

May 12, 2020

7:00 PM

The Town of Pink Hill Board meeting was held on March 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the town hall board room. Present for this meeting was Mayor Carol Sykes, Commissioner Mike Hill, Commissioner James Quinn, Commissioner Penny Murphy, Town Attorney George Jenkins, Public Works Director Timmy Kennedy, Public Works Assistant Phillip Swinson, Police Chief Michael Hoffman and Town Clerk Crystal Heath.

Visitors present were Mr. Steven Hines from Board of Elections, Officer Sammy Herring, and Officer Alfonso Rodriguez.

Mayor Sykes said I would like to call this meeting to order and I welcome everyone to the March 10, 2020 meeting. Mayor Sykes asks Commissioner Hill to lead them in the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Everyone stood and said the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Sykes said I need a motion to approve the agenda and amendments if needed and consent agenda with the regular board meeting minutes from March 2020. Commissioner Hill said I make a motion to accept the agenda and the minutes from the last meeting. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes said any discussion on this, all in favor say "aye." Motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor Sykes asked for everyone to look at the agenda at 4b regarding Waste Industries. She states that Waste Industries has changed its name and wants the board to be aware of it. Mayor Sykes states it is the same contract and still Waste Industries, but now GFL Environmental. There is no contract yet for GFL yet, but Waste Industries states it is the same one. Mayor Sykes asked for the approval of the board. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve Waste Industries change to Green for Life. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes said any discussion on this, all in favor say "aye." Motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor Sykes stated that the next item on the agenda was the Board of Elections invoice. Mayor Sykes introduced Mr. Steven Hines who is the new director of the election board. Mr. Hines provided a print out in detail of the invoice to the board. She asked Mr. Hines to explain the invoice to the board. Mayor Sykes stated she did not understand how Pink Hill was charged the same price as Kinston, and asked for an explanation when there was a total of 66 votes. Mr. Hines addressed the invoice asking the board to notice item "G" which in detail explained the election cost. He states Kinston was charge \$15,411 and Pink Hill \$6,152 and La Grange was \$5,992.00. The bill has been paid by the Town of Pink Hill. Mr. Hines asked the board to look at the first page going into municipal election and its previous years. He noted 2013 election which was a little over \$2,000 dollars and the 2015 election where it reflects a change in the chart showing the town started allowing absentee voting. Mayor Sykes stated that it didn't say that the town had to have absentee voting. Mr. Hines stated it does say that the town does, he noted that in the town's resolution there is the word "shall" whenever the word "shall" is there the board of elections will be allowed. In regards to the 2019 election the previous director made a cost estimate for the town, in exhibit "E" it is noted as \$8,940.00. He asked the board to look at

Exhibit H which shows the difference in cost for prior years. Mayor Sykes asked why the town has to pay for any ad expenses. Mr. Hines stated that anything that is advertised included Kinston, La Grange, and Pink Hill. He said that the Town could combat the cost by amending the charter and not allowing absentee voting. That would reduce the cost by a big portion of expenditure. Another thing that can be done is the staggering terms, everyone getting elected every four years will save costs as well. Mayor Sykes asked why the town has to pay part of Kinston and La Grange's stuff when the Town is much smaller. Mr. Hines stated that the town in some cases is smaller, but the service is still provided. Mayor Sykes also asked about mileage for each employee that was noted on the invoice, in which she states they did not come to Town of Pink Hill. Mr. Hines stated that he does not know where they went, and would not have any way of knowing that. Mayor Sykes felt that the town should not have to pay for it if they did not come to Pink Hill. Mayor Sykes went on to address the \$100.00 facility grant where the facility that was used was the towns. She asked that why does the town have to pay for their own facility that was used. Mr. Hines stated that would be something he had to look at, where they are charging and would be paid back. Mayor Sykes also thought that the resolution the towns attorney Mr. George Jenkins sent in for the town noted that they did not have to have it. She noted that in the minutes it discusses the terms about the resolution. Attorney Jenkins asked Mr. Hines how did he determine the proportions was it 1/3 each town. Mr. Hines asked him to look at the share column where it says nine precincts; La Grange has one precinct, Pink Hill has one precinct, and Kinston has nine precincts. Mayor Sykes asked the town's attorney to handle it. Mr. Jenkins stated that some of the items were not divided by the shares. The mileage and supplies are not equal, where it does not make any sense. Mr. Hines stated he could possibly look at why there are three splits equally instead of precincts. Mr. Jenkins said that the resolution stated that the town shall be "allowed" not "required" to have the one stop voting. He said when one looks at the legislative history and based on the sense of the commission and the legislators if the town wanted it the town would request it, not for it to be forced upon. Mr. Hines stated that would be the first case in North Carolina that he has heard of. Mr. Jenkins stated that if that was the case they should go to the Legislature the next day. He states that it looks to him that the Board of Elections has not treated the town fairly in regards to this concern. Mr. Hines stated he understood, that he would be concerned as well of the \$6,000 bill where there were only 66 votes. Mr. Jenkins stated that the 66 voters were over the entire election those were not the ones who came to one stop to do the absentee. Mr. Hines went on to say that there were five voters in last election that voted absentee, seven in 2017, and five in 2015. Mayor Sykes addressed this saying those were in Kinston not in the Pink Hill. Mr. Jenkins stated it was ridiculous to pay that much for five voters. Mr. Hines said it was a service provided either way. Mayor Sykes asked for difference in invoice with Pink Hill and La Grange. Mr. Hines stated the difference in the amount is the Pink Hill Rescue building, Mayor Sykes stated the town paid for that building. Mr. Hines stated that is something they had messed up on since the town is providing the building and they are charging the town to use it. Mr. Hines stated that is something that can be fixed in the future. Mayor Sykes asked why they cannot have their money back for this election; Mr. Hines stated it was still a bill that needed to be paid. Mr. Jenkins stated that if this change in the charter would affect the 2020 election. Mr. Hines stated the board had no barring the 2020 election because the town does not have a municipal unless it changes. Mr. Jenkins asked if the

