Town board meeting May 21, 2019

7:00pm

The town of Pink Hill held its monthly board meeting on Tuesday May 21, 2019 at 7:00pm in the town hall board room. Present for the meeting was Mayor Sykes, Commissioners Mike Hill, James Quinn, Penny Murphy, Town Attorney George Jenkins, Public Works director Timmy Kennedy, Public Works Assistant Phillip Swinson, Fire Chief Tony Heath, Police Chief Joey Thigpen, CPA Amanda Murphy, CPA Connie Huffman, and Town Clerk Crystal Heath.

Mayor Sykes said I welcome everyone tonight to our board meeting and call it to order. I would like to ask Commissioner Mike Hill if he will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Now let’s all stand. Commissioner Mike Hill started saying the pledge of allegiance and all joined him. Mayor Sykes said thank you Mike. If everyone will turn your cell phones off until you leave this room and I thank you all for that.

Mayor Sykes said I need a motion for the approval of the agenda and any amendments if needed and we do have one amendment I mean are they all in your packets, and you can just add these for in the motion to accept them. Also consent agenda with regular board meeting minutes from April 9,2019.

Commissioner Mike Hill said I make a motion to approve all the mins, agenda, and any amendments. Commissioner Penny Murphy said I second his motion. Mayor Sykes said I have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion? Ok if not then all in favor of the motion say “aye” and the motion carried unanimously.

 Mayor Sykes said Ok Amanda you are up next with you budget report. I hope it is a good one. CPA Amanda Murphy says if you will all open your booklets to uhm the management letter. We will go through explaining that first. The first fine you’ll know is going to be there every year, might as well get used to it Crystal. Fine is about segregation of duties, not enough personnel to take care of all the duties at hand within the Town Hall. So there needs to be controls in place to help you out. Help you check for any errors that may come up. The board is going to kind of help with those controls because you are going to provide reports for them every month. Spending reports because it just wouldn’t be economically feasible to hire someone for each specific duty that needs to be taken care of here at the Town Hall. Checking the bank statements and reports are some controls in place to make sure all is running smoothly, and this is to help you out too.

 Local government knows this and expects to see this fine in your report every year. Most small towns have this fine so expect to see it. Second finding I have is just every year you have to fill out a sales tax report to get your sales tax back from the state and I found just a couple of small errors with that. Just need to be sure crystal, and you didn’t do this, but be sure you have it coded correctly. Look closely at your invoices because at the end of the year they are going to go back and look at your ledger. If it is not coded correctly it will be missed, then it will not be requested, and the Town will not get a refund for the sales taxes paid. Last thing is not a problem. It doesn’t have anything to do with the financial report at all. I was just looking at it from a safety standpoint with the police department.

The Police Chief Joey is working a lot of hours and I don’t know if he still is or not. And I know you all approved it and everything. You may still be fine with it, but it’s a safety issue when someone is working as many hours as he is in a week. Is he safe? Is he completely alert? Making good decisions? I know how I am when I am working too many hours. I am more prone to errors and mistakes. You know? I just may not be at my best. Not that he has done anything wrong or anyone has done anything wrong, I just think this needs to be relooked at. He will soon be burned out just like I am now. Not that there is anything wrong with it or he has done anything wrong. I don’t know if any errors have been made but if it continues. Mayor Sykes said not right now but if he continues to work like that your right. Amanda said just wondering why you don’t utilize more of the part time position. Mayor Sykes said we were told that part time help couldn’t be found but we may have to utilize that more. Mayor Sykes said we are going to discuss this later.

 Amanda said if you work forty hours and then turn around work another twenty to thirty hours in the same week in part time hours week after week that’s a problem. I myself would get tired pretty quick. I mean we want him to stay and be safe. Mayor Sykes said yea. Thank You.

