September 10, 2013

6:55 P.M.

Public Hearing

The Town of Pink Hill held a public hearing on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at 6:55 p.m. in the town hall board room. Present for the meeting were Mayor Carol Sykes, Commissioners Mike Hill, Donald King and Marion Mitchell, Town Attorney George Jenkins, Public Works Supervisor Timmy Kennedy, Chief Joey Thigpen, and Town Clerk Kimberly Mitchell.

Please see attached sheet for list of visitors present.

Mayor Sykes welcomed everyone to the public hearing and stated the purpose for the hearing was to amend the town charter to allow for absentee and one stop voting. Mayor Sykes said the meeting was open for any comments by the public. Lillie Baker who is the chief judge for Pink Hill asked to speak. She stated that she did not believe it was cost effective. Ms. Baker said one stop voting in the Town of Pink Hill for 12 ½ days would cost $3,030 just for the poll workers which is an average of five people. She said the machines, balance and advertising supplies would cost $600. Ms. Baker said if we did not have the one stop voting in Pink Hill and had it in Kinston, then the cost would be split between the city of Kinston and Town of LaGrange which wouldn’t cost but about $600. She stated when they had the presidential race almost 4 years ago there was 118 people who came to vote out of 317 eligible in the Town of Pink Hill registered voters. She said that was an average of 9 ½ people a day with five people sitting out here for 12 ½ days. Ms. Baker said it seems like a waste of money to her. Mayor Sykes stated that was for the county wide general election. She said what they are voting on tonight is in Pink Hill. Mayor Sykes said the town would have to pay it all if it is a Pink Hill election. Mayor Sykes said those figures are not true to what it would cost us but that it would cost us something. Town Attorney George Jenkins said the resolution is to amend the charter to allow it but not require it, so each election the town commission can vote to have one stop voting in that election or not. He stated as the law is now if all the registered voters in Pink Hill wanted to have one stop voting, you could not do it. He said by amending the charter the town commission can vote to allow one stop voting but they can also vote to not have it. A visitor asked for someone to explain exactly what one voting was. George Jenkins said one stop voting is where you can come in before Election Day and technically cast an absentee ballot before the day of the election. Since there was no one else to speak, Mayor Sykes declared the public hearing closed at 7:07 p.m. and thanked everyone for coming.