



TOWN OF PINE LEVEL
MINUTES OF REGULAR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MARCH 4, 2019
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 Monday, March 4, 2019 at the Pine Level Town Hall, after determining that a quorum was present.

ROLL CALL

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

STAFF PRESENT

Town Attorney Will Barham, Consultant Dan Simmons, Public Works Supt. Ray Stuckey, Police Chief Keith Sparks and Interim Chief Ashley Woodard, Parks & Rec Coordinator Scottie Hayes, Deputy Clerk Connie Capps and Town Clerk Sharon Thompson

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Holt gave the invocation and then asked Commissioner Anderson-Miller to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

Move Item # 7 to # 13 (JH)

MOTION TO ADOPT: Garner
SECOND: Anderson-Miller
VOTE: unanimous

MINUTES: 02-11-19

MOTION TO APPROVE: Anderson-Miller
SECOND: Baker
VOTE: unanimous

PUBLIC MEETING ON TRUCK PURCHASE

The mayor opened a required public meeting, said meeting having been duly advertised on February 20, 2019 in *The Johnstonian News*, to receive public comment pertaining to the purchase of a garbage truck through funding provided by USDA Rural Development. Mayor Holt said the truck would cost approximately \$250,000. He said the purchase has not been decided for certain, but the town has been setting some money aside for such a purchase. He said this meeting was a formality, although a necessary step for the town to proceed with an application for money through USDA RDA, which would be long term, low interest funding. He asked if anyone wished to comment; hearing no comment the board proceeded to close the meeting.

MOTION: Garner

SECOND: Anderson-Miller

VOTE: unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment, but the mayor thanked everyone in attendance for the meeting.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

PLANNING BOARD: The board received a recommendation from the Planning Board to approve the Final Plat for Lots 41 and 48 in Starfield Acres S/D, and to approve the Preliminary Plat for Clearview Estates Phase II S/D. The recommendation was approved by unanimous vote.

MOTION: Pittman

SECOND: Garner

VOTE: unanimous

SENIORS GROUP: Commissioner Pittman said they should meet next Wednesday, with Tim Crocker as a special guest.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

STREETS: Commissioner Baker. Paving/patching should start as soon as weather warms up. Old garbage truck not back from the repair shop yet. Ray Stuckey said Barnhill started with some prepping today in preparation for paving.

RECREATION: Commissioner Anderson-Miller. Reverse Raffle coming up on Saturday, March 9. Registering for tee ball through March.

POLICE: Commissioner Garner. Need to look at replacing police cars and hiring a new full time officer.

WATER/SEWER: Commissioner Pittman. Patching up leaks in water lines. Still working on \$2.5 million water/sewer project. Mayor said he will meet with the county engineer and Dan Simmons on March 13th at 9:00 a.m.

FIRE DEPT: Paul Allen said that daylight savings time starts this weekend so it would be a good time to check the batteries in smoke alarms. He also said they are having a dance this month and that Firemen's Day will be in May.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Mayor Holt said he was glad to have the town clerk back tonight, since she has been out with sickness and injuries, and he said they appreciate Connie Capps and Billie Kay stepping up to help out.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS CONCERNING POLICE CHIEF

Mayor Holt said he wanted to recognize the outgoing Police Chief, Keith Sparks. He said Chief Sparks was the fifth chief that he remembers in Pine Level in his lifetime. Chief Sparks started with the town in 1999 as part time and became full time in 2000, and he said he has served the town well during that time. He has always been a friend to the town people, the board and his fellow employees. He said the town held a luncheon for Chief Sparks a couple of weeks ago and that last Friday, he had a big send-off at the American Legion. He explained how the chief signed off on the radio on February 28 and officers from all over the county called in to congratulate him. Mayor Holt said it was a fitting ending and tribute from his peers in law enforcement. He then presented Chief Sparks with a Certificate of Appreciation for his years of service to the town. Commissioner Garner presented him with his service revolver and his retired chief's badge. Mayor Holt said he spoke on behalf of everyone and wished him a lot of luck, and everyone gave the chief a standing ovation. Chief Sparks thanked everyone, in particular the fire department and all of the other officers in the department. He commented that Pine Level's board has been the most pro-police department in the county. He thanked all of them for their assistance, as well as the town attorney and town clerk, and the citizens of Pine Level, his other officers, and his spouse, Donna Sparks.

The mayor then stated that pursuant to NCGS and the town's Personnel Policy, the town had to advertise the open position in the police department. He said the Policy encourages promoting from within when possible. He commented that Lt. Ashley Woodard was the applicant that stood head and shoulders above the rest and as mayor, he would recommend that Lt. Woodard be promoted to the position of Police Chief in Pine Level. Commissioner Baker said it would be a distinct honor to make a motion that Lt. Woodard be promoted to the role of Chief of Police here in Pine Level. Commissioner Garner seconded the motion and it passed upon a unanimous vote. Commissioner Pittman said that was a wise choice. The mayor then stepped up to administer the Oath of Office to Lt. Woodard, who was accompanied by his wife, Marcy, and daughters, Jody Grace and Ashlyn. Mayor Holt said he was talking with Ashley a couple of weeks back and explained that he was a hands-off mayor but the chief's position was sometimes seven days a week and the salary was not going to make you rich. Ashley responded that he didn't want to get rich, but to make a difference. The mayor presented Chief Woodard with a new chief's badge and his daughter pinned it on. He commented that they look forward to working with Chief Woodard and serving with him because Pine Level is indeed the "best little town in NC." Chief Woodard thanked the mayor and board for their confidence in him. Mayor Holt thanked everyone in attendance and encouraged them to go out in the lobby and have some of the refreshments.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:35 P.M.

There being no further business, the meeting came to an end at 7:35 p.m.

MOTION: Garner
SECOND: Anderson-Miller
VOTE: unanimous

TOWN CLERK

MAYOR