Amanda said if you will open your audit book to page 13, this is the statement of the net position or the balance sheet. The statement of the financial position of the town. It shows what is owned, the cash receivable since June 30th. The net worth of the Town and what the town owes. One of the things I want to point out is on this statement is the cash and restricted cash. I like to see an increase year after year. Because several years ago it seemed like we were on the decline. Seemed like it was decreasing. The past several years we have been increasing. This year the balance increased again by $68,354.00. Most of that increase was in the water sewer fund. I think mainly because of the rate increase. We must show some of the cash as restricted. It can only be used for specific purposes such as the Powell Fund. It can only be used for that. Community development money is restricted. It can only be used for specific items. Such as the fireman’s relief fund it’s only used for that. Your water sewer deposits are restricted cash because it is only used for that, the deposit refunds if needed. Because you owe that money back to the customer if they ever leave town. That’s why the cash is broken up like it is.

If you will turn to page 15 and look at exhibit 3, like I tell you every year it’s probably one of the statements that the local government looks at closely year after year. Because they want to look at your fund balance that’s available for procreation and at that desired rate of expenditures, which is 8.5%. Year after year they look at it and if there is a major change or if you are not where you need to be. If the rate drops, then you are going to get a letter from the local government. Fortunately for several years the Town of Pink Hill has had a good balance. This year the rate was 108.75%; which is wonderful. Which you are in the good. But it takes one thing to knock the balance out. I had one town to have that happen.

If you will turn now to page 19, there is an original budget and final budget, this is just the general fund statement. Expenses. The main thing I want to point out Crystal is, Local government commission wants to make sure you stay within your budget. Because we all know unexpected things can pop up unannounced. They want to make sure you are amending your budget for these expenditures and things they make come up unexpectedly. Your budget at the beginning of the year shouldn’t stay the same. It’s only a plan and only a projection, it’s going to change. They want to make sure that you are making the proper amendments to go along with whatever changes.

 Uhm, on page 23 exhibit 8, this is the statement for the cash flows for the water sewer fund. It shows how your cash was used. The source of cash where cash came from and how it was used throughout the year. First section cash flows from operating activities. If you will see the line for net cash provided by operating activities is $10,008.00. If that number was a small number or a negative that wouldn’t be good. That would mean that you had either spent excessively or not kept up with spending like you should. So, it is very important to keep that number you know as high as you can. You’ve got note balances, capital outlays to pay off its important to keep that high. It’s important to be able to build your cash balance. You’ve got to have more than day to day money to run the town.

If you will look halfway down the page you will see the net balance on your water fund. You had a $66,500.00 increase to your water sewer fund this year. I notice this is all over whelming for you crystal.

Next section 24-52 is just a written narrative. This part of the audit explains about the town’s policies and procedures. Also explains how certain account balances are derived. Some places it shows explained detail about fixed assets. What makes up your fixed asset account? A lot of people are particularly interesting in notes what town owes.

 If you will look page 47 it lists in detail all the notes instalment loan that the town owes. The payments when loan was taken out, the amount, the interest rate, you’ve got to make payments. On page 49 each note is listed separately telling you how much is due each year and when final payoff is. A lot of people like to look at that.

On page 58 this is detailed statement of general fund revenues you received for the year expenses that was paid. The revenues were up by about $27,000. That was mainly because the Fire department got a grant of about $25,000. Primary reason it was up. Normally you see a spike in sales tax revenue, but we didn’t see that this year. In prior years you had like a increase of $10,000. This year is was only 2,000. Need to get business in Pink Hill, people to spend money.

 On page 60, total expenditures 613,000. Was up by about 13,000. Which is primarily because of the grant the fire department got. You know you got the grant money, so they needed to spend it to get the supplies they needed. Mayor Sykes says yea. I mean pretty much a whole lot didn’t change from last year to this year, the grants, capital spending. You didn’t spend as much on street maintenance either. So, when it was all said and done on the bottom of page 60 your revenues exceeded your expenditures by 40,970.00; so that was about a 5,000 over last year. That what you want to do year to year is to increase that rate from year to year.

