May 10, 2016

7:00 P.M.

The Town of Pink Hill held its monthly board meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the town hall board room. Present for the meeting were Mayor Carol Sykes, Commissioners Mike Hill, Donald King and Debra Grady, Town Attorney George Jenkins, Public Works Director Timmy Kennedy, Police Chief Joey Thigpen, and Town Clerk Kimberly Mitchell.

Visitors present at the meeting were Susan Myers, Alex Gardner, and Chad Rouse.

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 King then led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the agenda with amendment 5a. Commissioner King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the consent agenda including April 12, 2016 regular board meeting minutes. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was Pink Hill Rose Festival Update. Susan passed out an agenda schedule and map for the RoseFest. She said they pretty much have everything organized and planned out. Susan explained the layout of the map and said it is like the map from last year. She said the tennis court is going to be used for the water fight. The fun zone will be where it was last year. She said Christian Chapel is going to be their exclusive homemade ice cream vendor and they are one of the eight partners we have. Susan said in front of Town Hall will be handicap parking. The vendors will be up from the corner of South Central and East College up to Broadway and then down Broadway just a little bit. The food vendors well most of them will be over by the fire department cafeteria/two story building. Susan said the beer and wine will be roped off in the same place it was last year. The stage is going to be a little bit different. It is going to be kind of further back on the grass where you will be able to see it better from the beer and wine place. She said they had to put up some new electricity poles at the corner of Broadway and Central and then over near the Methodist Church. The Pink Hill Pharmacy Stage which is the big stage that stays open until 10 o’clock is in front of the media center where it was last year. The smaller stage that closes at 6 o’clock is on Broadway Street. She said after 6 o’clock and they get the stage down then Broadway Street will open back up. Commissioner Hill asked Susan when the lifetime achievement award was going to be given out. Susan replied at 1 o’clock and it will be given to John Currin and Scarlett Howard. She said the board either needs to be there at the opening ceremonies at 9:45 a.m. and/or at 1:00 p.m. Mayor Sykes said she thinks they all need to be there at 9:45 a.m. Commissioner Grady asked Susan where was that going to be and she said on the Pink Hill Pharmacy Stage in front of the media center. Susan said J. Mac Daughety will be the MC in giving the award to John Currin Howard. She said they will have the North Carolina Court Council and Debra Johnson is going to speak. Susan said they have walkie talkies so they can communicate with each other. She said they will have golf carts running so that we can pick up handicap people. Kim told Susan that she is getting the event stickers made for the golf carts. Susan stated she thinks Jeremy has already printed some up that say event sticker. Kim said the town has them for the fire department and the parade and they look like the permit stickers and they say “event cart”. Mayor Sykes said it would be better for the town to give them at so at least the stickers will all be the same kind. Kim asked Susan did she know how many she was going to need. Susan said she would have Jeremy call her. Susan stated they do have the Deep Run Child Care golf cart which is bigger. She said they will have signs up everywhere on all five entrances that say no golf carts allowed unless transporting someone to their car. Susan said parking is always a concern especially when we expect 8,000 people this year in and out which is double the amount of people from last year. She said there will be parking over at Mayor Sykes’ lot and First Citizens Bank is letting them use their parking lot for vendors. Mayor Sykes told Susan if she doesn’t mind to leave one parking space on her lot for her to park.

Susan said that Michael Hoffman has volunteered his time to make some barriers and she has purchased the PVC pipe. She said they will be able to use those over and over again. Timmy told Susan that she is welcome to all the cones and drums that the town has. He said that he will bring them up to Town Hall and she can use them as needed.

Kim asked Susan were they planning on parking on the lot where the U.S. Cellular tower was going to be. Susan said it would be nice for them to be able to use it but she does not want to mess up anything. Mayor Sykes said the only thing she has seen over there is a survey sticker. Timmy said he can put some cones over them so they do not get moved. He said as far as he is concerned it is pretty solid out there unless they get a bunch of rain.

Susan gave Kim a volunteer form to put up. She said they are looking for qualified drivers for the golf carts. Susan told Mayor Sykes that she is down to work the wine garden from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. checking ID’s and giving out bracelets. George stated that there is a new ALE officer in town for the county and from what he understands he is very strict. Mayor Sykes said everything is taken care of as long as they have their permit. Mayor Sykes said that she needs to have the area roped off and Susan replied it will be in the rose garden. Susan said there will be one brewery and one wine vendor. She said they have Front Street Brewery from Wilmington, North Carolina which is really popular and they are bringing a winery. Susan said they booked them today and don’t know their name yet. She said we may be doing things a little different than what we see at other festivals. We really are trying to do things different. Susan said you can guarantee that there is always going to be some complaints but some of the complaints won’t be valid. Mayor Sykes thanked Susan for coming and for all of her hard work and volunteers who have helped her because she knows it is a hard job and hopefully that Saturday is going to be a good day.

