

Town of Pink Hill
Special Meeting

The Town of Pink Hill Board meeting was held on August 23rd, 2022 in the town hall board room. Present for this meeting were Mayor Mike Hill, Commissioner Penny Murphy, Commissioner James Quinn, Commissioner Pete Fantini, Town Attorney George Jenkins, Town Clerk Crystal Heath, Fire Department Chief Tony Heath, Police Chief Michael Hoffman, Public Works Supervisor Timmy Kennedy, and Public Works Assistant Phillip Swinson.

The board came to discuss the American Recovery Plan funds. Mayor Mike Hill said I would like to call this meeting to order and I welcome everyone to this special meeting August 23, 2022. I would like to ask everyone to please turn your cell phones off. Town clerk, Mrs. Heath, called out each name for roll call, present were Mayor Hill, Commissioner Penny Murphy, Commissioner James Quinn, Commissioner Pete Fantini, and attorney George Jenkins. Mayor Hill said I need a motion to approve the special meeting agenda. Commissioner Quinn said I make a motion to approve the special meeting agenda. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Mayor Hill said any discussion, all in favor say “aye”, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hill said we got money and it goes to certain elements and I am going to let George, town attorney, tell you what the fund is for. Mr. Jenkins said for support of public health response services to contain or mitigate the spread of COVID-19 including vaccinations, medical expenses, contact training, and so on. Behavioral health care services including mental health substance misuse treatment intervention related services, payroll and covered expenses for public health, health care, human services, and public safety staff to the extent that they work on totally with the COVID-19 responses. The next one is to replace public sector revenue laws and that's to ensure continuity of vital government services by filling budget shortfalls. Revenue loss is calculated relative expected trend beginning with the last full fiscal year pre-pandemic and adjusted annually for growth. Recipients may recalculate revenue laws at multiple points during the program supporting those entities that experience revenue loss with the lag. The next area of use is the water and sewer infrastructure that includes building infrastructure such as building or upgrading facilities or transmission distribution or storage system and eligible uses line with environmental protection agency project categories for clean and safe clean water state revolving fund and drinking water state revolving fund. The next section is address negative economic impacts that includes delivering assistance to workers and families including support for unemployed workers, aid households, and survivor benefits families, and COVID-19 victims. Under that also support small businesses with loans, grants, any kind of assistance, and counseling programs then speed the recovery of impacted industries including tourism travel and hospitality sectors and rebuild public sector capacity by rehiring staff by replenishing state unemployment insurance funds and implementing economic relief programs next area that money can be used for is premium pay for essential workers to provide premium pay to essential workers both directly or through grants to third-party employers and to prioritize low and moderate income workers who face the greatest mismatch between employment related health risks and compensation key sectors include health care, grocery, and food services, education, child care, sanitation, and transit, it must be fully additive to the workers' wages. Then finally

another sector is broadband infrastructure that's the focus on households or businesses without access to broadband and those with connection that do not provide minimally acceptable speed. Fund projects that deliver reliable service with a minimum of 100 mbps download or 100 mbps upload speeds unless in practice and then to complement broadband investments made through capital funds, project funds.

Mayor Hill said I wanted to make everybody aware what these funds can be used for before we proceed with our special meeting. I asked the police chief, fire chief, and public works director. Right now we'll give a list of what they wanted and we're going to start with the police chief. Michael had gave a list of stuff he would like to have for his police department. He doesn't have an amount for it, but I'm going to read it. I'm going to kind of read off the list and I may get him to talk earlier today. It's going to be quite a bit of money, we may have to let him prioritize as what he wants. He wants a fire rated gun safe for firearms and ammo storage, new handheld portable radios, new mobile radios for cop cars, possible motor date terminals for patrol vehicles, right gear patrol, patrol vehicle rifles he would like to have his bait resurfacing coating, and he needs a metal door for his evidence room. Those are eight things that he put on his list. As I said I talked to him earlier today and I asked him if his twenty thousand dollars would buy me all of it he told me no. That is what I am proposing to give the police department twenty thousand dollars to upgrade what he's go on this list. I know he has talked to me before about this that was going for the evidence room that is something they really need. Do the other board members have any questions for Michael? Commissioner Fantini said can you give me a ball figure of what this all might cost? Chief Hoffman said mobile radio is right now three thousand dollars, these handhelds are over two thousand, the right gear it would have to be priced, and the only reason for it is we've never had a need for it, but if the situation erodes like we value we will be running with our hands up. I mean that's the only reason for it and the patrol rifles are for the same reason we've never had a need for patrol washers, but the times are changing. Other than that NDTs are four thousand dollars apiece for the docks. It's not this is not stuff that we don't have, but our radio systems horrible you cannot right here. Anybody that has talked to me knows that while I'm standing it comes out of service. We are looking at trying to get a little bit better. I haven't spoken with Murray Stroud, director of emergency services, and they are going to try to place us on the Deep Run which may improve thing or may not. It's a substantial amount, we are going to go ahead and try some grants. I spoke with a gentleman this weekend that had successfully written a grant for NDTs. I would love to get a hold of that somewhere. Commissioner Fantini said yeah I wrote the rifles and stuff because of the school as well and you're going in there with the sidearm. Chief Hoffman said we didn't have any kind of idea until we took that active shooter June 26th and you don't know what you're up against. It can be something we could put up to good use would it ever be used? I don't know. Would we ever need it? I don't know, but we'd have it. Mayor Hill said you just hope you don't need it. Commissioner Fantini said I have a question about resurfacing encoding is that an administrative would it fall under administrative? Mayor Hill said I think that would fall under building upkeep. Commissioner Fantini said take that off and put it under something else. Chief Hoffman said that would be fine. Commissioner Fantini said I fully believe in the rifles and the radio because if you can't get the communication and you can't get to where you gotta go. I just want to make sure the money is there. Mayor Hill said anything else Mike, Chief Hoffman said no.

Chief Tony Heath from the fire department came forward to speak. Mayor Hill said we talked to you last time we gave you some money for the generators and you found out the generators are going to cost a lot more than we gave you. Chief Heath said absolutely we did some research on the wattage would be to start one up and it was extremely more advance than what we thought because it's a three phase system that knocked us out of the smaller home type generators to do a starter so we have pursued other avenues about some used equipment we just haven't made a purchase on that yet because of the price value. Mayor Hill said I checked some prices on it myself and you got nine thousand right now in the budget before what I give you last time. This is me talking, but it is up to you what you all want to do but give him \$20,000 too to try and get a generator to get it for the cafeteria. So when we have an emergency we have a lot of people down here they all can't stay on the fire department they need to spread out. Chief Heath said can I elaborate on that during the last hurricane when we were displaced over here we were out for seven to ten days with everything being shut off. Emergency services sent four deputies and four medics to our station to rotate shifts and we also had members from the public come out and utilize our facilities as well which is not an issue. What we ran into was sleeping quarters, we kicked everything out of our meeting room and used it as sleeping quarters as well as our halls and some of our office. What we would like to do is get some money and get a generator so at least we will have a facility where off duty members can get some rest without siren and ambulances throughout the day. That is all we are looking for just something we can utilize for an emergency situation. Mayor Hill said I understand you can't use it as a shelter because you don't have showers, but you can use for shelter if somebodies house is destroyed they can come in and stay. That is why we are looking at giving that amount of money to the fire department. Commissioner Fantini said you said substantial amount can you give a number? Chief Heath said I think the new one that we looked was close to \$50,000. We did find some that was military grade that was surplus they are a lot cheaper, but that does not include the cost of installation. Commissioner Quinn said I am for it. Commissioner Murphy said those \$20,000 and \$9,000 that he got is still not going to do it right? Mayor Hill said it is not going to quite do it. Chief Heath said we are still going to do our share to bring it into fruition as a benefit to our community. Commissioner Fantini said well if we are going to give the fire department 20, 20 for the police department, 20 for the water department I think it is a fair thing across the board.

Mayor Mike said you see Timmy's list part of his stuff on here he already got the money allocated to him. I would have to sit down and work with Timmy on his list some, but some of the stuff he wants is equipment for the tractor he is getting. It does not come with the tractor and he wanted to think about building a shelter on the shop to put some of his equipment under and that was more what he wanted. I'll have to sit down with Timmy on his list and go over and make sure everything is covered with what he wants like it supposed to. Commissioner Fantini said do we have an itemized list from the \$80,000 from last time where it was going to and when it was done. Town Clerk, Mrs. Heath, said yes I had to turn in the report to the state. Commissioner Fantini said all that money has been dispersed so all these things minus the \$8000 for the equipment for the tractor is really all the water department is asking. So basically \$8,000 is what they need because these other things have been paid out of the last time. Mr. Kennedy said you gave me the \$11,500 last year, didn't give me the ten. Mayor Hill said that ten would be to raise the electrical for the pump station. Commissioner Fantini said the \$9,300 we voted in July that