On page 61. The water sewer fund. The revenues were up about $57,000. That was due to a rate increase. And then BF Grady signed on that made a big difference in your revenue. Your operating expenses as far as salaries maintenance and upkeep, I think it was up by 10,000 last year. But you had a big water line repair that had to be taken care of. I can’t remember where. Commissioner Mike Hill says a sewer line repair. Timmy Kennedy says I can’t remember which one. The years kind of run together. Amanda said I totally understand I do.

She says if you will look to page 62. The number I like to look at instead of the $115,000 in the negative. Look midway of page where it states revenue over expenditures. Revenues exceeded your expenditures by $70,080. Which is really good. You want to see pretty good numbers there every year. I think last year we were in the negative. But see you have had an 80,000. Increase from last year. All that was due to BF Grady.

Anyone have any questions or anything they want to add? Amanda asked. Commissioner Mike Hill said the reason you look at the number on the bottom is $154,000 in negative is because of depreciation. Hardly anyone funds appreciation. It wouldn’t do us any good for us to raise the price of water and sewer up for that negative number to be a positive. Amanda laughed and she said your right because if you raise water sewer rates enough to get you out of that negative you wouldn’t have any residence left in your town. Commissioner Mike says I hate to look at it that way, but we can’t do that, we as a town can’t afford that. Mayor Sykes says we wouldn’t have anyone here. Attorney George asked so that base number will always be like that? Commissioner Mike Hill says yes it will. I wished we could afford to raise water sewer to fix that number, but we just can’t. I hate it but we can’t.

Amanda says Ok on page 64 this just shows cash receivable. The property taxes that was owed to the town the past ten years. We have to keep ten years on our books. You had a slight improvement over last year. So, if you will flip to page 65 that bottom line property tax over percentage over collection percentage is good. Especially if you look at towns the size of Pink Hill. Pink Hill is right in line with the state average. Total average levy is 97.07%. The state average is 96.02% so you’re a little above that. If you will look at the percent that don’t include vehicle tax you are like at 96.81 % state average is 96.21% vehicle collection rate is 100%. That’s because the state took over the collection of property taxes on vehicles. Ever since they did that all the towns are seeing a significant improvement in vehicle tax. Mayor Sykes said because if you don’t pay your vehicle tax you don’t ride.

Amanda said is there any questions or concerns so far? Mayor Sykes said Amanda we really appreciate this so much, thank you. Amanda said I appreciate it too. She said you all have a good night. Any questions you have my number. I may see you when you do a repair. She said you all have a good night.

Mayor Sykes said ok we are going to do the discussion of the budget. We have got to do this really quick. We are in the short rows because it needs to be done by Friday. We are going to have our budget workshop tonight. Instead of having to schedule another date and take up everyone’s time. We are going to discuss now. Connie has been so kind and helpful, faithful. If it wasn’t for her right now, we would be up the creek. I mean with me and Crystal both in the positions we are. So, she has agreed to come tonight to help us with that. Let’s put the budget together. We will discuss that but when we get ready to discuss salaries we are going to go into closed session. When we determine what the salaries will be, we will come out of closed session. If you will get started with that. Mayor Sykes said and Crystal thank you for putting up with us all at this time.

Connie Huffman, CPA, said if we are going to look at our proposed budget that’s what we kind of have ourselves backed into a corner because of our time. Next meeting is June 11th. We’ve got to have it pretty much decided. We’ve got to have a public hearing, have it posted for ten days, and get it advertised in the newspaper. We have to have all this done by June 11th that’s the reason we are rushing it up a little bit. Connie says the general fund we will start there; this is the fund we always have problems with. As far as balancing because you don’t have these problems in the water sewer fund because you are setting rates and charges. Water sewer fund has to cover itself. General fund doesn’t work that way. We have our property taxes and taxes associated with the fire department. But there is a lot of expenditures on the general fund that do not have a significant amount of revenue, not picking on Joey but the police department is one. The fire department a lot of times balances out because of fund raisers. We always look at the fire department a little differently. I had me a cheat sheet but can’t find it. I have added up the fire department revenue. Comparing their revenue vs their expenditures, they are 88000 less that the fire department expenditures. I’m really not that concerned with the fire department because what they have done is planned to spend $10,000 more on their debt.

