April 14, 2015

7:00 P.M.

The Town of Pink Hill held its monthly board meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the town hall board room. Present for the meeting were Mayor Carol Sykes, Commissioners Mike Hill, Donald King and Debra Grady, Town Attorney George Jenkins, Police Chief Joey Thigpen, and Town Clerk Kimberly Mitchell.

Visitors present for the meeting were Bill Turner and Susan Myers.

Mayor Sykes called the meeting to order. Mayor Sykes welcomed everyone to the meeting. Commissioner King then led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Sykes asked for a moment of silence and pray in memory of Vickie Bunn Daughtry. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the regular board minutes from March 10, 2015. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was Update on Pink Hill Rose Festival. Susan Myers said they have a lot of things organized and planned. She said they are going to have a pet parade at 11:00 a.m. and the pets will be decorated in pink. Susan stated they would be having a yard sale also which will be starting at 6:00. She said they have openings in their softball tournament and they will be having a homemade wine making contest, and there are two openings left in the Christian band competition. The grand prize for the Christian band competition is $250.00. She said in order to vote you have to buy a $1.00 ticket. She stated they have bands from Kinston, Pink Hill, and Beulaville and they have two more openings for that. Susan said that Steven Howard and Lorraine Howard is going to be here. She said the opening of the festival will be at 10:00 a.m. and that the board needed to be there because they were going to be recognized. She stated she would give them a schedule at the next meeting. We will have one vendor from the Country Squire selling beer and wine and the area will be roped off. She said she will be meeting with Chief Thigpen this week to discuss logistics and will talk with Kim about trash cans needed. She stated they have gotten a lot of publicity for the festival like on TAC9. They are doing $1,500 worth of free advertising and Steve Hardy is also advertising for them. Susan thanked Mayor Sykes for getting Steve Hardy and the Sea Breeze Band for the festival. She stated they have four teenage bands, Christian band competition, and two country singers. There will be a street dance from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Saturday night. She said they would be having inflatables for the kids and camel rides which will be $7.00.

Susan said they are trying to form a Pink Hill Recreation Association and they had their first meeting last night. She invited the board members to attend the next meeting which will be Tuesday, April 28, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the old school gym. Mr. Bill Ellis came out last night to the meeting and they were able to get one commitment from him. He said if the parents and the leaders of the commission raise half of the money to fix the floor in the gym, then the county would put in the other half. She said Mr. Ellis stated for the floor to be fixed it would be approximately $16,000. Kim asked Susan if she had thought about sending a memo to the Principal at Pink Hill Elementary to send out to all the parents to get parent involvement. Mayor Sykes told Susan that they appreciate what she has done and what she keeps doing and to keep up the good work.

The next item on the agenda was the WASA Report. Commissioner Hill said the only thing that really went on at the WASA meeting was that they approved to upgrade that 4 inch valve to an 8 inch valve for the City of Kinston and WASA paid for it. He said it should have been 8 inches to start with.

Police Updates were next on the agenda. Chief Thigpen said since the last meeting on March 10, 2015 they have had 4 reported incidents, 1 arrest, 2 accidents, issued 12 citations with a total of 14 charges, and issued 16 warning citations. He stated the car is still at the Dodge place in Jacksonville and has been there about three weeks. They are down one car and one radar. Chief Thigpen said he had gotten his two computers and got them put in in the cars. Mayor Sykes thanked Chief Thigpen for the job they all do.

The next item on the agenda was Discussion of Consent Agenda. George explained that a consent agenda is where you have things that usually don’t get any debate that are put into what is called a consent agenda such as resolutions, approval of minutes, and things that don’t usually have any discussion on them. He said those type of items would be put in a consent agenda and at the beginning of the meeting you would be asked to approve the consent agenda. He stated anything can be pulled out of a consent agenda if somebody wants to discuss it. It usually saves time and streamlines the meeting. Commissioner Hill made a motion to start using a consent agenda. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was discussion of H.J. Building. Mayor Sykes asked what the town has to do to get that building so they can tear it down. George explained that it is not as easy as all that. For instance if the owner deeded it to the town, then the town should not accept it because he owes approximately $8,000 plus penalties, plus interest, plus court cost in taxes. He owes over $5,000 on his 2005 federal taxes and almost $3,000 on his 2010 federal taxes. He owes his 2014 property taxes but those are in the range of $640 on that building. George said he could not imagine the tax collector wanting to do a tax foreclosure on that building for $650 worth of taxes when the court cost, attorney fees, and cost of advertisement are going to be three times that much. Mayor Sykes asked are we stuck with it and George replied no you are not. He stated if the town spends some money and tears it down and makes demand on him for the cost of tearing it down, then he has 30 days to pay the cost of tearing it down. If he doesn’t, then that amount can be assessed against him as property taxes and he probably is not going to pay that either. At that point the out of date and unpaid taxes would be so high that the tax collector may consider a tax foreclosure. The tax foreclosure doesn’t cure the problem with the IRS. Mayor Sykes said the building is condemned and she doesn’t want anyone especially children to get hurt. She stated she would really hate it if someone was injured going in there. Commissioner Hill asked since the building has been condemned couldn’t the town take a backhoe and knock the walls down? George stated yes, you can demolish the building but there are a couple of steps that we have to take first. We have to give the owner notice that we are getting ready to do it and give him the opportunity to tear it down at his expense before we tear it down at our expense. Commissioner Hill said he was talking about just knocking down the walls so that nobody can walk in the building at all. Mayor Sykes stated that she feels like if the back part was pushed down it would help. Mayor Sykes said she just wanted it gone and cleaned up. George said then the town is going to have to front the money. She said she figured that, and she needs to know how much the town is going to have to front. George stated he didn’t know how much it would cost to demolish that type of building. Mayor Sykes said she already has an estimate on that. Mayor Sykes said she needs to know the attorney fees and taxes. She said she needs to know the bottom line of what we would have to have to get that building torn down. George said the attorney fees would be negligible and would not be that much. Mayor Sykes asked George isn’t that in your agreement? George replied no his agreement is to come to meetings and draft documents for the town. Mayor Sykes stated again that she wants to know what it will cost the town. George stated he will get her an estimate for attorney fees and the other information requested and have it emailed to her in the next week or too. Mayor Sykes asked George to get that information and share it at the next meeting.

The next item on the agenda is to Change May 12th Board Meeting to May 5th. Commissioner Hill made a motion to change the May 12th board meeting to May 5th. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to schedule budget workshop for May. Commissioner Hill made a motion to have a budget workshop on May 22, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was Budget Amendments if needed. Kim stated there were no budget amendments at this time.

The next item on the agenda was Remarks by Town Attorney. George stated he did not have any remarks at this time.

The next item on the agenda was Public Comments. There were no public comments at this time.

The next item on the agenda was Comments by the Board. Commissioner Hill asked George about contractors from outside of town that come in town and use a directional bore machine to hit water/sewer lines, if the town can make an ordinance that they are to use that machine and that they must locate the line themselves to make sure where the water lines are at. He said if the town goes out there and marks it, the construction company must dig down to it and look at it. George said he does not think there is a problem with an ordinance like that, but he would suggest that you might want to consider one thing to add into it. That is to figure up what it would cost in loss of water over a two day period and the cost of making the repairs, and require that they post a bond that would reimburse the town if that happened and the bond can be cancelled as soon as they finish the boring. Commissioner Hill and George said they would both check into it and get back with the board.

The next item on the agenda was Closed Session. There was no need for a closed session at this time.

With there being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned.