

January 10, 2017  
7:00 P.M.

The Town of Pink Hill held its monthly board meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the town hall board room (meeting started late due to special meeting ending late). Present for the meeting were Mayor Carol Sykes, Commissioners Mike Hill and James Quinn, Town Attorney George Jenkins, Public Works Director Timmy Kennedy, Public Works Assistant Alex Gardner, and Town Clerk Kimberly Mitchell. Police Chief Joey Thigpen was unable to attend the meeting.

Visitors present at the meeting were Glenda Willis, Kerry Willis, Rusty Hunt, Mark Sutherland, Kent Winrich, George T. Collier, Al Rachide, Andrew M. Odom, and Susan Myers.

Mayor Sykes called the meeting to order and requested for all cell phones to be turned off please. Mayor Sykes welcomed everyone to the meeting. Commissioner Hill then led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the agenda with amendment (8a) negotiations from the special meeting to be presented at this meeting. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the consent agenda with regular board meeting minutes from December 13, 2016. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was Mark Sutherland and Larry Moolenaar to discuss Commerce of Pink Hill. Mr. Sutherland asked if everyone had the handout and if they have had a chance to look at it. Mr. Sutherland introduced himself and said he is a Community Economic Development Planner with the Rural Planning Center of the North Carolina Department of Commerce. He said before that he was the Vice President for the North Carolina Eastern Region Economic Development Commission for lots of years and the head of the Military Group Task Force in Planet East which is a regional planning forum for 9 counties which included Lenoir County for several years. Mr. Sutherland stated he is new to this job, commerce, but not new to this region by any means. He said the Rural Planning Center provides downtown revitalization and community economic development support to communities all over the state and his job is to be that point person of the southeastern prosperity zone which is 12 counties in the southeastern part of the state including Lenoir. Mr. Sutherland said why he wanted to come here tonight with the invitation from the mayor was to talk to the board about a process for developing a comprehensive economic development strategy for the town. He said this really is as simple as he promised it would be. He stated that he met some folks down here that are doing great work in economic development in a very informal sort of way which was very inspirational to him and they brought him to see the mayor and they had a great visit in December. Mr. Sutherland said they talked about the notion of the Rural Planning Center helping us out with putting a strategy together for lots of reasons. He said at the time we were talking about attracting grant funding for downtown revitalization things like that, and a lot of the awardees of those kind of money are looking for a strategy. There wasn't one in place, so that is what they do. Mr. Sutherland said so the mayor invited him to be here to sit here and talk to us about it. He said the tentative schedule that everyone has a copy of is a notional timeline and it shows a 1 year process. It can be a 6 month process or it can be a 3 year process. It is just some of the steps that take place in developing a comprehensive strategy. The scope of work is on the process slide and the folks

from his shop constitute what they call a work team. So he assembles all the folks that he has access to that do economic analysis, labor analysis, infrastructure analysis, funding analysis, and GIS and all that sort of thing and we put a work team together and come down and get very familiar with your community. He said the second part is kind of up to the board and that would be a steering committee. Mr. Sutherland said it doesn't need to be the board members but it can be and a handful of folks, 7 to 10, works well to make sure that the stamp of ownership on that strategy when it is down is Pink Hill's ownership and not some folks from somewhere else. He stated they really lead the process. The keystone of this whole process is that vision you see under the "Develop Vision Goals and Objectives". It is a consensus vision, but doesn't have to be a unanimous vision but something more than majority vision though where the town agrees that yes this is a good direction to go in in terms of economic development. Mr. Sutherland said finally at the end of this process they come back and see us and present the results and we can edit as we see fit and then we can adopt the plan or send it back to the drawing board or not. He said that is the process. The role is there and you will see the people that are involved on that slide with regard to who comes from the Rural Planning Center staff, what folks will rely on the town's staff for our expertise, history, and knowledge and most importantly he thinks that steering committee which are the tentacles in the community. Mr. Sutherland said on the back there are two slides and one talks about the tasks. Those are the four things that they will do at the state to inform that visioning process and then the last slide is of course your deliverables in addition to a comprehensive strategic plan with our seal of approval on it. He said you have those four deliverables which are really good pieces of analyses that they leave behind as deliverables. Mayor Sykes told the board to ask questions because this is new to her but she certainly thinks that they can benefit from this and we will be talking again and meeting some more to just get more familiar with this if we can and we will need to. Mr. Sutherland said they have provided the board with a sample resolution, it is your resolution and you can reword it as you see fit but this one is fairly common among towns that they work with.

