

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

TOWN OF PINE LEVEL
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jeff Holt called the regular meeting of the Pine Level Town Board to order on Monday, January 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Pine Level Town Hall.

ROLL CALL

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

STAFF PRESENT

Attorney Chip Hewett, Police Chief Ashley Woodard, Recreation Director/Zoning Adm. Scottie Hayes, Public Works Supt. Ray Stuckey, Administrative Assistant, Ashley Willoughby, Finance Consultant Marla Ashworth, and Town Clerk Connie Capps.

OTHERES PRESENT

Wayne and Kaye Beasley, and PL Fire Dept. President Greg Johnson

INVOCATION: Commissioner Greg Baker

PLEDGE: Commissioner Phil Pittman

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Greg Baker
Second: Commissioner Bill Radford
Vote: Unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- DECEMBER 12, 2022

Motion to Approve: Commissioner Phil Pittman

Second: Commissioner Greg Baker

Vote: Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPOINTMENT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

Mayor Jeff Holt stated the position on the Johnston County Economic Development Advisory Board representing the Town of Pine Level was currently Randy Jones. He said the position is coming up for reappointment. He stated the County would like a recommendation from the Town on Mr. Jones or any other individual they feel would be a good candidate for the position. Commissioner Bill Radford made a motion to recommend the reappointment of Randy Jones and Commissioner Phil Pittman seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Mayor Holt directed Town Clerk Connie Capps to send a letter to Johnston County recommending this reappointment.

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING HIGH BID FOR PROPERTY

Mayor Jeff Holt stated that a Resolution for Accepting High Bid for Property was next on the agenda. Mayor Holt asked the board to allow him to recuse himself from this part of the meeting and allow Mayor Pro tem Greg Baker to assume the gavel. A motion was made by Commissioner Bill Radford and seconded by Commissioner Greg Baker. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Attorney Chip Hewett stated that the board went through the process to declare property surplus by advertising the property located at 509 West Pine Street. He inquired to Town Clerk Connie Capps if she had received any upset bids after the town had received the bid from Miss Whitley Holt. Town Clerk Connie Capps replied that she did not receive any bids.

Attorney Hewett stated that he had prepared a Resolution that reads that the Town of Pine Level had declared the property surplus and conducted a sale by public auction bids with the ability to upset. The notice was advertised in the newspaper. He stated the upset bid period has expired and at this time the board can consider the Resolution to accept the high bid.

Mayor Pro tem Greg Baker asked for a motion to consider the resolution and accept the bid. Commissioner Phil Pittman made a motion to accept the high bid. Commissioner Bill Radford seconded the motion. The motion passed. None opposed. Mayor Pro tem Greg Baker asked Attorney Hewett about the time frame in this process. Attorney Hewett stated the board would need to transfer the title by reaching out to the buyer asking when they would like to close and to coordinate with the town clerk within the next 30 days. Mayor Pro tem Greg Baker asked for a motion to proceed to the closing on the property, and to also give authority to Mayor Pro tem Greg Baker to sign the deed/documents on behalf of the town.

Commissioner Bill Radford asked if the street would still remain open. Mayor Pro tem Greg Baker recognized recused Mayor Jeff Holt as a citizen to speak to answer the question. Mayor Holt stated that it is not a public street, nor a recorded easement. He stated that the town does not receive any Powell Bill money for that street. He said it was only there to give access

to the VFW and the swimming pool. He stated it was private property. Mayor Pro tem Greg Baker then asked for a motion to proceed with this closing. Commissioner Bill Radford made a motion to proceed with the closing and Commissioner Phil Pittman seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mayor Jeff Holt accepted the gavel back from Mayor Pro tem Greg Baker and the meeting continued.

PETITION REQUESTING ANNEXATION

Mayor Jeff Holt next recognized Wayne and Kaye Beasley who live on Gor An Farm Road. He stated they have submitted a petition requesting annexation. He stated they also own property located behind and beside their home and are wanting to build on this property. He said they have stated they are having issues with obtaining septic tank permits from the County for this property. He said the process was they could ask for annexation from the town. Mayor Holt asked Mr. & Mrs. Beasley if they were aware that the town did not have to annex their property into town in order for them to receive water and sewer for that property. They responded that they had spoken with Public Works Supt. Ray Stuckey concerning this after they had made application. Mayor Holt then asked if they wanted to proceed with the annexation process. The Beasleys stated they would like to withdraw their application for annexation.

PLANNING BOARD- Nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS- Commissioner Pittman stated there would be a meeting held with the Senior Committee this Spring on deciding what to do and when to proceed with the Senior meetings.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Recreation- Recreation Director Scottie Hayes reported that he had about eight or ten basketball teams and five cheerleading squads this year. He said registration for baseball, softball and tee ball will begin next month. Commissioner Bill Radford asked where did the town stand on paving the parking lot at the park and fixing the drainage problem. Scottie stated that he had talked with Marla concerning this and she stated she had submitted a proposal to the Mayor for a study to be done. Mayor Holt stated that there are other issues on Oliver and Church Street and the big ditch behind LaBelle Acres that need some attention and we will be talking with our State Legislators about a study.

