednesday and they had a good meeting. He said they were planning a trip to the State Fair next week.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

STREETS: Commissioner Baker. Kudos to the public works department for the hard work done before the storm and since. He said they have done an excellent job. Ray Stuckey said there was one washed out area on Oak Street, and they would probably need to replace the pipe under the street since it was the old metal type pipe. He said the property owners were talking about doing some more piping work in the area. New man hired in the public works department, Carsse Lucas.

RECREATION: Commissioner Anderson. Not much response at recreation meeting. Sign-ups going on for basketball. Started on roof repairs to dugouts. Ray Stuckey said there was also a washed out area in the recreation park. Went ahead and approved turkey shoot events for next month for American Legion and Lions Club.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Pittman

SECOND: Baker

VOTE: unanimous

POLICE: Commissioner Garner. Officers worked hard in storm; more patrol cars out next week. School traffic situation much improved this year, with change in elementary school assignments. Hired Larry Holland, Jr. to fill vacancy in department. Commissioner Pittman said he received good comments on the police stopping to investigate a light on in a house where the lights are not usually on.

WATER/SEWER: Commissioner Pittman. Men have been working hard to get up the storm debris, even though Pine Level was not hit as hard as some communities. Dan Simmons reported that the state representative came this week and looked at the proposed new well site at Starfield Acres. He said they hope to get the state permit issued soon. Looking at some changes to sewer lines in the county. Mayor said they were looking at several issues in the water and sewer systems, and once they start it will be a year or more to complete. Dan Simmons said the next step would be to dig the well.

FIRE DEPT: Brandon Barbee reported for the PL Volunteer Fire Dept. He said they have mostly been responding to calls, and they have mainly been out of town. They met with the EOC today and pointed out that Johnston County is sending out crews to do damage assessments. He said anyone with storm damage could notify them, and apply for FEMA assistance by calling 1-800-621-3362. He said they have bottled water for distribution and cleaning kits. The department's Reverse Raffle will be held on Saturday, November 5. Mayor Holt said the school teachers at Pine Level Elementary have also collected some goods for distribution to needy families after the storm. Commissioner Garner and Mayor Holt commended the fire department for doing a good job.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Town Attorney Frank Wood said next month would be his last meeting, since he will soon be sworn in as a judge.

The town clerk mentioned the budget amendments that were in the agenda packets and the board unanimously approved them. A copy of the amendments is included with and hereby made a part of these minutes by reference.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Anderson

SECOND: Pittman

VOTE: unanimous

PROPOSAL FOR SUBDIVISION ON US HWY 70-A

Mayor Holt commented that Richard Braswell is hoping to develop some property east of town on US Hwy 70-A at the former Pine Tree Retreat. He is reviewing a couple of options for sewer to serve the property and he is interested in annexation by the town. The mayor said it would be Mr. Braswell's responsibility to install the sewer and the property already has county water across the front. Dan Simmons said he may need to upsize some sewer lines, but he must first come to the town with a request for annexation. Commissioner Pittman asked if he would be able to have hydrants; Dan Simmons said that with the county 16" line, that would be no problem. Nothing could go forward until Mr. Braswell completes his plans and comes before the board.

OBSERVING HALLOWEEN

The board unanimously approved a resolution to observe Halloween on Monday, October 31 from 6 to 8 p.m. A copy of the resolution is included with and hereby made a part of these minutes by reference.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Garner

SECOND: Anderson

VOTE: unanimous

AMEND FEE STRUCTURE IN GARBAGE ORDINANCE

The board voted unanimously to approve an amendment to the fee structure in the town's garbage ordinance, which still included an old fee from prior years. The amendment states there will be a garbage fee charged that will be established each year in the garbage ordinance. A copy of the amendment is included with and hereby made a part of these minutes by reference.

MOTION: Garner

SECOND: Pittman

VOTE: unanimous

MAYOR'S MINUTE

Mayor Holt mentioned a Proclamation for Red Ribbon Week in Pine Level, from October 23-31. He said the elementary school would hold a short parade on Friday morning, October 28, in commemoration of Red Ribbon Week. He said it was a good way for everyone to support the school and its anti-drug efforts. The board unanimously approved the Proclamation and a copy is included with and hereby made a part of these minutes by reference.

MOTION: Garner
SECOND: Baker
VOTE: unanimous

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The mayor said he had been receiving daily calls from the EOC and county officials concerning storm damages. He said the police chief attended a meeting today concerning FEMA participation. Ray Stuckey said the county was not charging for storm debris, until December, including materials like furniture, couches, mattresses, etc. The mayor said that keeping good records for anything storm related would be most important. Ray Stuckey said a FEMA office would be established in Smithfield. Chief Sparks said the county received positive feedback from the conference calls they held. Mayor Holt said the sewer treatment bill was probably going to be really huge, because of the infiltration and inflow. He said some towns were discussing help from the county for the additional costs.

CLOSED SESSION

At 7:50 p.m. the board voted unanimously to enter a brief closed session to consider personnel matters, with only the board members and town attorney in attendance.

MOTION: Garner
SECOND: Baker
VOTE: unanimous

MEETING ADJOURNED

According to notes taken by Mayor Holt, no action was taken and the meeting resumed regular session and adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

TOWN CLERK

MAYOR