



TOWN OF PINE LEVEL
MINUTES OF REGULAR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 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, December 8, 2016 at the Pine Level Town Hall.

ROLL CALL

 X COMMISSIONER KAREN ANDERSON
 X COMMISSIONER GREG BAKER
 COMMISSIONER JIMMY GARNER
 X COMMISSIONER PHIL PITTMAN
 X MAYOR JEFF HOLT

STAFF PRESENT

Town Attorney Will Barham, Consultant Dan Simmons and Engineer Gene Cobb, Public Works Supt. Ray Stuckey, Police Chief Keith Sparks, Recreation Coordinator Scottie Hayes, and Town Clerk Sharon Thompson

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Holt asked Commissioner Baker to give the invocation and Will Barham to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Afterwards, Commissioner Pittman requested a minute of silence in memory of the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The mayor then went on to welcome everyone to the meeting. He noted that Dan Simmons' father had surgery yesterday on his foot and sent him well wishes for his recovery.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The mayor said that Mr. Simmons would need to leave as soon as possible to go and be with his father, so there would be a few changes in the agenda for tonight. He said the board would hear from Mr. Simmons early in the meeting, and a couple of other items were added to the agenda.

ADDITIONS: 10. A. Town Hall schedule (JH)
 10. B. Town meeting schedule (KA)

MOTION TO APPROVE: Pittman

SECOND: Anderson

VOTE: unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 11-17-16

MOTION TO APPROVE: Pittman

SECOND: Baker

VOTE: unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Holt asked if anyone wished to comment on a non-agenda item. Terry Rains commented that he was still upset over the Moccasin Creek drainage district issue.

PROPOSED WATER/SEWER PROJECT

The mayor then asked Mr. Simmons to explain the project that the town is to consider for repairs/additions to the water and wastewater systems. He said that planning for the project is very close to completion and the town is required to have an informational session beforehand to comply with USDA requirements. Mr. Simmons explained that the town's wastewater system was installed in the 70's and because of its age, several repairs and changes are necessary. He said that the manholes had a cast iron top surrounded by concrete, and that the seals have been compromised and water is running into the manhole tops. They propose to reseal the manhole tops with a rubber product, just as Johnston County has done with their manholes. He felt that would eliminate a lot of the town's inflow and infiltration problems. He also proposed that changes and upgrades be made to the Eastside Sewer plant. He explained how those pumps come on and alternate use. He said in times of high flow, both pumps come on, but when the second pump comes on, the town only receives an increase in flow of 5%. They propose to install a larger line, instead of the 4" service line, and to replace the force main also, with a larger line. That should take care of the wastewater portion of the project. As far as the town's water system, he displayed a map showing the town's lines. He said the water system was installed in the 50's, so there are many feet of aging water lines. The system includes asbestos cement lines as well as galvanized lines, which are continually causing water line breaks. He said all of those need to be replaced, and several areas need upgraded lines to improve water flow to certain areas of town. He said a 12" line down US Highway 70-A will greatly increase the ability to move water to those areas that are in need of increased supply. He then explained that if the town's well were to collapse for some unforeseen reason, that it would cost over a half million dollars to purchase the necessary water for the town's use, at \$3.25 per gallon per day. He said the town has access to a tract of land that has been donated, next to the Starling subdivision, and to add a new well there with an 8" line would cost an estimated one-half a million dollars. He noted that all those proposals would bring the budget to 2.86 million dollars, which the town would borrow from USDA for a forty year loan at less than 2% interest. Commissioner Pittman asked about a new garbage truck, which has been mentioned before. Mr. Simmons said that would not be included in this project. He added that they have been hard at work to complete the PER for this proposal. Mayor Holt commented that the town does need a backup plan for water supply, and a new well, constructed with USDA funding would accomplish that purpose. Mr. Simmons said the town's current well must be nearing capacity. Mayor Holt thanked Mr. Simmons and Mr. Cobb for the presentation and he wished the best for Mr. Simmons father, following his surgery.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

The mayor asked Frank Wood, the town's former attorney, to come forward. Mayor Holt noted that Mr. Wood's last meeting with the town was last month, since he was recently elected as a district court judge and he will be sworn in this coming January. He said that Mr. Wood has served the town since 2003 and he thanked him for his guidance and service to the town. He commented that the town did not have a regular attorney to attend all the board meetings until Mr. Wood was hired. He then presented Mr. Wood with a commemorative plaque from the town and a small gift, as a token of appreciation. He then asked him to introduce Mr. Barham for anyone who was not familiar with him. Mr. Wood said he was hard at work, learning how to be a judge. He thanked the board for being able to work with the town, and said he had enjoyed his years working with Pine Level. He then introduced Will Barham, who is a lifelong resident of Pine Level. He said Mr. Barham went to college, and then joined the US Coast Guard. Afterwards, he came home and decided to attend Campbell Law School, where he earned his law degree. He said the town would be in good hands with Mr. Barham and Mayor Holt wished Mr. Wood good luck as he enters a new phase of his legal career.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

The Planning Board will meet next week for their Christmas gathering and regular December meeting.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

POLICE: Chief Sparks. Holiday season is right upon us, advised everyone to call 9-1-1 if they see suspicious activity. Had a couple of thefts in town recently. Working to solve those, and increasing some part time coverage for the holidays.

STREETS: Commissioner Baker. Said he would defer to Ray Stuckey. Mr. Stuckey said he was trying to get the paving/resurfacing in before Christmas. Had to put new tires on some of the big trucks recently, so the bills would be coming in. Also, had some repair work done on the truck.

RECREATION: Commissioner Anderson. Asked Scottie Hayes to report on recreation activity. Mr. Hayes said basketball will start January 7, 2017, with about twelve teams. Christmas parade will be held this Sunday, December 11, at 3:00 p.m., with same route as last year.

WATER/SEWER: Commissioner Pittman. Have had a couple of waterline breaks lately that had to be repaired.

FINANCE: Mayor Holt. Commented that new overtime ruling that was to go into effect on December 1, 2016 has been put off for right now, with a temporary ruling, so it will probably come back up again. Grant approved for police department for purchase of new service weapons.

TOWN HALL SCHEDULE

Mayor Holt commented that he would like to sit on the proposal to extend the town hall operating hours and review it at a later date. The board voted unanimously to accept the mayor's recommendation.

MOTION: Pittman
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: unanimous

AUDIT

The mayor said that Andrew Harris is awaiting final approval from the state on the town's audit for 2015-2016, and he would like to give the report in January, instead of having to present a draft report to the town this month.

MEETING CHANGE

Mayor Holt questioned the board about a possible change in the regular meeting night. Commissioner Pittman said he liked Thursday best, Mayor Holt said Monday or Tuesday would be okay, but he preferred Monday. Commissioner Baker said Monday night would be better for him and he proceeded with a motion to change the meeting night to the second Monday of the month, effective January 9th. The board voted to approve the motion on the following vote:

MOTION: Baker
SECOND: Anderson
VOTE: YES – Anderson, Baker, Holt, NO - Pittman

MAYOR'S MINUTE

Mayor Holt read a thank you to the board from the Pine Level Precinct Judges for the assistance from Chief Sparks on Election Day. He also read several thank you notes that he received from Pine Level Elementary fourth graders. He said that he meets with the fourth grade classes each year at the town hall and talks with them about government issues.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business to address, the meeting came to an end at 7:37 p.m.

TOWN CLERK

MAYOR