Even though our revenues are less I am ok with them spending that savings because they are paying off debt. The money in the bank. I like things to balance but with them spending the extra $10,000 on that loan it is taking away the interest on that loan. We want the budget to balance itself, but we are just spending operating expenses. I had told carol today while working on it, that we need to find a way to get it to balance because it’s not sustainable to spend savings for operating expenses. Like I said with the fire department I am fine with that using their savings because they are paying off a loan. We may be lucky when we get into the year, we may have more revenue and if so, ok I will do budget amendments.

The fire department will more than likely get some grants. We are planning on doing those grants a little bit differently. We are not going to budget those things until rewarded, I think it will be less confusing for everyone. When you’re looking at your revenues for the fire department there is a miscellaneous item matter of fact it got the 50/50 vote grant written beside it. That $16,000 is a grant that we already have. There is some capital outlay there. They have budgeted $33,000 for a boat. I feel pretty good where their revenue and expenditures are. Like I said hopefully they will be getting more grants. When we get those grants, most are share grants which means it is 50/50. There is a 9010 grant they are planning on applying for to purchase turn out gear. If awarded that I will do a budget amendment. They will need you guy to act quick and vote on those when it comes up.

Connie said the revenues in total on the general fund, I have two columns there. The two you are looking at are the Mayor proposed and department head proposed. That is where we have a little bit of difference. That is where we will go into closed session to discuss salaries. Anyways it will stay the same other than what is voted on for salaries. We had budgeted revenues of $641,946.43. If you will look at the column to the left that is budget for current year you’ll see $641,000 is a lot less but that has a lot to do with FEMA monies and different hurricane related monies we got and grants. We are going to have a budget amendment that is going to reduce that $846,000 it will decrease by $100,000 because of a grant. There was a grant in here we budgeted for and haven’t received that is one reason why we are making this change of away from amend when we don’t get. That way we don’t spend what we don’t have. The 846 will be dropping down the 746 again its FEMA revenues and grants will be changing.

 Admin department when you are looking at that I done that and I am using the 18-19 guide we have nothing our total expenditure for the admin is not really changing $122,483.00 will not change under either option. We have no capital outlay it’s just spending expenditures. We haven’t even budgeted to buy a computer. It is just flat out operating expenses. One other change we made this year culture and recreation is showing a larger figure. It is showing $12,385. We moved the Christmas parade, the fire department told me they are moving away from overseeing it. It will be a town Christmas parade. Not necessarily Fire Department. $104,000 is the same is garbage revenue. We don’t make money off of garbage revenue. We just try to break even. There has been years and years in past where we didn’t break even, and the town had to subsidies for that. Mayor Sykes said we had a truck at the time. We are pretty much spending what we take up there. Like I said the fire department there is a couple other things in capital outlay. There are two other radios. Timmy Kennedy said they are a $1,000 apiece. Also, the rescue boat. A camera I meant to delete out and I think it has already been purchased it will be in current year’s budget. Other item Timmy said is rescue jacks, Connie said I took those out, the rescue jacks he mentioned we think will be 100% grant if we get it. At that point we will recognize our grant income do a budget amendment and it will wash.

