May 20, 2014

7:00 P.M.

The Town of Pink Hill held its monthly board meeting on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 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 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. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve public hearing and the regular board minutes from April 8, 2014. Commissioner King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the agenda with amendments. Commissioner King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was to approve the audit contract for Amanda Murphy for the next fiscal year. Kim stated the contract was increased by $500 due to the additional work and reports that are required of it being a single audit this year because of the water project. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the audit contract. Commissioner King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was Ethics Training. Kim stated every time we have an election they have to have two hours of ethic training. Commissioner King asked if they all have to have it again. Kim said she thinks it is only for the board members who were recently elected, but she is going to check and see if all the board members have to have it again. Kim said it is going to be available on the web in June and she is going to purchase it. She said they would have to come to Town Hall to have the webinar.

The next item on the agenda was Handicap Parking on Broadway Street. Commissioner Hill said it was brought to his attention by some citizens. He said he talked with Susan Myers about it today. Commissioner Hill stated Susan said around the corner on Central Avenue there is a ramp. Timmy said it was not a ramp but just a spot designated for handicap parking. Commissioner Hill said he would recommend putting the handicap parking around there. He said he has seen them further away from buildings and that would be to anything on Broadway. Mayor Sykes asked wasn’t there handicap parking before on Broadway and Commissioner Hill stated yes. He said there is so little parking and that is why he suggests putting it around there because a handicap spot takes up almost three spots if you include a ramp. Commissioner Hill said that is why he recommends putting a handicap spot on Central Avenue at the first spot by Four Seasons. Commissioner Hill made a motion to put a handicap spot on the corner of Central Avenue and Broadway Street by Four Seasons as designed by the State for handicap parking. Commissioner King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Next item on the agenda was Land Surveying on Earl Howard Road. Timmy said he has not been contacted by Mr. Davenport yet but he has received a map. Commissioner King made a motion to table this issue until the next board meeting. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was for informational purposes concerning Water Well Ordinance. George said last week when he was down here that he and Kim talked about this. He told her that he would have a proposed ordinance drafted for the town based on the guidelines that Commissioner Hill gave him. George said when he started working on it he ran into some issues that he really needs to discuss with Commissioner Hill and he hasn’t had a chance to get in touch with him. He said he would find a time to meet with Commissioner Hill and he will have a draft for them at the next meeting. Commissioner Hill asked George if Thursday, May 29, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. would be a good time and George said yes. Commissioner Hill explained to the public that there have been wells drilled in Pink Hill and the board needs to keep a handle on what is being put in the ground and how deep they are. He said they are being used for thermal heat pumps and irrigation and we don’t know if it is going back into the ground or not.

The next item on the agenda was WASA Report. Commissioner Hill said some of our board members went to Raleigh to speak to our Senator and Congress House Representatives on the capacity use area rules about other people being able to get by without doing what they are supposed to be doing. He said he talked with the senator from Onslow County and he is very unhappy with water resources because Onslow County has complied with the rules. Commissioner Hill stated they had a very extensive meeting with Senator Louis Pate. Mayor Sykes asked what Senator Louis Pate thought. Commissioner Hill said he didn’t really say but he is pretty sure that he is on our side. Commissioner Hill said they also talked with John Bell and he is trying to get more educated on it because he doesn’t know all the details. Mayor Sykes asked when they would make a decision. Commissioner Hill said they are hoping to make one in the short session.

The next item on the agenda was the Fire Department Report. Timmy stated they have a date set for their ISO inspection and it has been set for June 16, 2014. He said they are doing all they can to be ready for the inspection. Timmy said the inspection would last all week. Timmy said right now our rating is a 5 inside city limits and he is hoping that they can drop that rating by at least one point. Timmy said the rules did change in January and we have a 9S in the county and he is pretty sure that we can do better than that out in the county just based on the equipment that we have now.