Commissioner Hill asked if it would be better to get all people from inside the town or maybe some people from outside the town for the steering committee. Mr. Sutherland said that is a great question, so he thinks that is up to us. Do we want to do the town limits or the greater Pink Hill because we can't do a study without boundaries, so he thinks that would be a good thing to talk about? Mayor Sykes said it is not just going to benefit the in-town of Pink Hill but it is just going to benefit the surrounding areas, am I correct in that? Mr. Sutherland said he thinks you can do it anyway you want to skin that cat. He said if you think it is more important to do an economic development strategy for the greater Pink Hill, for the 8,000 people. Mayor Sykes said we probably wouldn't do that. He said then you can have modules within that study as this is the downtown area or this is the outer areas. Commissioner Hill said they have a lot of business owners that live out of town. He said we have a lot of people that work in town but live outside of town. Town Attorney George Jenkins said also most of your potential industrial sites are outside the town limits.

Mr. Sutherland said if he was facilitating our steering committee meeting that would be the first question let's put some boundaries on this thing and have a good discussion. It might be a two to three hour discussion about it. He said we might have to just postpone it for another day so everybody can go home and think about it because it is a big deal what the boundaries are and who all needs to be included in that steering committee. If it does extend beyond the town, then

maybe some other folks that are not here need to be contacted and brought on from the steering committee standpoint. Mayor Sykes stated certainly we need to talk about it more than this and I know that you know that. Mr. Sutherland replied sure. He said that they also included a draft memorandum of understanding. If you generate the memo, then you get to change it as you see fit. If it comes to you from me, then I get first shot at it. He said it is just for your information so you can look at that on down the line. He stated that formalizes our working relationship. Mayor Sykes said you are not expecting us to make a decision. Mr. Sutherland replied no ma'am. Mayor Sykes said I am hoping we will do it, I know we will do it, or I feel like we will but we need to discuss it some. Mr. Sutherland stated this is what we discussed in December that I would come and tell you what we do, leave you with some material, and I will be available to any of you that have any questions or if you want me to come back and follow up in the board setting. Mayor Sykes said that they would look at this and be in touch with you. Kim asked if she needed to put this on the agenda to discuss it at the next meeting. Commissioner Hill said to put it on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Sutherland asked if anyone had any questions. Mayor Sykes asked the board if they had any questions and what did they think about this, because she thinks it will help put Pink Hill on the map more. Commissioner Hill said it is something that we have never done and if we are going to grow any, we have got to have help. Commissioner Quinn said hopefully bring in more businesses or more jobs for local folks. Mr. Sutherland said he thinks at the end of the day he will steal Larry Moolenaar's line and want Pink Hill to be a magnetic community. He said he just loves it because it means that is a town that brings in more money every month than it spends and that is the idea behind an economic development strategy.

Mayor Sykes asked if it is grant money. Mr. Sutherland said where grant monies are appropriate. He said if you will look at that last slide where we talked about resources. Resources are a component of it, but on the tail end and once you decide what the vision is and what your objectives are, then you will look for funds that are appropriate to help out with that and that is part of the implementation plan that they do. Mayor Sykes told them that she appreciated them coming so much and we will be in touch. Mr. Sutherland thanked the mayor for the invitation.