town would be charged a surcharge for the 2020 election. Mr. Hines stated there would be no cost since there was no municipal. The next election where the town would have to be charged is the 2021 election. He further stated that he had just started and his goal is to minimize the cost to each municipality. Mr. Jenkins asked if La Grange was charged for their building, Mr. Hines stated he believed they were not since they used the community building. Mayor Sykes asked if they should move to the school, again Mr. Hines stated they would have to move the voting polls and could be charged. Commissioner Hill commented that it would be best to change the charter and forget about the absentee voting, which Mayor Sykes agree as well. Mr. Jenkins suggested that the board make a motion to have a public hearing to amend the charter and at the end vote to amend the charter and send it to Raleigh. Mr. Hines stated that if they were to remove it the early voting staff cost would be reduced by \$4,000. Mr. Hines stated the town does not need an early voting in a small town. Mayor Sykes stated it was ridiculous to pay so much, but did not blame Mr. Hines. Mayor Sykes asked for a motion, Commissioner Hill made a motion that at the next meeting the board would discuss early voting and absentee ballots. Mayor Sykes asked how they would make sure they do not want absentee voting, Mr. Hines stated they could draft it and send it to him. Mayor Sykes thanked Mr. Hines for coming. Mayor Sykes any discussion all in favor say "aye" to the motion; motion was carried. Mayor Sykes asked Mr. Jenkins that the resolution needs to be done.

Mayor Sykes asked for the fire report. Phillip stated the calls since the last meeting which was in March 10, 2020 through May 12, 2020. There were 4 EMS, 8 vehicle accidents, 3 structural fires, 1 fire alarm, 1 brush fire, and 1 service assignment for a total of 18 calls. Phillip stated the department has been slow because of COVID, they are not allowed to do EMS assignments. Also he addressed that the fire department has some water damage from a leaking toilet and it has been turned in to the fire department insurance and would soon be fixed. Timmy also stated that the adjuster had come to the fire department building and looked at the damages. Timmy does not know how much they would pay and how much they have to fix. Mayor Sykes thanked Phillip for the fire report.

Mayor Sykes asked for the police report, and Chief Mike Hoffman was the one who provided it. Chief Hoffman stated he would address the report per month from the last meeting March 10, 2020 and May 12, 2020. The call volume has doubled in the last two months due to virus and many people staying at home. Chief Hoffman provided a printout to each board member where it has what calls each officer did and the calls for each month. Mayor Sykes asked if anyone had any question. Mr. Jenkins asked if he has had noise complaint, Chief Hoffman stated he has had them. Mr. Jenkins asked him if the noise complaints were from vehicles or parties, Chief Hoffman stated that those were residences. Vehicle noise complaints would be found in vehicle noise citations. Mr. Hoffman introduced Officer Sammy Herring, Mr. Herring stated that he works for the Lenoir County Sheriff's office and has been employed for 4 years there. Chief Hoffman listed his qualifications and why he could be an asset to the town. Chief Hoffman introduced Officer Alfonso Rodriguez he stated he also works for the Lenoir County Sheriff's office and has worked there for 2 years. Chief Hoffman stated that both officers would be a great asset to the community. Mayor Sykes asked to make a motion for the two officers to be hired. Commissioner Hill made a motion to hire both officers as part time no more

than 20 hours, Sammy Herring and Alfonso Rodriguez. Mayor Sykes all in favor say “aye” motion carried unanimously. Mayor Sykes thanked the officers.