The next item on the agenda was Water/Sewer Updates. Timmy said the construction progress has been good due to the weather being good. He said he is hoping for final approval on the fourth section of the new lines. Timmy said the guys have pretty much got everyone hooked up to the new lines. He said they would be working tomorrow on Broadway Street at the tank which they are dumping. He said they are dumping the Broadway tank because they are putting a hydrant there so they will have a decent place to flush water out of. He stated now they are using a 2 inch line and after they put the hydrant in they will be able to flush it out a whole lot easier. Timmy said he has an issue with an RPZ backflow. He stated the problem is at Darnell’s where she has a drum that is mixing some kind of fertilizer and it is hooked straight in and that is really bad for a backflow. He stated that it would be really easy for a backflow incident to happen. Timmy said he gave Darnell the same letter that he gave everybody else and most everybody complied, but she didn’t the last time he sent the letter out. Timmy said he would like the board’s approval to give Darnell thirty days to get one in. He said that he knows it is a cost to her and her business but because of what she is doing, he has to insist on her doing this. Kim asked Timmy if Darnell ever installed a bathroom with a commode in it and Timmy stated yes. Kim said she was asking because their current bill was really high and she knew that they were watering flowers a lot and that water was going on the ground. Timmy said the only way to get around that issue is to put a separate meter in the building where she has the sewer hooked up. Timmy said he had talked with her about that before they did all the hookup and she still did the hookup. He said she was aware of it and did not go into it blindly but she might not have known how much it was going to add to her bill though. Commissioner Hill said if they just charged Darnell a flat sewer rate of maybe 3,000 gallons, it wouldn’t hurt her unless she has a leak or put a meter on it. Timmy stated he would rather put a meter on it and she would have to pay a separate bill for the room with the bathroom in it and would be the simplest thing to do. He said it would be Darnell’s expense to pay a tap fee. Commissioner Hill said she already has water running to that bathroom so a tap fee would not be needed. Commissioner Hill stated he could put the meter in that same line that she already has and not charge her a tap fee but for the meter and the time. Mayor Sykes asked Timmy to go talk with Darnell and get back with her before doing anything. Timmy wanted to let the board know that the part time help is working out good. He said he has got two really good hands helping him and had absolutely no problems at all other than what is usually going to happen. Timmy said just a reminder that hopefully by the next meeting some of the new electronic meters should be installed if everything goes as scheduled.

The next item on the agenda was Police Updates. Chief Thigpen said since March 11, 2014 to today they have had 16 incidents, 21 different offenses, 6 arrests with a total of 9 charges, 24 citations with a total of 29 charges. Chief Thigpen stated everything is going good.