The next item on the agenda was Kent Winrich to discuss Broadband in Pink Hill. Mayor Sykes introduced Mr. Winrich and said he is here to discuss the broadband in Pink Hill. She said and again she knows that this is something new to all of us and it is probably overwhelming, but we have got some good people on board behind this so she hopes that we can do the same. Mr. Winrich said he is the Chief Technology Officer for a company called Open Broadband. He said previously he was Director of Salisbury, North Carolina's Vibrant Fiber Network so he is familiar with working with municipalities and getting broadband out to the regions around municipalities. He said that they come to us with engineering ideas of expanding broadband capabilities in the area and the region starting out in Pink Hill and then growing out into other areas. We would look to place some wireless antennas on the water tower here in town and do a proof of concept with some local people for a first trial and then continue to roll out as it is desired. He said that Susan and Al have been doing a survey and it seems pretty clear that people are looking for a little bit faster connectivity and we are taking a look at doing 25 MB down 3 MB up. Mr. Winrich said presently most people are at 3 MB down 1 MB up or less than 1 MB or they have dialup or satellite. He stated what they are looking to do is speed up the

connectivity a little bit doing the wireless aspect, so really there isn't too much infrastructure that needs to be taken care of in the town and it is a fairly quick rollout. Mr. Winrich said they are working on engineering studies right now to see what kind of coverage we could cover off the water tower and then going to other water towers or what they call vertical assets (water towers, radio towers, or the like). He said what they would like to do is work with Windstream's who utilize their fiber that is already here in town and connect that up so we can connect more people. Mr. Winrich said his partner, Alan Fitzgerald has worked with all the big companies such as Time Warner and the like, and we have a number of relationships already set up with them. He said what they look to do is just to expand upon what they have already done and offer some people that don't have any connectivity or little connectivity better connectivity. He stated you can use this an economic development tool to attract people or keep people here especially the younger people. Then also likewise businesses can flourish a little bit better with better data connectivity. Mr. Winrich said he would be happy to answer any questions if you have any. He said they are working on engineering studies right now. There really isn't much the city would need to do. Mayor Sykes asked didn't they have several big farmers that are interested in doing a proof of concept. Mr. Winrich replied yes. He said they have already agreed to do a proof of concept and what we would need is just access to the water tower to put an antennae on. Mayor Sykes said she wanted our attorney to read the contract to make sure that they can do it.

Commissioner Quinn asked Mr. Winrich what kind of footprint they would have. Mr. Winrich said they would shoot initially for around a 5 mile range and probably go beyond that. He said what they would do then is if they get enough customers within that 5 mile range, go to Deep Run and go up to their water tower and do a microwave shot over to that water tower and then cover that area or cover areas where we see the need based on those surveys. What we can do is take a look at the vertical assets (water towers, radio towers, and the like) and then overlay the survey responses on what people want to upgrade or want new service and map that all out. Then design an engineer on what kind of footprint we have based on where the requirements are needed. Town Attorney George Jenkins asked if they would need open line of sight. Mr. Winrich said good question. He said they prefer open line of sight. He stated they can shoot through some trees with the band that they are using. Commissioner Quinn asked if you get away from the tower or whatever does your speed decrease. Mr. Winrich said it does decrease a little bit. Commissioner Quinn asked so you would have some kind of signal loss. Mr. Winrich said you would have some signal loss but we should be able to cover 5 miles but the idea is to build other additional sites to cover each area. He said they would do this based on the needs of the people that are asking for it, so they would engineer it around those specific needs.

Mayor Sykes asked George Collier if he would like to add anything. Mr. Collier said no ma'am I am here as an observer. He said he is a Technical Assistant Director for the eastern region. He stated he represents 38 counties here in the eastern part of the state and identify 38 counties in their office. Mr. Collier said really he is just observing here with Kent and what a potential providers needs are when they come into a new area that way it helps him better provide to technical assistance to other folks like the Town of Pink Hill. Mr. Collier said he works with the North Carolina Department of Information Technology Broadband Infrastructure Office (NCBIO for short) and we have three components to our office. We have Public Safety initiative working with the federal first net program. We have a Research Team and then our Technical Assistance and Planning Team and that is where he falls in. Mr. Collier said he has been working with the