Connie said our proposed police budget is down from last year. Under annual column one shows expenditure of $162,815.57 and other $182.622.11. Uhm and streets we want wind up spending that money because we want to end up fixing two big items because we don’t have the FEMA hurricane money for that. We are not sure if we will get it. Timmy is pretty confident we will but the way we are budgeting for that in 19/20 year. Those projects are a lot of money. If we don’t get FEMA money Connie said I asked Timmy what the town would have to do to complete these projects. So, the reason you are seeing more in the street utilities is because he said $25,000 will give us a patch. If we do get the FEMA money I will do just like we plan with the fire department I will do a budget amendment $160,000 some thousand to complete those two big projects. Right now, this budget is showing $25,000. Because usually you get enough in Powell money to do this. We don’t have it in the Powell Bill money. There is $25,000 that we don’t have to normally budget but depends on FENA. So, it depends if we get our Cadillac or a patch. When you look down here, most of the time with these presentations you want it to balance out 0. I purposefully left it not zeroed out because I want you to see clearly how short we are.

Under the first column we need $15,000.86 to balance this budget. I we could get it down to $8800 I would be totally happy. I mean I am going to be happy with whatever you decide. If we spend what we get and not from savings to savings. Did Amanda say what your phone balance is? I feel pretty safe we are good in that area. But we want to stay in good shape. Leave our money for something catastrophic. The second column shows it will take $33,978.40 to balance this budget. What we need for you guys to decide between now and Friday, hopefully tonight uhm which avenue we are going to go. We can pick the far column and figure out things we could nip and tuck on. Try to make other decisions or decide we are going to use savings.

Mayor Sykes said I think the way we did it today, we basically cut on everything we could to be safe. I mean that’s my opinion. Connie said every single year we wind up collecting a little more money. There have been very few years that our budget was more than our revenues. We want to budget it that way uhm and try to make sure that we are working towards that goal of not spending more than we are taking in. You know I am with Carol I think we have skinny back and cut. I don’t know what else we can necessarily do. We haven’t planned for any other revenue to come in. Hopefully with repairs and maintenance we want have so much to do.

 Your unassigned fund balance is $513,000. Which is a good balance. Even though that looks like a big number if you take a look at how much it takes to run the town it’s not such a big amount. Normal expenditures for the day to day running of the town last year was $613,000. So, we have got to be careful with our money. Ok Thank You.

Connie says we are going to look at our water sewer fund next. The water sewer fund is in everyone’s packet. Let me just borrow carols and I can run right through it. Water sewer fund current budget is $605,433.31 budget to 19-20. I think it’s closer to $573,000 that we can count on. Again, the differences is in this presentation we don’t have the water fund balance procreation. Which we have a budget amendment to take out of last year’s budget. Last year we budgeted enough to spend out of savings, but we done good enough we don’t have to spend that savings. When just comparing the numbers it’s not really a big change. It’s related to FEMA.

Water sewer revenues in town, every single year our consumption declines. That is where we are having people move or property bought and no one moving back into those locations. Every time you have a customer move out and no one moves back in, we lose water customer which loses revenue. The availability fee is like $22.00 for water and $22.00 for sewer. So, you’re talking $44.00 month per customer we lose. Just the availability of one customer. I cannot tell you the numbers of the customers, I didn’t study them this year. I did last year because of the rate hike. Commissioner Mike said he didn’t know either. Connie said but I can tell you in the last two years, I have looked at them numbers and every single year we are losing consumption because we have fewer and fewer residential customers in town. Uhm the water sewer revenue the last line, last year I was budgeting off of the prior consumption and new rates. This year we are going to be $363,600 going off of if we hold what we do right now. I don’t know we just don’t have the people moving in our town. That’s the only fund seems to be going down. We have been fortunate that we picked up the BF Grady sewer and it really is a blessing that you all have Deep Run Sewer district also. I feel like it is. Mike may not feel like it. When you have the schools in your district that makes a difference. Commissioner Mike said the schools do make the difference; my thing is I am just glad we don’t have grinder pumps in these houses in Deep Run. The state advised you’re going to take care of it to the towns and they will. Take in account the big account helps. Revenue is holding steady because of it. Water sewer fund isn’t feeling the pinch as bad as the General Fund is. Now on to the department head and the mayor column for the salaries. Either way you’ll be fine. Repairs over in water sewer fund because we are having issues with pumps. What you are looking at here in the general column is what we think we have cut, skinned it out as much as we can. The good thing is we have a little cushion we can just add it to the maintenance line for any repair that may surface. Do any of you have any questions for me on those two funds? Connie says I am kind of out of my element I am not great with presentations. Mayor Sykes said you have done a wonderful job. Connie said well thank you I prefer one on one in my office but if anyone has any questions or concerns please ask me. If you want to scan the line items compare to last year and if any of you have any questions please let me know. Water fund I have only budgeted a part time position if needed at $10.00 50 weeks. Insurance I only budgeted 2 people but in the Deep Run sewer budget I budgeted one, Alex. There is three totals where we have had two.

