

Mayor
Jeff Holt

Mayor Pro-Tem
Greg Baker

Board of Commissioners
Jimmy Garner
Phil Pittman
Bill Radford



Town Clerk
Connie N. Capps

Police Chief
Ashley Woodard

Public Works Supt.
Ray Stuckey

Rec. Coordinator
Scottie Hayes

**MINUTES OF REGULAR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MARCH 14, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jeff Holt called the regular meeting of the Pine Level Town Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 14, 2022 at the Pine Level Town Hall.

ROLL CALL

✓ Mayor Jeff Holt
✓ Commissioner Greg Baker
✓ Commissioner Jimmy Garner
✓ Commissioner Phil Pittman
✓ Commissioner Bill Radford

STAFF PRESENT

Attorney Chip Hewett, Consultant Dan Simmons, Police Chief Ashley Woodard, Recreation Director/Zoning Administrator Scottie Hayes, Public Works Superintendent Ray Stuckey, Finance Consultant Marla Ashworth, and Town Clerk Connie Capps

OTHERS PRESENT: Fire Chief Brannan Barbee, Fire Department President Greg Johnson, Attorney Whitney Hosey, Terry Johnson, Kevin Kornegay, Cliff Holloman, Van Jones, Terry Rains, Adam Stuckey and Jay Edwards

INVOCATION: Commissioner Greg Baker

PLEDGE: Terry Rains

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mayor Jeff Holt requested that the board amend the agenda to strike Item #10 Mayor's Minute and replace with a Closed Session as per Attorney Chip Hewett according to G.S.143-318.11, Subsection 3 to consult with the Attorney on Litigation Matters.

Commissioner Phil Pittman made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and Commissioner Greg Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- FEBRUARY 14, 2022

Motion to approve: Commissioner Greg Baker

Second: Commissioner Bill Radford

Vote: Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Holt asked for any public comment for items not on the agenda.

Attorney Whitney Hosey addressed the board and stated that she represented resident Mr. Will Barnes who is a landowner that resides along Kingston Street in LaBelle Acres Subdivision. She distributed a handout to show the board the property she was addressing. She said this property was deeded several decades ago. She stated the property was a small grassy area of about 2200 square feet that abuts three parcels of land. She said that Mr. Barnes who is one of the adjacent property owners has stated that he and the other two adjacent property owners would like for the Town to consider abandonment of the property right-of-way. She informed the board that the town was not benefitting from the property nor receiving any tax revenue from it, nor was Johnston County.

Attorney Chip Hewett stated that the board has two options: (1) Declare the property surplus and hold an auction or (2) Consider Abandonment of Property Right-Of-Way, in which the board would need to adopt a resolution and call for a public hearing. He said the board could also say no, and the property would remain status quo. He stated if the board chooses abandonment, the property is divided and goes to the adjacent landowners by statute. Attorney Hosey said there were three potential adjacent property owners. Attorney Hewett advised the staff to investigate and make sure there are no utilities in that area. After some discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Bill Radford to consider a Resolution at the April meeting. Commissioner Jimmy Garner seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Board- Zoning Administrator Scottie Hayes informed the board that a Comprehensive Land Use Plan Survey will be distributed to citizens for feedback. He said the survey will be available online, and could also be picked up at the town hall. He said the survey is a requirement of 160D. Commissioner Bill Radford made a motion to approve the survey as presented and to distribute to the citizens as deemed necessary. Commissioner Phil Pittman seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Recreation- Recreation Director Scottie Hayes reported that softball, baseball and tee ball would begin the first of April. He also stated that Smart Cuts Landscaping and Tree Removal had finished trimming and cutting some of the trees at the park and did a great job. He said the State Grant of \$75,000.00 had been applied for and the town should be receiving the money soon. He said he was also applying for another recreation grant from Johnston County Tourism Authority for \$50,000.00. He said he had consulted with Finance Consultant Marla Ashworth on the best use of these funds for the park and they were putting together a Recreation Plan.

Scottie next introduced Contractor Jay Edwards. Mr. Edwards gave estimates for the improvements on the concession stand at the park. He said that Scottie, Brian Murray, and himself had worked together on what needed to be replaced. He said a new face lift for the building was much needed, with replacing windows and renovating the upstairs for a meeting room. He said the inside of the concession stand also needed new cabinets, new lighting, and the bathrooms needed repairs as well. He said they wanted to bring everything up to standard that everyone would be proud to use. He said the recreation department could host other events and tournaments. Commissioner Jimmy Garner was concerned that parents were not helping with the concessions as they did years ago. Scottie stated that before we

had four or five recreation members, and now we have about 20 new recreation members on the board. He said the members seem to have more interest and excitement.

Mr. Edwards submitted his Recreation Plan to the board. Commissioner Greg Baker made a motion to move forward on the plan pending availability of funds, and Commissioner Bill Radford seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Scottie Hayes brought before the board a Commercial Services Contract Agreement from Home Masters Pest Control for mosquito spraying at the park and also neighborhoods in town. There was no action taken on this request.