Town of Pink Hill's think tank lead by Al and Susan for the last couple of months. He said what they have done is put out hard copy surveys and surveys online through survey monkey. The purpose of the survey really is to aggregate the demand. What is out there within that 18 mile radius from Pink Hill says this is where a potential fixed wireless provider or a potential provider is utilizing that technology would be there base of operation would start here and then expand out. The purpose of that survey and where we are with that survey, they just put it out on Saturday, and have some really great results in his opinion. Mayor Sykes asked how many did say have done it so far. Susan Myers spoke up and said 450 online and she doesn't know how many on paper but they have gotten about 2,000 out. Mayor Sykes stated that was remarkable. Mr. Collier said the purpose of the survey really is to find out where the needs are and to find out how much those folks are willing to pay. He said that is some important information to provide to incumbent providers such as CenturyLink to show like we have got some areas of need here and what can you do to help out these areas. Mr. Collier said or if a provider could come in such as Kent's group, certainly not limited to Kent's group but there are other fixed wireless providers out there. A provider to say hey maybe you are working with an incumbent and looking at those areas through the demand aggregation of those surveys that where the incumbent doesn't meet their business model to expand out through those areas, maybe getting another provider to come in. He said that is kind of their first step but there has been a lot of work through this think tank prior to him coming on board and assisting. Mr. Collier said what he is working with them on is working with his technical systems and planning model and working through those steps. He said right now we are trying to aggregate that demand. We will hopefully put it on a map to show where the demand is in this area. Mayor Sykes thanked Mr. Collier and Mr. Winrich for coming. Mr. Collier thanked the board for having them. Mayor Sykes asked if anyone had any questions. Susan Myers said the first thing that we would do after we get it would be to meet with CenturyLink and see if they can expand into those farming areas, and if they can't then see if they want to provide that fiber backhaul. She said there are two ways for CenturyLink to make money on it. We are not talking about downtown Pink Hill because we have service, but we are talking about all the farms because if we become a tax community we need to have the area around Pink Hill to have broadband. She said the kids are falling behind because they have IPADs and can't use them at home and the farmers, the whole move to the future of farming agriculture and they have got to have high speed internet.

Al Rachide asked Mr. Winrich on the fixed point home business or link we are using flat panels, what is the maximum reasonable bandwidth that you can get to an individual subscriber without going straight point to point dish. Can you get 100 MB's out there? Mr. Winrich said we can get 100 MB's but we would have to limit the amount of people that are on that one panel. Al said but you can put more panels up. Mr. Winrich replied yes. Al said this wireless water tower to business or home could do 100 MB and that would be synchronous too wouldn't it. Mr. Winrich said we could do synchronous probably lean more towards maybe asynchronous. Al said but if somebody needs 100 MB this could do that 100 MB download speed. He said they are not going to get that out in the county with anybody because they have to run fiber out there to do that and they are not going to run fiber out to the houses. Al said this is why he and Susan are looking at this as an investment from us to the community to get that bandwidth out there so that people can grow and not just Pink Hill but the edges of the five counties around here too. Mayor Sykes said we will be discussing this more as we go along.

