

**TOWN OF PINE LEVEL
MINUTES OF REGULAR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
DECEMBER 10, 2018
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. Monday, December 10, 2018 at the Pine Level Town Hall, after he announced that a quorum was present.

ROLL CALL

√ Commissioner Karen Anderson
√ Commissioner Greg Baker
X Commissioner Jimmy Garner
√ Commissioner Phil Pittman
√ Mayor Jeff Holt

STAFF PRESENT

Town Attorney Will Barham, Consultant Dan Simmons, Public Works Superintendent Ray Stuckey, Police Chief Keith Sparks, and Deputy Clerk Connie Capps.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Holt asked that everyone remember Town Clerk Sharon Thompson in prayer. He said she had been out about a month now with an arm injury. Commissioner Greg Baker gave the invocation and Terry Rains led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Holt said he would like to make an addition to the agenda under Section 9: Unfinished Business: Add: 9A. Supplemental Retirement Plan. He said Attorney Will Barham had an insert for the board to consider. He also stated that he would like to hold a brief closed session at the end of the meeting.

Motion to Adopt Agenda: Commissioner Phil Pittman

Second: Commissioner Karen Anderson

Vote: unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Karen Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes from November 5, 2018, and Commissioner Greg Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Holt commented that he appreciated all the hard work from Connie Capps and Billie Kaye Twigg for stepping up in the absence of Sharon Thompson, who has been absent over 30 days now. Commissioner Phil Pittman also stated that he appreciated everyone who helped in organizing the parade even though it was cancelled due to inclement weather.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

SENIORS: Commissioner Pittman stated that the Seniors went to Myrtle Beach and all had a great time. He stated that Linda Sorrells is the new Chairman for the Seniors and they have started planning for the new year. He said the Seniors have been going strong for 12 years now.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

POLICE: Chief Sparks said part-time police are also working this time of year, as well as using an additional car due to the holidays. He said he had talked with Commissioner Garner on his upcoming retirement about converting vacation time to sick time. He said that way the position would not be open for 30 days and he could retire one month early, and would not be hit with a tax bill. He said his last day would be February 28, 2019. Mayor Holt said Commissioner Garner had mentioned this to him and he did not have a problem with this, but that Attorney Will Barham would need to check on the legality of this first. Attorney Will Barham spoke and said he had checked into this and according to the General Statutes, the town council can set what is in the personnel manual. He said in reviewing the town's policy, it does not state anything about the remaining 240 vacation hours, it does state you can bank 240 vacation hours a year and all other hours automatically convert over to sick time. He said since the town policy nor General Statutes state what you can do with the remaining 240 vacation hours, the board can decide on a general policy, resolution, or adopt an amendment to the policy stating that the 240 hours may be converted. Mayor Holt suggested that Will come back with the proper documentation for this amendment at the January meeting to be effective February 28, 2019. Will asked for clarification that this amendment would be a retirement benefit only. The board agreed.

STREETS: Ray Stuckey said the garbage truck is in the shop right now with hydraulic system problems. He said the town is using the old garbage truck now and probably will be until after Christmas. The Mayor stated the board raised garbage rates to offset the cost of a new garbage truck. He said Commissioner Pittman and Dan Simmons will be meeting with the USDA soon to see if any grants or low interest rate loans are available. Mr. Stuckey said that the town may need to look into renting or leasing through Waste Industries or renting a truck from the Town of Princeton. He said the garbage truck is 17 years old. Mayor Jeff Holt suggested contacting people on short-term leasing/renting and see about availability.

Ray Stuckey also stated they were waiting on the weather to do any paving.

RECREATION: Commissioner Anderson said Recreation Director Scottie Hayes was absent due to attending a PTA meeting. She informed the board that basketball was underway, and the turkey shoots were a success. She also said the Pine Level Christmas Parade was cancelled due

to inclement weather. She also stated that Scottie had sent some quotes on repaving and patching to be done at the park. The Mayor said the town hall parking lot also needs repaving. The mayor stated that Powell Bill Funds can only be used on streets. He said he would check the line items in the budget to see how much had been spent this year. Commissioner Anderson said there were also some repairs that needed to be done on the concession stand and dug outs. She said the total quoted was \$13,330 for the park.

WATER/SEWER: Mayor Holt stated that the County will be doing an equalization on the storage tank. Dan Simmons stated the new well had been tested, and they have called for a re-test in which the results will be back in two weeks. Mayor Holt said this was a major water and sewer project but first we have to get the well right, then bid packets could possibly be sent out this Spring.

FIRE DEPT: Greg Johnson gave a report from the Fire Department. He said the department had their Christmas Party. He also said the next inspection would be next summer and they are hoping to receive a lower insurance rating.

FINANCE: Attorney Will Barham gave a legal update for the police department. He said NC Legislation requires an update of every ordinance that Pine Level has that has a misdemeanor/criminal offence attached to it. He said the requirements were submitted for that pursuant to session law and he said he could provide a copy to anyone who would like to review it.

Will also updated the board on taking online payments. He said he was waiting on an updated contract copy of the updated contract, then we can move forward.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SUPPLEMENTAL RETIREMENT BENEFIT

Mayor Holt stated that the board had been considering for some time to adopt a supplemental retirement benefit program for employees rewarding them for years of service. He said Attorney Will Barham has provided a Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to the Town Personnel Policy based on what the board had discussed. He said this Resolution would be effective today. He said the board had funded this budget item for the last two budget years. The board discussed and reviewed the resolution and asked if there were any questions. After some discussion, Commissioner Greg Baker made a motion to amend the Personnel Policy to adopt this Resolution and Commissioner Phil Pittman seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (This Resolution is made a part of these minutes by reference).

NEW BUSINESS

RETIREMENT OF JEFF CROCKER

Mayor Holt stated that Jeff Crocker would be retiring on December 31, 2018. He said Jeff has been with the town for 23 years and we wish him the best on his retirement.

PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Holt stated that two applicants have applied for the Pine Level Planning Board. Tammy Register has applied for an ETJ position and Kimani Skeritte has applied for an in-town alternate position. After reviewing their applications, Mayor Holt stated that the town board recommends approval of applicants in the ETJ to the County Commissioners for appointment and the town board approves in-town members.

Commissioner Greg Baker made a motion to recommend approval of Tammy Register to the Johnston County Commissioners for appointment in the Pine Level ETJ. Commissioner Karen Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Commissioner Karen Anderson made a motion to also appoint Kimani Skeritte as an in-town alternate on the Planning Board. Commissioner Phil Pittman seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

CLOSED SESSION

At 7:45 p.m. the town board along with Town Attorney Will Barham entered a brief closed session to discuss personnel issues. No action was taken.

The closed session ended at 8:17 p.m. and the board resumed regular session.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Deputy Clerk

Mayor