The next item on the agenda was the library roof. Mayor Sykes stated this issue has been discussed and re-discussed. She said first of all she has heard that the roof was going to be replaced, heard it is not going to be replaced, heard that they were going to move the library over into the media center, and heard that the grant money has been found. Mayor Sykes said the only thing nearly close to that is there might be a new roof put on the building. She said the truth is that we still have not had approval on the grant money. She said she did call the commissioner’s and asked them to go and look at the library at the old school. Mayor Sykes said she and Danita went and looked at it and it is in a lot worse shape than she thought it was. She said it would take a lot of money. Mayor Sykes stated she went back to the library today to see about the roof again. The librarian said they did not have any leaks after this past rain. Mayor Sykes said her opinion will be that they will probably put a new roof on the library. Commissioner Hill said his thoughts on it is we have the building and it is our building and we do the maintenance on it, water on it, and electricity. He said if they go over to the old school then he thinks they would be paying more than they are supposed to. Mayor Sykes said if they were to decide to go over there it would not belong to the Wellness Center nor the Preservation, but it would belong to the Town of Pink Hill. Commissioner Hill said when people come through and see the library where it is they do not want to see it over here and then if we move the library down here, what is going to happen to the current building. He stated that we still have to keep it up or it is going to be rundown. Mayor Sykes said she has been in contact with Senator Louis Pate and he has talked to the guy supposedly in charge of this grant. She said everybody that she has talked to has agreed that we should be able to use some of this grant money, but the main fellow has not signed off on it yet. Mayor Sykes said it is probably going to cost about $10,000. She went in today at the library and asked if they would ever use the upstairs and she said no because it would have to be handicap accessible. The librarian said they just use the upstairs for storage and have added more shelves. Commissioner Grady said she believed like Commissioner Hill that the library is a draw to the town and everybody goes to the library, like all the school people. She said it has been here for years and that Pink Hill has been very fortunate to have the building donated for the library over 35 years ago. Commissioner Grady stated she has always been satisfied where the library was but of course there is upkeep to every building. She said if we are having difficulties in getting this building done, then you can only imagine what the other building is going to be. Commissioner Grady said that people have memories there and so we just love it. Mayor Sykes said she does not have a problem with it but she was just thinking more parking areas and more parking spaces and the size of it. She said she is just fine and just wants a library. Commissioner Grady said she has people who park on her side but she says nothing about it because it helps the neighborhood. Mayor Sykes said that Carmen is a good librarian and does a good job. Commissioner Hill said he got Carmen to keep up with a little bit of data for him to present if he needed to. He said in the people who use the library one third of them are in the city limits of Pink Hill but two thirds of them are outside of the city limits of Pink Hill. He said they come from Duplin County, Jones County, Seven Springs, and Wayne County. He said Carmen has even had people from Kinston to come to the library to use it. Mayor Sykes stated when and if they get the grant money, in future if the building needs repair we are going to have to rely on our citizens either by tax increase or donations. Commissioner Hill asked if the town could do a fundraiser for the library. Mayor Sykes stated yes they could and she had thought about that too. She said that Carmen said for right now if the roof could be fixed would be sufficient. Mayor Sykes said that she thought they needed to table this issue until she gets the final word on the grant. Commissioner Grady stated whatever we can do is a good investment for this town because it is a draw and it is a gift, and she thinks it is very good. Commissioner Hill made a motion to table this item until the next board meeting. Commissioner King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was Budget Amendments if needed. Kim stated everyone should have a copy of the General Fund and Water Fund budget amendments. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the General Fund and Water Fund budget amendments. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Remarks by Town Attorney were next on the agenda. George stated that he was down here last week and met with Mayor Sykes, Kim, and Kim Miller to get the paperwork finished on the grant and loan from the United States Department of Agriculture. He said everything has been recorded. He stated some of the documents had to be filed in Raleigh with the Secretary of State as well. George said he got an email and also saw on the Secretary of State’s official website that it had been concluded. He said he would complete his final opinion on title tomorrow which should tie up the last of the loose ends.

Comments by the Board was next on the agenda. Mayor Sykes said she has had several people mention to her about golf carts and wanted to know did the town have a golf cart ordinance. She said no we do not and the suggestion was that we need one. Mayor Sykes said she asked Kim to do her clerk serve to towns that do have golf cart ordinances so that we can kind of look at them and see if we do want to have one or not. Kim said that she printed off the general statute today and gave each board member a copy to read. Mayor Sykes said we would discuss this at the next meeting. Mayor Sykes stated she had a complaint that every time we have an election, we have campaign signs galore left on the side of the roads and other places. She said she pulled up herself about 20 signs before the Rose Festival. She wanted to know if the town could have an ordinance against it or do something else concerning them. Mayor Sykes said she thinks whoever is responsible for putting them out should be responsible for picking them up. Commissioner King said he is glad the library is working out the way it is because after thinking about it, if they could get a free and simple deed to that property over there it would be one thing, but to be involved with somebody else would not be good. Commissioner Grady said she thought that they were fine where they are.

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. Commissioner Hill made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel. Commissioner King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Commissioner Hill made a motion to come out of closed session. Commissioner King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mayor Town Clerk