The next item on the agenda was Susan Myers and Andrew Odom to discuss Tiny House Festival. Andrew said the last time we talked was in November 2016 and we talked about the Tiny House NC Street Festival. He said it is coming along swimmingly he might add. We have gotten a lot of press in the state for it and drawing the attention of a lot of people. Mr. Odom said he had to just put this out there so we know that this weekend could potentially see an influx of 4,000 people in Pink Hill, closer to 5,000 if he really wants to be honest about it. He said we are going to see some numbers like we've just not seen before. We could potentially be the first eastern North Carolina city to really explode with tiny houses actually. He said if you have parking spaces in your front yard now is the time to start roping them off. Mr. Odom said he is coming here because we are facing a very strategic time in moving the festival forward and that is securing the last of three major sponsors. The sponsors, of course, offset the needs of the festival in terms of ticket prices and in terms of taxing the resources of the town, that sort of stuff. He said we have already pulled on, of course, Pink Hill Pharmacy as our primary sponsor. He said they announced last week that Chef and the Farmer is their second foundation sponsor and our third foundation sponsor which we will announce soon is contingent on this meeting and this vote is Mother Earth Brewery. Mr. Odom said the contingency is that in order for them to come on board as a sponsor they want to make sure that there is bending opportunities for them. He said he just wanted to clarify this, we are not talking about Bud Light, we are not talking about Schlitz, and we are not talking about anything like that. We are talking about a craft brewery that has helped redefine a city, a craft brewery whose facilities align with some of the sustainable qualities that the Tiny House movement represents and that we are hoping to continue to move forward within this area. Mr. Odom said he spoke to the mayor the other day and to Chief Thigpen. We talked about what we are going to do. He said we are going to rope off the entire festival area which really only shuts off that one little block in front of the pharmacy. Mr. Odom said roping off the entire area which will be a ticketed area that will use both QR code tickets and bands for all the days of the festival. He said that will let his volunteers and his team people know how old a person is, whether they under 21 or over 21, whether they are on Saturday or Sunday or on both days. Mr. Odom said it is a pretty elaborate banding system. He said they are going to be hiring professional police officers. We may bring on some private security. It just depends on what they are looking at closer to the festival. Mr. Odom said so his question is he is asking that the town allow the festival to use their festival perimeter as the roped off spot for beer sales by Mother Earth Brewery exclusively and not be limited to just a say 30 x 30 beer garden sort of atmosphere. He said he also just wanted to point out that because we are talking about a company like Mother Earth Brewery, he doesn't foresee anyone paying \$7 to \$8 a beer to come and get lit, it is just not going to happen. In fact, the first beer is actually \$20 because it is a commemorative cup of the event. It is certainly not somewhere where folks are going to come in with the sole intention of getting rowdy and causing trouble. Mayor Sykes said so it is going to be in the roped off area. Mr. Odom said yes, there is only one entry point into the festival so everybody comes in and goes out the same way. We monitor what comes in and we monitor what goes out the whole time. Mayor Sykes told Mr. Odom that she is really impressed with the way that he is handling it because we don't have to worry about anything as far as security because he is doing all of that and he has talked with Joey about it. She said we don't have to really worry about anything. Mr. Odom said he thinks all he has asked from us so far is trash cans. Mayor Sykes stated that she would get Kim to check on that. Mr. Odom said beyond the trash cans, we are trying to keep it completely risk free from the town and completely liability free from the town. Mayor Sykes asked if he had their insurance.

Mr. Odom said they have their insurance policy through Lloyd's of London so we are covered. It is a festival policy with writers for each one of the vendors.

Mayor Sykes asked for him to show the board on the map where they were talking about. Susan Myers said let me show them and she wished that she had brought her map from the office. She said this is smaller territory than the Rose Festival because tiny houses are tiny. Susan said they are not going to be closing off Broadway. She said it will start from Central Avenue and Broadway but on the Pink Hill Pharmacy side and that will be the entrance. Then it will go down and it will end in front of the end of the media center which is the main stage. It is going to be a pretty straight stretch. It is all within eyesight and will stop short of College Street.

Commissioner Hill asked if the festival will be on Friday. Mr. Odom said it will be on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Commissioner Hill said you have got to think about Dr. Little's office too. Susan said they have already talked to Dr. Little and he closes at noon. Mr. Odom said they don't start until 2:00 p.m. Mayor Sykes stated that she is excited about it because in meetings she has been in she has heard some conversation about the festival. Susan said that Andrew needs a decision tonight about Mother Earth. Mr. Odom said yes so he can let them know. Mayor Sykes asked if they could do this tomorrow and email it to them or send it.

Commissioner Hill said we have to make a motion first. Mayor Sykes said yes if we make the motion. Kim said he is saying that he needs the motion made tonight. Mr. Odom said Mother Earth, of course, as you know it is part of a many a festival so all of this is well within their team which they will be making sure all the permitting, all the legalities, and all of that is covered for them. Commissioner Hill made a motion to let Mother Earth be the sole beer provider at the Tiny House Festival pending approval by the local ALE folks and no other alcoholic beverages will be allowed in the festival area. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mayor Sykes said she thinks normally the vendors get their own permits but she will check with Stephen. She said if we have to do it, whatever we have to do, we will do it but she is thinking he will probably already have it. Timmy asked what the dates of the Tiny House Festival are. Mr. Odom replied April 21<sup>st</sup> through April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mayor Sykes asked Mr. Odom did he say they would be having a church service on that Sunday. Mr. Odom replied we are. We will have a chapel service in the morning on Sunday. In fact, he was just talking today and there is an 85 to 90 percent probability that they will have the Tiny House Chapel where they will hold the chapel service. Mayor Sykes told them that the board appreciates all that they have done and we are looking forward to it. She said if you need anything, just contact her or Kim and we will do what we have to do. Mr. Odom asked if he was clear to contact Stephen and say we are good to go. The board replied yes.