Water/Sewer- Commissioner Phil Pittman reported that the weather needs to improve in order to do any paving on Carolyn Drive.

Mayor Jeff Holt stated that an Interlocal Agreement has been made between Pine Level and the Town of Four Oaks. He said we replaced the pumps in our lift stations because they would not work with our new system. He said the Town of Four Oaks made an offer to buy three pumps. This agreement allows us to sell surplus to them in accordance with the Local Government

Commission. He said there is a description of the pumps and there is no warranty. He said they will come and pick up the pumps.

Motion to accept this agreement: Commissioner Phil Pittman

Second: Commissioner Bill Radford

Vote: Unanimous

Streets: Commissioner Greg Baker stated that Public Works Supt. Ray Stuckey received a quote from Barnhill for paving Carolyn Drive. He said this was needed due to the replacing of drainage tile. Mayor Holt and Marla stated that they included Carolyn Drive in the drainage study.

Police: Chief Ashley Woodard reported that the Police Department responded to 88 calls from December 12, 2022 to January 9, 2023. He said the department had received two Ford Interceptor SUV's that was purchased from Capital Ford. He said we are now working on outfitting the two vehicles. He stated that the Town of Pine Level Police Department has been awarded the 2022 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$15,085.00. He said this grant will be used to purchase speed trailers, cones, and signage.

Chief Woodard also reported that the department had been approached by the Johnston County School System about a SRO position and an opportunity to put an officer in Pine Level Elementary School. The position would be split between two retired part-time police officers. He stated that Town Attorney Chip Hewett has a Memo of Understanding for this opportunity. He said if the town is awarded this position, it would incline the Chief to sign the agreement for one full-time salary divided by two part-time officers. He said the money is in the budget and the town would be reimbursed for the funds since this is a grant. Mayor Holt stated a budget amendment would need to be made. Commissioner Bill Radford made a motion to authorize Police Chief Ashley Woodard to negotiate a final contract regarding an SRO officer in Pine Level and report back with a budget. Commissioner Phil Pittman seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Fire Dept. Fire Dept. President Greg Johnson reported that the department was in the process of working on the upcoming Fireman's Day. He also stated that Chief Brannan Barbee could not come tonight but ask that in the next couple of months if they would like to meet with him to discuss the budget.

Staff: Finance Consultant Marla Ashworth reported that the ARPA money that was earmarked from last Spring for the following: a well development project, water treatment plant upgrades, camera to inspection for your I&I system, permit fees, and the license fees for railroad fees; she stated that a couple of months ago Connie and I got the paperwork together to get the railroad permits and money to send in. She said after six weeks we inquired about the fees. She said last week I received a call from the State and it is possible that the town could receive the

monies to pay off the railroad. She also stated that by the end of the month the town should be ready to bid on the I&I project. Mayor Holt stated this was good news.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Attorney Chip Hewett gave an update on the following properties:

1. Giles Jones property- He said there was speculation that Mr. Jones had sold his property, but as of today, this property has not been sold, but we do need a current address for Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones is proceeding and moving at the speed the board set for him. If he sells the property, the process continues with the new owner.
2. McCallister Property- Since the USDA is involved with this property, instead of 30 days to respond they will have 60 days to respond.
3. Foster Property (Herbie Butler house)- 302 West Main Street- We sent the demolition agreement for them to sign, and they did not respond. We sent them an email that we were going to move forward. Ms. Foster responded to the email and said they did not want to demolish the property and they wanted to try and repair the home but wanted an extension. Attorney Hewett's recommendation to the board was not to grant the extension and move forward to have the property demolished.

VERBIAGE FOR SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT FEES

Commissioner Phil Pittman reminded the board that they should change the verbiage in our Fee Schedule for System Development Fees that was recommended by Attorney Chip Hewett last month. Mayor Holt stated that the board will address that next month.

Applications for Town Administrator


Mayor Holt reported that seven applications had been received for the position of Town Administrator. He stated we extended the time through Dec 31st.

MAYOR'S MINUTE

Mayor Holt stated that Commissioner Radford created Pine Level Folks on Facebook in order for people to share pictures and interesting facts about Pine Level. He said since this is the town's 150th Anniversary it would be a good time to share historical information about Pine Level. He said Brian Phillips has shared several pictures and information about Pine Level and we appreciate him doing this.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss Commissioner Bill Radford made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Phil Pittman seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting ended at 7:40 p.m.


Connie N. Capps, Town Clerk




Jeff Holt, Mayor