Mayor Sykes said ok does anyone have any questions? Want to make any changes? If we can we need to make decisions. Commissioner Mike Hill said but we are going in to closed session to talk about salaries. Mayor Sykes asked well are we ready to do so? Commissioner Mike said let’s finish the other items on the agenda first. Then we will go back to this.

Connie said there is a sheet in your packet I don’t know how Kim used to do it, but this is how I did it. It is line item transfers from your finance officer. When one item line is short you give her, your finance officer Crystal permission to move money from one-line item to the next. Crystal has moved these funds around when we have been paying bills to tie up the budget. These line items we did have to move since last board meeting. It’s nothing major it’s simply showing we had $200 over here that we moved to another line item. When we needed it. It has to be moved within the function. The biggest one you will see is under the water fund for the $1460 that was actually we have insurance was that. We put the money in the general fund. Movement over her will recognize that. I pulled it out of capital outlay and put it in repairs and maintenance but as you will see I will pull it back out of the maintenance and repairs line and put it back it capital outlay were we borrowed it from. The other items you will see is for the light bill for the Christmas lights. I had no idea how it was done but the money for that just came in. So, I looked back, and we always pay for that in May. The bill for the Christmas lights went up from $1300 to $1800. So, I did a budget amendment for the light bill. Mayor Sykes said well we don’t need to keep them up that long then. Timmy Kennedy said I think we put them up 2 weeks early. Mayor Sykes asked Timmy when the Christmas lights came down. Timmy Kennedy said it was like January 10th until they could get back to it to take them down. Commissioner James Quinn asked if the new Christmas lights that are ordered will help decrease the bill being they are LED lights. Mayor Sykes said James we didn’t get the LED lights because they were too expensive. Connie said that was a big one we don’t normally have the utility bill with their rate hike. The things with the salaries have to do with where we have paid out additional money with people leaving and needing to be paid out for their vacation time. So that is a item we haven’t normally had in the past. Very bottom there the 3312, I thought we were fine until today I got here, and Crystal says Connie we’ve got to write a check for the auditor. So that is what that line is.

Admin department doesn’t have a lot of wiggle room. So, I hope we don’t have anything come up if so, we will have some budget violations. The wiggle room in the admin, we could use this year was money that was allocated for elections and we didn’t have to use it for that. There is one in the new proposed budget we will have James and Carol to pay for. Believe it or not the last time we paid $4800.00. Mayor Sykes said I am going to question that though because that is too much of a price for running. Connie said yes, it is unreal. Connie said I remember when we got the bill and we hadn’t budgeted for it. Mayor Sykes said I think it is wrong because they use our building and all they pay is $50.00. We got something to talk about. Connie said anyways that is the transfers, you don’t have to approve any of them I was just pointing them out and making you aware. Letting you see that Crystal has had to move somethings around so that she can balance out.

I am hoping you guys can pass these. The first one is kind of touched on it earlier the $91,243.00 thinking we were going to get this grant last year and we did not We are correcting our revenue with this transfer. We are getting rid of revenues, taking $80,000. Out of capital outlay. $4000.00 out of Pink Hill café. We were fortunate enough we didn’t have to spend all the money we budgeted for Fire Department insurance.