Mayor Sykes asked Dr. Russell Thomas Hunt, LCC President, who was attending if he would like to say anything. He said he wanted to thank them for allowing him to come tonight to the meeting. Dr. Hunt said he thought it would be a great time for him to come meet the board and we are, of course, tickled to serve Pink Hill as part of our service area. We are excited about some potential opportunities. Mayor Sykes thanked him for coming. She also wanted to mention the Casino Night Fundraiser at LCC on January 27, 2017. Dr. Hunt said it is a fundraiser for their foundation and hopefully some students will get some scholarship money out of that. It is \$50 a ticket to attend. Mayor Sykes thanked him for coming.

The next item on the agenda was the B.F. Grady School Sewer District Interlocal Agreement & Gene Miller. George informed the board that they have been given a copy of the proposed interlocal agreement. The engineering firm in Farmville has been given a copy of the interlocal agreement. He said that Kim sent it to them. George said the County of Duplin has been given a copy of the interlocal agreement and Kim sent it to them. He said he has yet to hear from the engineering group and he has yet to hear from the County of Duplin but he has heard from the Town of Pink Hill. Kim stated that she didn't send them this. George said oh you didn't. He said I sent this to the engineer and Kim replied yes you sent it, I gave it to the board. George said he had said he was going to send it to the county. Kim said she has not received anything. George said he thought that he had asked her to send it just to duplicate. Kim said she made copies for the board, but I have contacted them and never heard back from them. George said there are two little changes and when I tell you what they are, you are going to say golly they are little. He said notary's acknowledgement doesn't need to be broken, so he needs to put each notary's acknowledgement on its own page. He said you are not supposed to break a notary's acknowledgement but that is the only change he foresees. George said he thinks this is what we had agreed to do. He said if he is mistaken, he would welcome any corrections. Mayor Sykes said I think we had looked at that a few months ago. Kim said she would be glad to email it to them tomorrow. Mayor Sykes said she would not do any more of them because we have bent over backwards to accommodate them and they have not reciprocated like they should in her opinion. Commissioner Hill said normally that is not the engineer's way. George said he not only sent it to him but he spoke with him and told him that it had come. He said he had him on the phone when he hit the send button on his computer and he was right there and said I got it.

Timmy spoke up and said he had one concern. He said he would be speaking for Mr. Gene Miller if that was okay. Mr. Miller said that was fine. Timmy said one concern Mr. Miller had was the manhole that is going to receive the water coming from Duplin County. He said Mr. Miller mentioned if it overflows for whatever reason, whatever causes it, could it backup into his house and yes it could. Timmy said the only way to stop that would be to put a check valve on his service line. He wanted to know if we could get that incorporated and let Duplin County pay for that. Mayor Sykes and the board replied yes, absolutely. Timmy said the houses that are directly across the street, both of those taps go straight into the manhole if he is not mistaken. George asked so do we need three valves. Timmy replied no, there would only be two 4" check valves that we would need. Timmy said the only other concern is the smell issue which is the scrubber. He said this is something that Mr. Gene Miller talked to him about tonight before the meeting.

Mayor Sykes asked do we not need the engineer to come to a meeting to answer all these questions. The board replied yes. Mayor Sykes said to give her the number and she would call Mr. Richard Moore at David & Associates. She said she was going to tell him that we are not going to do anything else until he is present at this meeting to answer the questions that we have. Kim asked George if he was going to make that change and resend it. George said yes, let him make the change, put in these two 4" check valves and then he will just send it to them as the final draft. He said if he says it is the final draft, then we can't come up and say we need to add this or that. Kim asked do we need to wait since Mayor Sykes is going to call him and ask him to come to the meeting to answer any questions in case there is something else we want to have. George replied that would be a good idea. He said for instance there is a lift station out on Ash



Davis Road near where Charlie and Betty used to live and there is fencing around it which was done, he thought, very tastefully and that might be something we would want them to look at and do around this scrubber. Mayor Sykes said to let her know when to call Mr. Moore. George said to call him tomorrow. Kim said you missed it, what he was saying is this was going to be the final draft. She said if he sends it to him, then we can't make any changes if he says it is final. Kim said that is why she asked if you are going to call him and ask him to come here to answer any questions, you might decide you want to put something else in there after you talk with the engineer. George said so let's leave it just like this. Mayor Sykes said she misunderstood. Kim said that is just my suggestion. George said that is an excellent suggestion. Mayor Sykes asked to table this until the February meeting.