Scottie informed everyone that tonight would be the last drawing held for the 50/50 raffle. He said eighty-five tickets were sold, a total of \$425.00. The winning ticket pulled was Joseph Radford who won \$212.50.

Water/Sewer- Mayor Holt next presented a Resolution Approving the 2021 Local Water Supply Plan for the Town of Pine Level Water System. North Carolina General Statute 143-355 (I) requires that each unit of local government that provides public water service or that plans to provide public water service, shall prepare and submit a Local Water Supply Plan.

Motion to adopt Resolution: Commissioner Phil Pittman

Second: Commissioner Bill Radford

Vote: Unanimous

Consultant Dan Simmons reported that the water project may be completed in the next thirty days.

Commissioner Phil Pittman stated that some citizens are concerned about the growth from Selma that is moving eastward toward Pine Level and the effects it would have with more water being sent to Pine Level by way of Moccasin Creek. He said he had spoken with Mayor Holt about this concern. Mayor Holt stated that Johnston County had given the Moccasin Creek Drainage District \$25,000 to pay for a study to be done on Moccasin Creek. He said in the NC budget there was \$500,000.00 appropriated toward Moccasin Creek Drainage District for maintenance and repairs. He said the Town of Selma also received \$500,000.00 that was earmarked for Moccasin Creek Drainage District. The Moccasin Creek Drainage board has received 4 or 5 quotes on doing a complete study of the 42 miles of Moccasin Creek. He said there is going to be a lot of money spent to maintain Moccasin Creek for such problems as erosion and replacing tile and these are just a few.

STREETS

Commissioner Greg Baker reported that Adam Stuckey's team was doing a great job on the water project and also maintaining the streets. He also praised the street department guys for the work they do every day. Mayor Holt added that the town may have to look at increasing garbage collection fees in the upcoming budget year due to the increase of garbage being collected. He said there was some discussion at the Mayors meeting on considering contract garbage collection with other towns due to the growth of new development coming to all towns. He said we should consider getting quotes.

POLICE

Commissioner Jimmy Garner said he would like to publicly thank Representative Larry Strickland for the grant money the Town of Pine Level received for the recreation park. He also requested that if anyone should see Representative Larry Strickland to please tell him, THANK YOU!!

Commissioner Garner informed the board that one of the police cars was in need of repairs that would cost \$2,200.00. He said this car has over 100,000 miles on it. He said we could fix the car now and maybe consider a new vehicle in the upcoming budget. He said if the town ordered a new vehicle, it possibly would be here in November. Commissioner Greg Baker made a motion to have the car repaired and Commissioner Jimmy Garner seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Police Chief Ashely Woodard reported that Zoning Administrator Scottie Hayes and himself had been working with Town Attorney Chip Hewett on proceeding with condemning some houses and abandoned houses in town. He also stated that he had applied for a grant to receive two speed trailers, 100 cones, and six portable signs.

Police Chief Ashley Woodard submitted to the board an ordinance declaring speed limits on certain streets located within the city limits of the Town of Pine Level that are not part of the state highway system. (A copy of the Speed Limit Ordinance is included and made a part of these minutes.)

Motion to adopt Speed Limit Ordinance: Commissioner Jimmy Garner

Second: Commissioner Bill Radford

Vote: Unanimous

FIRE DEPT

Fire Chief Brannan Barbee reported on the fire in Pine Level where the train had blocked all the crossings in town. He stated that he had part-time staff at the station which was a great help. He also stated the department was planning to partner with Johnston County Partnership for Children and have a car seat check event in May during Fireman's Day. He said he would have more details to report on Fireman's Day next month. Mayor Holt thanked the fire department for everything they do.

STAFF

Mayor Holt presented a copy of an Audit Contract from SP Douglas and Associates for the audit year ending June 30, 2022.

Motion to approve audit contract- Commissioner Jimmy Garner

Second- Commissioner Bill Radford

Vote: Unanimous

Town Clerk Connie Capps reminded the Mayor and Commissioners of an Ethics Training that has been scheduled for them, which is required for newly elected officials will be held on May 26, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The board reviewed information packets presented from three reputable Engineering Companies and decided to further review them and make a decision next month.

Mayor Holt stated that the board had previously discussed some concerns with the US Postal Service and decided to contact Congressman David Rouzer. He said that he and Commissioner Pittman had contacted his office and left a message but have not had a response.

NEW BUSINESS

None

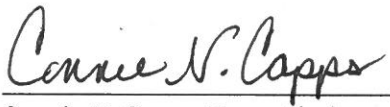
CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Jimmy Garner made a motion to close the regular meeting at 8:10 p.m. p.m. in order to hold a closed session as per Town Attorney Chip Hewett according to G.S.143-318.11 Subsection 3, Litigation Matters. Commissioner Bill Radford seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote. At 8:35 p.m. Commissioner Bill Radford made a motion to exit the closed session and re-enter open session with a second from Commissioner Jimmy Garner. The motion passed by unanimous vote. There was no action taken.

ANNOUNCEMENTS- None


ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Jimmy Garner made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Bill Radford seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting ended at 8:36 p.m.



Connie N. Capps, Town Clerk





Jeff Holt, Mayor