2nd one is the garbage revenue. We are a little bit ahead on it because you never know how often people want their trash dumped. And we have to pay Waste Industries. Our 3rd amendment is changing in staffing where we had to pay out staff turnover for their time because of pay for vacation and so forth. Basically, we had to pull out of savings for that because I didn’t have it. Spending almost $7,000.00 of additional cost for that.

 Last item is the beautification revitalization grant is the $25,000 and the $25,000 we plan on spending because of that. For that. Flip to the next page this is your water sewer budget amendments. On this journal this is happy amendments. We are recognizing revenue and putting the first one is the $12, 5000 I mentioned we are putting it back in capital outlay because remember I told you I took some out of capital outlay for a water repair. So, it’s going back. The second one is for the FEMA money. In you 18/19 budget planned to spend $13,500.00 of saving but you got enough in FEMA money you didn’t have to spend that from savings. We are undoing what we said we would have to do and we still will have $5500 to add for Timmy to do on some repairs we have put on hold. Commissioner Mike Hill said I make a motion to approve of the amended items for the general fund and water sewer fund. Mayor Sykes said is there a second? Commissioner Penny Murphy said I second. Mayor Sykes said ok all in favor of the amended items say “aye” and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Sykes said ok are we ready to go into closed session. Connie says I am just going to sit down until you all come out of it and make some decisions.

Mayor Sykes said ok George do you have anything? Attorney George Jenkins said as we all know the foreclosure has been filed on Alejandra Mary Cruz. The county of Lenoir and Department of NC Revenue, IRS, William F Simpson, and Annette Pitman. The first two are obvious the tax, property owners. Others are lien holders. They have a claim on that property. If the court grants that I’m asking they wipe everything else clean. Typically, the IRS will work with you unless you are given more. In other words, if you get $1.00 more the IRS is going to claim it. Good news for Alejandro is those IRS liens is about to run out. North Carolina Department of Revenue he’s not so fortunate. Those charges are sky high. They have the right to defend this lawsuit for themselves and on behalf for the property owners. Lenoir County has a right because of what is owed. We need to bid enough to take care of all the cost for this land. Court cost, my cost, taxes, and if we need to get a land surveyor. All those costs need to be in with our bid. Mayor Sykes asked will that auction be here in Pink Hill or at the Lenoir County courthouse. Attorney George said most likely at Lenoir County, but we can put in a request that it take place here in Pink Hill. It’s typically done at courthouse door. We need to think about that and see which the right way for us is to go about it. That way if someone bids one dollar more George says see ya have a good time with it. Mayor Sykes says as long as they keep the grass mowed. Any bids that are more than the bid I told you about George said technically goes to Alejandra and IRS.

Mayor Sykes says we have enough in the fund for it too. She says Tony are you ready to give your fire report? He says since our last meeting April 9th you can add one more ems assignment to the report. Which is 21. 7 vehicles accidents. 1 structure fire. 2 electrical fires. 1 brush fire and 3 service assignment calls. Which gave us 35 calls. As was spoken earlier if we receive the grant, we are going to purchase the boat. I sent them a letter of intent and that was enough for them to release it. Because it takes 6 weeks to order the motor and get it back to the company to get together. So, I have started the process on that. Commissioner Mike Hill said Thank you Tony. Thank you for all you do. Mayor Sykes said yes thank you all.

Mayor Sykes said ok Joey. He said since the last board meeting, we had 107 calls 5 accidents, 4 alarms, 2 animal complaints, 2 arrest, 3 assist highway patrol, 8 assist Lenoir County EMS, 18 Lenoir County sheriff’s department assist calls. 7 assist pink hill fire department, 1 breaking and entering, 7 assist motorist, 2 citations, 1 communicating threats, 4 domestics, 5 disturbances, 4 fraud, 7 unknowns, 1 funeral escort, 2 larceny, 1 larceny by employee, 1 psychiatric, 1 soliciting, 1 suspicious activities, 7 suspicious vehicles, 1 trespassing call. Commissioner James Quinn said busy busy. Mayor Carol Sykes said Ok. Alright Thank You Joey. Mayor Sykes said ok George are we going to wait on your comments? Commissioner Mike says what about Timmy. Mayor Sykes laughed she says I am sorry Timmy I already checked you off baby.