The next item on the agenda was 8a. negotiation of special meeting 101 E. Broadway Street. Mayor Sykes stated she needed a motion on the special meeting we had about the demolition and associated expenses. Commissioner Hill made a motion that we give the property owners at 101 E. Broadway Street until January 31, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. to make a decision on whether they are going to reimburse us for the demolition and associated expenses or take the offer we made them or not. George said and if they say not, then at the February meeting he will ask the board to consider authorizing him to take further action. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Police Updates was next on the agenda. Mayor Sykes said that Joey could not be here tonight.

The next item on the agenda was the Fire Department Report. Timmy handed out a copy to each board member of the list of officers for the coming 2 years. He said they made the terms as 2 years so now they will not have to do any voting until every 2 years instead of every 12 months. Timmy said he hopes that is still okay by the board. Mayor Sykes replied yes.

Timmy said since their December 13, 2016 meeting they have had 11 EMS calls, 2 vehicle accidents, 3 electrical hazards which were all powerlines down, 4 structure fires, and 2 fire alarms.

Timmy said it is pretty much the same officers as last year. The only new one is Nick Brock. Timmy said at their last meeting they did put on two new regular firemen and one junior firemen.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the officers list for the Pink Hill Fire Department for the next 2 years. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was Water/Sewer report. Timmy said the cross tile at North Front Street, he has made contact with the Core of Engineers and he has made contact with DWQ in Washington. He said he was told to do so by the Core of Engineers to make sure that everything was covered and that all our bases were covered. Timmy said those two have already been emailing back and forth the last time that he talked to them. He said they are both going to come on the same day to take a look at the site to make sure that we are doing everything that we are supposed to do, because that is a blue-line stream and we are going to have to stop the flow and bypass it. Mayor Sykes asked what a blue-line stream was. Timmy said that is where water runs through there all the time and that is the short version. He said they are going to have to stop the

stream so that the work can happen and pump it over the road. Timmy said he just wanted to make sure all the bases are covered before we do what we are doing.

Timmy said he would tell them that over the last 3 weeks or so they have noticed on Central Avenue at the creek crossing, they have some cones set up there, that it is undermined pretty bad and when they got to investigating there is a 5 foot tile just like on Front Street. He said when they laid the water line, they laid it across it and they cut a hole in it and that is where it is drawing water now. Timmy said they are going to have to make a big hole there in the asphalt to patch it. He said they are hoping that they will be able to patch it. Timmy said they are going to patch it with some cement and pray it works. He said the tile actually looks pretty decent. It has got some rusty holes in it and some cracks and things like that and it has been in the ground a long time. Timmy said he knows that we cannot afford to do another full-fledged replacement just like we are doing on Front Street so we are going to try our best to patch it. He said he just wanted to let the board know that it is a big job that they have coming up.

Timmy said the guy from the state that has been coming every year and trapping for our beavers, he started in December. He said they do have a new guy but he cannot remember his name right now. Timmy said he has been working on our creeks and stuff and hopefully he will be able to take care of some of the dams. He said everything is dammed up close around the old plant area in the creek there. Timmy said after he gets all the beavers trapped out, he will bust the dams and hopefully the water will start draining from Park Circle areas and that will help a lot.

Timmy also informed the board that he had a motor to go out today at the Tarheel Drive Lift Station. He said it is a small little 2 horsepower motor but he is hoping that they will be able to get it rebuilt instead of having to buy another one to replace it. He said they did have one in the shop to put in the ground so the station is in full operation right now.

Timmy said as far as our ice storm and snow we made out very well. He said as far as he knows we had no incidents' on any of the town's property. He stated everything went well.