Mayor Sykes asked Timmy Kennedy for the water report. Timmy provided a print out to each member on the board. Timmy stated they have been working with the county on hazard mitigation plan for the town and county. The plan has been done and needs approval. Mayor Sykes asked for a motion. Commission Hill made a motion for the hazard mitigation plan. Mayor Sykes asked if there was any discussion, all in favor say “aye” motion was carried unanimously. Timmy stated they also received a grant for \$110,000 on the water side and \$70,000 on the waste water side to finish up on the asset management plan. The grant was received and the town has to pay their portion as of now all the town needs to pay as of now \$1650 and \$1050. The town is still under contract with Stroud Engineering to finish up the work and he has to have something official signed. A copy was made for each member in regards to everything that will be accomplished. Timmy asked them to note \$7150 and \$4550 he’s hoping that between Crystal, Phillip, and himself in regards to acquiring all the information needed the cost could be absorbed. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the water and sewer grant under the Department of Environmental Water Quality Division and Infrastructure Asset Management Plan. Mayor Sykes asked if there was any discussion, all in favor say “aye”, motion carried. Timmy also asked the board to notice the budget for monies to handle a couple pieces of equipment for this year’s budget. Timmy also mentioned the Notice of Deficiency where the town took in too much water well permitted for the sewer plant for the month of February. 240,000 gallons a day of water was taken in. Timmy stated him and Phillip noticed that the numbers were elevated. They started looking at manholes and found three that were causing inflow, they also took pictures. Someone has been hired to fix the manholes and a sewer main has a hole that will also be fixed. That will take care of some of the high readings plus they calibrate yearly a meter to make sure it is reading right. He explained all the issues to the water regional office and they were satisfied. As of now nothing needs to be done as they have corrected the issues. Timmy also discussed the consumer confidence report is on the website it states that the water department has taken all the samples; the state was also given a copy. The report was in compliance. Timmy stated they have also cleaned up the curbs and gutters in the streets and he’s proud of the way it turned out. Mayor Sykes stated he did a good job. Timmy discussed the two inch water meter leak at the old plant and has been repaired. Timmy stated that he went to the old plant lift station and someone goes in there every day 24/7. Timmy noticed there was an incident where someone went in there and popped one of the manholes and left it open. That all he has found that has been messed with, he is wanting to put up cameras to address any further issues. Timmy also stated he made a police report in regards to the incident. Timmy stated the new employee has been doing well and would like to get him into some new classes to become certified once everything opens up. Specs and design has been received for Linwood Avenue and North Central Avenue from the Wooten Company and they have sent it out for bids. The opening and hiring of the contractor is set to happen May 14, 2020. Timmy also asked about the two ton truck and what they needed to do. The truck has braking issues, but would like to know how to sell it. It has not been put up for sale, but there is a local who is interested on it but Timmy needs a price. Timmy asks where he needs to sell it or how since the town is a municipality. Mr. Jenkins states he could put up a seal bid and put a minimum bid.

Mayor Sykes stated she needed a motion. Commissioner Hill made a motion to park it in Town Hall with a sales sign with a minimum bid of \$3500. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes end of discussion, all in favor say “aye.” Motion carried unanimously. Timmy stated there have been a couple of issues with their renewal of their permit, he states they have been told by the state that the lines have changed. Timmy would like hire a surveyor to pinpoint the town’s lines and asks for approval. Commissioner Hill made a motion to hire a surveyor for the town. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes stated end of discussion, all in favor say “aye”, motion was carried. Attorney Jenkins stated that he would recommend getting whoever drew the map on Lauderdale Drive involving Southern Pharmacies may have the guidance and would not entail hiring a surveyor. Phillip stated it would have to be someone else. Timmy stated that was one of the locations that is showing discrepancies and they would rather hire another surveyor. Mayor Sykes thank Timmy for his assistance.

Mayor Sykes asked if attorney George Jenkins had anything to address. Mr. Jenkins stated that in the last two or three months he has had several instances where water needed to be hooked up, other utilities needed to be hooked up, various properties needed development or being sold. He has had complaints where the customers were treated rude. Mr. Jenkins states that in the Town of Pink Hill that is not the case, when customers need assistance they are kind and friendly. Commissioner Mike Hill also stated he wanted to thank the town’s staff for helping with everything during these tough times.

Mayor Sykes asked if there was any discussion, meeting was adjourned.

*Crystal Heath, Town clerk*