should have already been paid we just voted—Mr. Kennedy said no sir that is not coming out of the ARP money that is coming out of my budget that is the reason I put it on here. I was hoping to get it out of this money instead of my budget. Also the \$2,500 on the cutoff those three in the middle are the main concerns that I have. Commissioner Fantini said in July this was huge priority to get done ASAP in June meeting and we voted for it come out in July. Mr. Kennedy said the job has not been done it has been awarded to the contractor, but he hasn't come. Mayor Hill said we have to get on the contractor sometimes. The \$2,500 that we have—Mr. Kennedy said that has also been awarded to a contractor but he hasn't come yet. Commissioner Fantini said that was out of the last ARP money. Mr. Kennedy said that was itemized out of the regular fund. Mayor Hill said what he is asking for is ten thousand for electrical, eight thousand for the tractor, and what is left out of the 20 put it in those other jobs. Commissioner Fantini said just clarifying if this were already allocated this and the 18 can go towards the shelter. That leaves us for \$20,000 for the town stuff.

Mayor Hill said Crystal wants a new safe for town hall. The one she has can be too easily broken into. I think Michael is looking at a safe for firearms. I think that can be purchased for a discount together. I put two thousand for a safe, I didn't know how much it would cost. The other money we've had employees that have not missed and been here every day working through COVID. We gave a bonus last time and it's been another year and the Governor of our state just lifted the emergency. So I think this last year about giving full time employees \$1,000 and part time employees which is Diana and Zeigler \$500. Commissioner Fantini is Diana part time because she got \$3,000. Mayor Hill said she has always been part time. Mrs. Heath said she has never been full time. Mayor Hill said she worked just like full time during COVID so that is why we did that. That would just about take up the \$80,000.

Commissioner Fantini said you are not including the---. Mayor Hill we have a new employee Taylor Houston. Commissioner Fantini said that is 7,000 in bonuses, 1000 for full employee and 500 for part time. What did Zeigler get last time? Chief Hoffman said when the bonuses were given out last time he received it from his primary agency. Commissioner Fantini said but he is not getting any of that from this time. Chief Hoffman said I have no idea. Mayor Hill said John just came with us he has been here for about a year. Commissioner Fantini said I just have a question got an email from the town clerk that all the town and counties were given a second round of bonuses so I did my research and I called Beulaville 1300 people got one round of 15000 and none on the second one. Magnolia no bonuses, Kenansville no bonuses, so I just want to make sure that the information there because I was told that the other town and counties around got a second round of bonuses and I am not opposed to the bonuses. I just want to make sure that you know we understand where we are at. Three thousand is a good bonus, four thousand dollars is good for the year. So I just know there are things in town, you were talking about paving the library. Mayor Hill said well that I got it right here the other \$10,000, Timmy got a price \$8645.00 to pave the lot at the library. I put \$10,000 for it to make sure we had it covered, because I think they are going to do a little more work than what is on the list here. The pavement is sunk it's probably going to have to be cut out and put rock in it. That would be the other \$10,000 that would make it the \$80,000. Commissioner Murphy said it sounds like we spent all that money, but I was approached today by someone asking if I would bring up the fact

that our senior center ramp is in bad shape. It is rotting in some places and it is not built to the standard. I told them I would bring it up. I have no idea how much it will cost, nobody has mentioned to me until today. Mayor Hill said we can cut a little bit on some of these items and see how much it is going to cost us to do it. Commissioner Murphy said I didn't mean as to undermine suggestions given for the money, but it is an issue they asked to bring it up. Mayor Hill said we can get that done. Commissioner Fantini said maybe a 500 bonus and we can get that done the departments need all they can get. Chief Heath said may I make a suggestion to you, you all come up with the money and I'll make sure the ramp gets built for no cost. Mayor Hill said what I need to do is get up with Connie and I'll keep each one for the departments like the way they are and see if we can what the bonuses will be and figure out how much to come up with the senior citizen and vote on it and the next meeting. Mayor Hill said it is up to you all we need to look at the material cost for that, bonuses and other stuff. I will get with Connie and we figure everything out. Maybe vote on this budget at the regular meeting. I need a motion to vote on this at our regular meeting George? Mr. Jenkins said you need to put the amounts that you are going to spend in the notice for the next meeting and put it on the door. Commissioner Murphy said I make a motion that we vote on this at the next meeting. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Mayor Hill said any discussion, all in favor say "aye", motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

Typed by Assistant Town Clerk, Diana Rodriguez

Approved by Town Clerk, Crystal Heath