Commissioner Hill asked Timmy if they had fixed the hole up on Front Street between Scott and the Grant house. Timmy said they went up there and did a little bit of patching and will see how good it holds. Mayor Sykes asked when are going to get Central Avenue fixed. Timmy said as far as the patch? Mayor Sykes said yes because it is getting bigger and bigger. Timmy said he didn't think a cold patch was going to work and he was hoping they were going to do some paving this year because he wouldn't want to call a paver up here just to do that one little patch. He said he can put cold patch in it if that is what she is wanting him to do. Mayor Sykes said can you keep rock or whatever in it until we can get the paving done. Timmy said it is holding up real good for the traffic that goes through there.

Mayor Sykes introduced Alex Gardner who is one of our water/sewer folks and does a good job for the town as all the employees do and thanked him for coming to the meeting.

Commissioner Hill asked Timmy if he had gotten a new license since the last meeting. Timmy said that he has his Grade III Collections Operator license now. Mayor Sykes asked him to explain what that is. Timmy said that the state will allow a grade II collection to operate the

system that we have and the state will allow you to go at least one above that. Timmy said he now has the one above. Mayor Sykes and the board congratulated Timmy. Mayor Sykes asked Alex what else have you got to get to be whatever you need to be. Timmy replied to be a backup operator. Alex said he needs Collections II, B Distribution and Spray Irrigation unless I go a step above like Timmy did. Timmy said then he could step into my shoes but he has got a little while.

The next item on the agenda was Budget Amendments if needed. Kim said the fire utilities is running a little lower than what they thought when her and Timmy did the budget, because they have the community center on there and the Fire Department and they have had the spook house and stuff. We are going to end up having to take \$4,400 from the Fire Appropriation. Kim said the fundraising expense line item is running short and the Fire Department has got a couple more fundraisers they are going to do. She said we thought we were going to have to take that money from savings as well but when she got to looking at the budget she saw that they had raised about \$4,200 more than what was anticipated, so she had to just recognize the revenue from the fundraising income. She said so she is just moving that income down to the expense. Kim said in other words we are adjusting expenses to anticipated amounts and recognizing the Fire Department fundraising income. She said that was the only budget amendments. Everything else in the General Fund and Water Fund accounts is fine. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the amendments to the Fire Department budget. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Remarks by Town Attorney was next on the agenda. George said he was going to take a little bit more time than I usually do and tell you a little story. The football team at Parrott Academy plays all over. They go down as far as Fayetteville, Raleigh, Wilmington and then go up to South Hampton VA and then they have places in between. One season they were playing at a place north of here but not into Virginia yet. They had a boy get hit in the chest and he was a suffering cowboy. They called for the rescue squad and the rescue squad came and as they were putting him in the truck, they got another call to go to another place and they had to turn it down because they already had somebody. One of the parents said why don't you call one of your other ambulances. They said we don't have any, this is it. George said well Lenoir County has the regional but Lenoir County is lucky enough to have folks like Timmy and their EMS vehicle. So, if that game were being played over here behind the gym and the Lenoir County truck weren't available, the Pink Hill truck would be. Let's assume the boy who got hit had heart palpitations and needed to go to the hospital immediately and the other call was for somebody who had a massive heart attack, somebody is going to die. Folks like Timmy are going to make sure somebody doesn't die. He said a group of parents was talking about it one night during the holidays and he mentioned how lucky we are in Lenoir County, particularly this part of Lenoir County. We have got folks who care enough that they are going to man EMS vehicles. Mayor Sykes said and they did and they have. George said they did, they have, they do, and they will. He said this other county has issues and problems. It is a sparsely populated place but somebody could die. He said he is so proud that he could say that would not happen in Pink Hill. Mayor Sykes nope, she doesn't think it would because ours have been to places and saved people's lives and recently. George stated that doesn't have anything to do with the town attorney hat but I wanted to tell y'all a story. Mayor Sykes stated they need accolades like that.

The next item on the agenda was to Discuss Commissioner Grady's open seat. Commissioner Hill made a motion to table this issue until the February board meeting. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was Comments by the Board. Commissioner Hill said he was proud to be here.

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

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

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