Timmy said we have a new tin roof on the lab building. Over the last month we had the camera work and the major work done. Over 35 feet of work. It’s pretty impressive to me. How good our lines looked being they were put in in the 1970’s. We did find some infiltration in some of the lines they are going to need some attention. We also found some manholes that are going to need some attention. Hopefully I will get up some prices for that soon. Last week Phillip went to school for B distribution at the Rural Water conference he still needs to test. As far as the asset management we are coming to a end almost complete. At our next meeting in June we should be able to present something. I did want to bring to your attention we are having issues with the 2008 f150, it’s the truck Alex drives. It’s an electrical issue. It want crank sometimes. It’s on Murphy road at Burd’s shop. He thought he had it fixed we drove it straight to the cafeteria went back to it and it wouldn’t crank. They are still trouble shooting it. Randy said every time he goes to crank it that it cranks. Just wanted to let you know because I may need to take it to the ford dealership. Mayor Sykes said ok thank you Timmy. I think this is it. We need to go into closed session.

Commissioner Mike Hill says I make a motion we go into closed session to discuss budget and salaries. Commissioner Penny Murphy says I second his motion. Mayor Sykes said ok I have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion? Ok if not then all in favor say “aye” and the motion carried unanimously.

We came out of closed session at 9:24

Commissioner Mike Hill said we looked at the budget the general fund and if we have to take money out of savings. We would have to for salary increases. Mike said Carol you are going to have to tell him about the part time hours. Mayor Sykes said Joey you are a full time 40 hour a week employee. You were not here when Amanda was here giving us the audit. Amanda brought to our attention the amount of hours you are working is dangerous. I have had people from the town come up to me and ask me about your hours. George made a good point to if something was to happen us as a town is dead ducks because the argument would be you haven’t had enough down time to rest. Would you tell him George what you suggested? George said on which? Mayor Sykes said on the too many hours working, the legal standpoint. George said I just brought it up from a legal view if you are working that many hours and you make a bad judgment call 9:00 at night and you been on duty since 8 that morning and had also worked those hours several days in a row. You would be subject to severe cross examination. Chief Joey said I don’t need to hear all of that. You all just go ahead and do what you are going to do. Well Joey the motion has been made. We are going to find another cop to serve the part time hours. Chief Joey said you want find anyone for $13.00 an hour. Mayor Sykes said well Joey we are going to look and see what we can do. Just like I told them we also have the Lenoir County Sheriffs department. We help pay their salaries. I do feel like we are in a rock and a hard place. Not only my opinion but others as well.

Commissioner Mike Hill said our proposed salary increase is 6% for the water department and police department. All the way across the board for all employees. I make a motion to increase all salaries in the water department to 6% and police department. Commissioner James Quinn said I second his motion. Mayor Sykes said ok we got a motion end of discussion. All in favor say “aye” and the motion was carried unanimously.

George do you have anything else you need to say Mayor Sykes asked him. George responded no ma’am. There is no further business to discuss Mayor Sykes said then I declare this meeting adjourned.

 Chief Joey asked when was the changes effective? Mayor Sykes said July 1. Chief Joey said tell me how that’s going to work? What are we going to say when the people start saying when we don’t have coverage? Mayor Sykes said we are going to call upon the Lenoir County Sheriffs Department. Good luck with that Joey says. Mayor Sykes says well now Joey we are going to try, and we are going to find another hire for the 20 hours. I feel like the sheriff’s department will help. Joey says so we are going to pay the sheriffs department to come over here. Mayor Sykes and Commissioner Mike Hill said no we aren’t. Pink Hill is covered by the Lenoir County Sheriff’s Department.