February 10, 2015

7:00 P.M.

The Town of Pink Hill held its monthly board meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 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, Public Works Director Timmy Kennedy, Police Chief Joey Thigpen, and Town Clerk Kimberly Mitchell.

Visitors present at the meeting were Ashton Davis, Johnny Davis, and Barbara Davis.

Mayor Sykes called the meeting to order. Mayor Sykes welcomed everyone to the meeting. Commissioner King then led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the regular board minutes from January 13, 2015. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was amendment (a) the Lenoir County Tax Collector report of unpaid 2014 real estate taxes. Mayor Sykes asked each one to look at their handout. She said this report was for 2014 unpaid taxes only and that they will be advertised on March 25, 2015 in the paper. Commissioner Grady made a motion to accept the 2014 report of unpaid taxes. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The second agenda item was to discuss Ashton Davis’ Eagle Scout Project sign and location. Mayor Sykes told Ashton Davis that he had the floor and thanked him for coming. Ashton presented the board with his proposal. He stated Plan A was to move the sign that was already out there to another place, but the board did not want to do that and Plan B was a sign that you would put letters on. He said on the handout is a rough estimate of how much everything would cost. Ashton said the sign would have 150 letters and would replace the Fire Department sign that is already there. The board discussed putting the sign closer to the road so that the Crape Myrtle tree would not have to be cut down. He stated this sign would have a wind screen on it. Ashton stated the sign would have solar lights so you would not need electricity and that there would be a raised flowerbed to go around the sign also. The price estimate on the sheet does not include brick and mortar. Mayor Sykes asked Ashton how long he has to complete the project. Ashton replied that he has to have it completed by age 18 and he will be 16 in May of this year. Commissioner King asked Ashton if this would be a two sided sign. Ashton stated no because it will be mounted on the side of a brick wall and will be facing at an angle towards coming into Pink Hill. Mayor Sykes asked Ashton if he was going to have any fundraisers to help raise money. Ashton stated after he gets this approved by the board and from his leaders and the council, then he will probably have some fundraisers. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the sign and for it to be put next to the existing sign on Hwy. 11 North. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mayor Sykes thanked Ashton for coming.

The next item on the agenda was the WASA Report. Commissioner Hill said they have finished the airbrush lines to the river. He said instead of 25 connections they only have now got 9 different connections. Commissioner Hill said the only other thing that they talked about in the meeting that he was told about, was the bypass going around Greenville. He said it will not affect Pink Hill, Deep Run, or North Lenoir. He said it will only affect the ones on the other side.

Police Updates was next on the agenda. Chief Thigpen said since the last meeting they have had 3 reported offenses, no arrests, and no accidents. They issued 12 citations with a total of 14 charges, and issued 14 warning citations. He said everything is quite and slow but doing well. He also informed the board that they have the car back from the Dodge place in Jacksonville.

The next item on the agenda was the Fire Department Report. Timmy stated in the month of January they had 11 EMS calls, 1 structure fire, 6 automatic alarms, 4 vehicle accidents, and 3 outside fires. He said everything seems to be going well at the fire department. He stated the fire department is looking into the endeavor of seeing if they can get the two story part of the old school. Mayor Sykes said she, Commissioner King, and Commissioner Grady were at the meeting where they asked everyone’s opinion of what they thought should happen to the media center and the two story building. She said she told them that the Fire Department was interested in the building to have it as a fire training facility. Mayor Sykes said it would be the decision of Johnny and Danita Sheppard. She said we need to find out what kind of liability and what kind of insurance would be needed. Mayor Sykes asked Timmy if they could get a floor plan and design on the cafeteria so she can see about getting money from the Gold Leaf Foundation. Timmy said they have not gotten that far. They have been in there and tore out a bunch of stuff. He said they have called Mr. Johnny Grady and he is working with them on the power without having to charge them full price. Timmy said they have done some of the tearing out and capping things that they are not going to use. Timmy said they are to the point that they are waiting on Mr. Grady now. He said when he called Mr. Grady about two weeks ago he was about two months out. Otherwise Timmy said they would probably be to a point where they could get power turned on. Mayor Sykes asked couldn’t they do a sketch of where they are going to put the power because she needs a drawing or something like this to take to the Gold Leaf Foundation. Timmy said they pretty much have an idea in their heads and there is seven or eight of them that have talked about it and know what they want to do. It is still not a done deal of the Fire Department getting the two story building yet. It is still in the conversation stage. There is another meeting scheduled for February 26, 2015. It will be either be here at Town Hall or at the school. Timmy said hopefully by then he will have some more information. The training facility part would have to be an ISO and if it wouldn’t be then they could not even take it on as an endeavor. Timmy said he has to find out if that facility would be good enough. Mayor Sykes asked Timmy when he could find out so that she could report on that at the next meeting. Commissioner Hill told Timmy to mention this to Clay Howard because he is the President of the Ruritan Club and he can bring it up there too. Mayor Sykes thanked Timmy.

Water/Sewer updates was next on the agenda. Timmy stated this past Friday they had a water plant inspection and as far as he knows everything went well. He said there were a couple of emergency management plans that needed to be updated but other than that he felt like everything went well. Timmy told the board that Alex has been going to C. Distribution Class and that is over and he is eligible to take the exam that will be held in Raleigh in May. Timmy said as you know a couple of years ago we had a bunch of trees cut at the plant and last year he failed to catch it in the window as far as getting new trees planted back on it. He said he has already talked to Mr. Johnny Houston and he is supposed to come the latter part of this month or the first of March to plant the trees again. Timmy said he has not had to take up the speed bump yet because it is still holding. Timmy wanted to remind everyone about the benefit for Teresa Byrd on Friday, March 6, 2015. He said they need help with peeling potatoes on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. They are trying to do 3,000 barbeque plates and 1,000 chicken plates. All the plates will be assembled at the Fire Department here and then taken elsewhere and are $7.00 per plate. Mayor Sykes thanked Timmy.

Budget Amendments was the next agenda item if needed. Kim said there is one budget amendment. She said Angie Novitsky came into town hall the other day and wanted to know if there was still park money available. Her daughter Lauren several years ago raised money for the park and there is still a fund balance of $831. She has requested to get $500 to do some repairs at the park such as the seesaws and the Garden Club has agreed to help her do some flowers. Commissioner Hill made a motion to amend the budget $500 for the park. Commissioner King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was Remarks by Town Attorney. George stated he was glad to be here.

Comments by the Board was the next agenda item. Commissioner Hill mentioned that there is talk about some of the County Commissioners are wanting to close the gym and there is a petition for everyone to sign to try to save it. Mayor Sykes said that she would invite one of the County Commissioners, the Chairman of the Board, and Mr. Bill Ellis, to come to the next board meeting, so that they can explain. Joey asked if the town had been called about the ABC money that we receive for him and his department doing escorts. Kim stated there has been no call received from them in the office. Mayor Sykes said that she would call Brantley tomorrow morning to find out about this. Mayor Sykes wanted to let everyone know that Alex Stark is opening up a lawyer office here in town in the old TJ Turner building and he has a partner.

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

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.