

Town Board Meeting

April 13, 2021

The Town of Pink Hill Board meeting was held on April 13, 2020 in the town hall board room. Present for this meeting were Mayor Carol Sykes, Commissioner Mike Hill, Commissioner James Quinn, Commissioner Penny Murphy, Town Attorney George Jenkins, Fire Department Chief Tony Heath, Police Chief Michael Hoffman, Town Clerk Crystal Heath, Public Works Supervisor Timmy Kennedy and Public Works Assistant Phillip Swinson.

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Mayor Sykes said I would like to call this meeting to order and I welcome everyone to the April 13, 2020 meeting. I would like to ask everyone to please turn your cell phones off. Mayor Sykes asked Commissioner Mike Hill to lead everyone in saying the pledge of allegiance. Everyone stood and said the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Sykes said we have some amendments on the agenda if I can have a motion to approve the agenda and amendments. Commissioner Hill said I make a motion to approve the agenda and any amendments to the consent agenda, and the minutes from the last meeting. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes said any discussion, all in favor say "aye", motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Sykes said we are supposed to have Mr. Kessler he is supposed to be in here tonight, but he is not here once he gets in here we will see him later. So Commissioner Mike Hill you are up next. Commissioner Hill said WASA at the last meeting they approved to keep the water rates the same for another year so that is good. Is anybody going to the Rural Water Conference? Timmy Kennedy said I'll go if the guys don't want to, is it at Winston Salem? Commissioner Hill said it is at Winston Salem. Mr. Kennedy said I was not really impressed with the classes this year. Mayor Sykes asked Commissioner Hill if he was going to go, and he said he was. Commissioner Hill said that is all I had just that WASA was going to keep the rates the same. Mayor Sykes said well I am glad to hear that, are you kinda surprised? Commissioner Hill said yeah because we had to tried the dredge, replace the screens that were there and clean so we can keep those screens, draw water out of the river, and they are having a time with high water from the rain. You have a certain time limit to work on the river it is just too much. They are trying to renegotiate the contract right now.

Mayor Sykes asked for the fire report that is provided by Chief Tony Heath. Chief Heath said my report is in your folder. Ms. Crystal Heath, town clerk, said George was inquiring where the structural fires were at. Mr. Phillip Swinson and Ms. Heath said Deep Run, Sarecta, Mutual A with Duplin County, and Jones County. It was nobody right in the city limits. Mr. Swinson said nobody in the city limits. Mayor Sykes thanked him for the report.

Mayor Sykes asked for the police report that is provided by Chief Michael Hoffman. Chief Hoffman said as you can see the calls are numbered and all. The one thing we did have a significant decline is we are staying more in the areas of business and residences the only call that we had remotely close to a breaking and entering was last month. The larcenies have failed out, domestics have stayed the same, and our vehicle stops citations we have actually slowed down a little bit on those. Until I get certification in hand I am not going to write any speeding tickets and we did recertify radar. Also taking the crown vic tonight to get it fixed and the new

charger has been ordered. Three or four weeks ago we ordered it and it was ordered at the price scheduled no increases. Mayor Sykes said did you have few extra things added this time that you needed on it? Chief Hoffman said absolutely not. Mayor Sykes said did we talk about that at one time I was thinking you said one time for deer purposes? Chief Hoffman said so that is something with your permission I would truly like to address. I had a gentleman call me last night he came over here to Central Avenue for an issue and he called me back screamed on the phone. He said you are not going to believe this a deer just ran out in front of me in front of Bill Turners house. Chief Hoffman said I had two myself right in front of Bill Turners is what I told him. Mayor Sykes said are they more abundant this year? Chief Hoffman said there is a 27 percent more deer wrecks this year than last year. Last year there an 18 percent incline from the year prior. Mayor Sykes said so are people not deer hunting this year? Chief Hoffman said so they are, but they are not as much as they have been because the restrictions are tight now. If we have a push bar it will save us so much. The town has been pretty quiet and that is how we want it. I think we have taken care of the issue with big trucks on Lynwood Avenue. Mayor Sykes said I think one of them is gone. Chief Hoffman said yeah each one of them was given a copy of the ordinance and the fines, but they have stopped prior to that. We will just continue working. Commissioner Murphy said I have a question word on the street is that we have some interesting folk living in the old Maxwell house. Mayor Sykes said that has been taken care of. Chief Hoffman said yes that is it one we have taken care of we know exactly what is there and what is going on. Commissioner Murphy said that vehicle has been in our neighborhood. Chief Hoffman said it is not exactly what if appears and if any of you would like to sit down and talk to me I would gladly explain it thoroughly. I was caught off guard by it as well whenever I got the first notification I was like oh no, but it is not like that. I think they understand and as long as they understand we are not going to have an issue. Attorney George Jenkins said can I ask a question? When you talked to the tractor trailer driver about the heavy trucks not from legal perspective, but otherwise how did he react to your explaining? Chief Hoffman said so he was irate, but I thoroughly explained it to him. I said look this our ordinance this has to be here, but at the end of the day really and truly the way the policy is written we don't have a whole lot. Mayor Sykes said what do you mean we don't have a whole lot? Chief Hoffman said it is a through traffic. Mayor Sykes said right, but it says no trucks going—Chief Hoffman said right none through, but you can't stop a man from going home. Even state laws supersede local ordinance and state law said which I am glad it worked out. This ordinance has been here and they will have to understand that.

Mayor Sykes asked Timmy Kennedy to provide the water report. Mr. Kennedy said since our last meeting we found a couple of leaks at ground level of our wet well on the other side of the lagoon and at the very next manhole. It is on the F1 side also leaking just a little bit right at the seam. It looks like a lot when you look at the ground. I hired Down Under Construction to put seam hoping they are going to show up tomorrow. We have had a grit removal olger, I put a picture for the folks who haven't seen one, the olger came apart at the Old Plant Station and we hired Browns Millright. He is having to make a couple parts so it can get back to working. We did have the money in our budget so I didn't have to come do a budget amendment or anything. We just flip flopped some money from one line item to the other to make up for the cost of the manholes and leak fixed. On a positive side Highway 11 hopefully is going to be repaved

through town I am hoping they will switch and get Broadway Street. Commissioner Quinn said there were some guys out there looking at the manholes and drain lines out there by the Presbyterian Church is that something that FEMA is going to take care of? Mr. Kennedy said we talked to the guys and they were just here to do a survey he was taking inventory. Commissioner Quinn was is DOT or something? Mr. Kennedy said it was DOT bridge department. Commissioner Quinn said there is a place in the parking lot that is washing away and is just sinking too that is why I did not know which. Mr. Kennedy said the cross on Lynwood and Turner Street are DOT just like the sinkholes on 241 and Broadway Street you will get both of them on your way home. You go all the way to Earl Howard Road you will get a second one. We have a manhole on Leighton Drive that has a sinkhole around it we tried our best to get a camera in it and you can't. It is about 9 feet deep and we hired Down Under Construction. They put a bid in it and they are going to fix it. Mayor Sykes thanked Mr. Kennedy.

Mayor Sykes asked Attorney George Jenkins if he had anything. Mr. Jenkins said we have two bills pending before the legislator on the voting. The representative of all three presented in the House and Senator Perry presented it in the Senate. They both told me staff person in charge of local ordinances was going to contact, but I told him we already have an ordinance that this needs an amendment to char. Just like we had to do a few years ago. He said this person is the one that needs to talk to me, but he has not called me. The Board of Election has already said they are not interested in doing it down here. Mayor Sykes said well don't worry I appreciate him saying that since it is \$60,000 bill we received. Mr. Jenkins said he said as far as he was concerned when we voted on it and the county commissioners approved on it. Mayor Sykes said when did the county commissioner approve because I asked him? Mr. Jenkins said I thought he told me the County Commissioners had approved it. Mayor Sykes said who? Mr. Jenkins said I thought the Board of Election he had said that. Mayor Sykes said I have not heard him say that, but he may have said it, because Mr. Daughtey was here and I showed it to him he said he was going to take care of it but he never did. Mr. Jenkins said do you want me to say something to Mac? Mayor Sykes said no if he said don't worry at the Board of Elections no. Mr. Jenkins said just don't worry about it? Mayor Sykes said right he said it so no we are not paying \$60,000 anymore. Also you got another one signed you came by, but we have signed one. Mr. Jenkins said it did not have the squeezed seal. Mayor Sykes said it did have the seal that is the one that you gave me. I guess with Diana's name on it is okay. Mr. Jenkins yep and that is what went up to them or two one to the House and one to the Senate.

Mr. Timmy Kennedy said he had one more thing to talk about. He said the old HJ building property it is still not ours and somebody is still not cutting the grass, and before it starts looking bad do we want me to keep on cutting it. Mr. Jenkins said that is before the court to order the sell on May 3rd. Mayor Sykes said is it going to be on the paper? Mr. Jenkins said no that is the court hearing on May 3rd. Mayor Sykes said so what does that do? Mr. Jenkins said that gets us where we can advertise it and sell it. Mayor Sykes said so it has taken this long to get it done. Mr. Jenkins said between court schedules, COVID, and my schedule. Mayor Sykes said we have really talked about this for about three years. Mr. Jenkins said it was filed June 8, 2019 but it is on for May 3rd. Mayor Sykes said has any of them been sold I may be looking at it wrong, but it looks different from what it had been. Mr. Kennedy said the girl that runs the

boutique I think she bought the little part on this end. Mr. Jenkins said and if Alejandro wants to sell the whole thing he certainly can, but whoever buys it is buying our lien. If somebody is buying a piece of it they are buying a piece of the lien. Commissioner Hill said I would say go ahead and mow it. Mayor Sykes said I would and just charge them like we did before. Mr. Jenkins said can you get me a bill for it by the end April. Mr. Kennedy said I will try. Mr. Jenkins said then I can add that to what I am already suing for. Commissioner Murphy said speaking of looking ugly did anything ever happen with the big old stack of limbs that are everywhere now some have dirt on them. Ms. Crystal Heath said yeah they covered them up with dirt. Mayor Sykes said yeah dirt has been put on them and some other places too. Commissioner Murphy said I am just wondering when we have a big old rain storm how the dirt is going to stay just out of curiosity. Phillip Swinson said they are making flower beds she is tried it before and it failed, but she is trying it again. Mr. Jenkins said does the fertilizer accelerate the rotting? Mr. Swinson said I think so. Commissioner Murphy said it does not smell good whatever it is. I have had many people ask me about the debris findings.

Mayor Sykes said does anybody have anything else? She said to Mr. Jenkins I appreciate you taking care of this and I appreciate you finally taking care of HJ. Mr. Jenkins said and on the voting do you want me to keep my mouth shut. Mayor Sykes said absolutely he said we are not going to do it anymore he is exactly right. If there is no more comments to be made I declare this meeting adjourned.