The next item on the agenda was Candidate for Lenoir County Commissioner at-large. Mayor Sykes introduced Chad Rouse who is a candidate running for Lenoir County Commissioner at-large and that means it is the whole county voting for him and not just our district. Mr. Rouse said first of all thank you for letting me come and he appreciates it. He said listening to us talk about the festival kind of reassures him why he is doing this. He said he has lived here all his life pretty much except for a couple of years away at college. Mr. Rouse said he has worked for the City of Kinston going on 23 years but he started out his service volunteering as a volunteer firemen with the North Lenoir Volunteer Firemen when he was 15 years old and he attended North Lenoir High School. He said ever since then he has always enjoyed serving his community and good Lord willing and the creek don’t rise I will retire with 30 years with the City of Kinston doing the same thing.

Mr. Rouse said now he is in a different stage of life where he is trying to look down the road in the future. He said he has five children ranging in age from 20 years old to 2 years old. Mr. Rouse said he has vested interest surely in the county itself. In 1991 he stated he graduated from high school and the big thing was the Global TransPark and how great this was going to be for us. He said it is 2016 and he is still waiting. We have a great infrastructure but I don’t know what is going on with the county itself. I try to pay attention and I have found myself paying attention but whatever we are doing in my opinion is not working. Now that is not putting blame on anybody but that is just saying that doing the same thing over and over again is fine if it is working. If it is not, then we need to try something new.

Next thing is Mr. Rouse says he believes in talking to people and he is not shy or bashful. I am direct and to the point. That being said sometimes people don’t like my answers but I am going to give you an answer. If I don’t know I will tell you I don’t know, but give me a second and I will figure it out. At the same time I think there is nothing we can’t accomplish. For every ten things we disagree on I can find twenty things we can agree on and we will work on that point. Also you have a good representative here with Mr. J. Mac Daughety. Mr. Rouse said he talked to him a little bit but when I saw your meeting in July that you had about the gym and that just really struck a chord with me and listened to the citizen’s talk. He said and how the citizens felt like hey where is my representation and I was listening to that and I did not hear a whole lot of response. I heard some but not a whole lot. I heard a little bit about the gym and don’t know if it was resolved the way you wanted it resolved, but at the same time I believe in seeing things to the end. That means just because we start on it doesn’t mean I am going to stop. I think we should see things all the way to the end and then through the end continue on looking for progress. We are never going to grow or make our county great if we just stay with the same ole same ole.

We just have to change with the times and that being said though I like small communities. We come to the dentist over here, Food Lion, chiropractor, ballfield with coaching soccer with my kids and football also. And at the same time in the Town of LaGrange we go to the doctor over there, my wife goes to the dentist over there, and of course I work in the City of Kinston. Mr. Rouse says he lives in Deep Run and he is in Pink Hill more than he is any place else because it is just close. It is close to home and I like the small community. I like knowing people. Mr. Rouse said he and Chief Thigpen have worked together at the Sheriff’s Office and he was a sheriff’s deputy part-time and also a 911 dispatcher part-time. He said when he retires he plans on joining the Deep Run Volunteer Fire Department because he does enjoy the fire service. Mr. Rouse said he needs the county to do well because of his children are at stake here. I want to be able to see my grandchildren grow up and not have to travel two or three hours away. He said his wife is originally from Miami Florida so to go from Miami to Deep Run is a big adjustment but now being here almost 10 years, she wouldn’t have it any other way. She just likes the idea that you actually know the people that you see. Mr. Rouse said he thinks they have a lot of good things going on for them and he would love our support. There is two seats and he is one person and he tells people if you are satisfied with both your candidates, then vote for them because he is not going to say anything negative about anybody. He said but if you want a little bit of a change, then throw one of your votes to me and that I would greatly appreciate.

Mayor Sykes told Mr. Rouse that she did not know if he was aware but that the gym does not belong to the Town of Pink Hill. Mr. Rouse replied yes ma’am. He said when he listened to that meeting it was in disrepair and basically I think the Parks and Recreation was going to close it and that was the main talk. Mayor Sykes replied yes but they haven’t and it is their building because we can’t afford it. Mr. Rouse stated that is the kind of things that he needs to learn but that is also why the Town of Pink Hill does not have a sprinkler park. He said they have one in LaGrange and there is one in the City of Kinston and he is not saying that it is something that is utilized all the time but it is something during the summer that all the citizens can go to. Mayor Sykes said we will think about that but thank you for bringing that up and good luck to you.

The next item on the agenda was to adopt the Asset Grant Resolution. George said he made one change in the resolution. He said the way it is written that we are intending to construct a water and wastewater treatment project and we are not. We already have one. We might need to improve the wastewater treatment project at some point but we are not looking at building a new wastewater treatment system. George said he made that change in the second paragraph. He said you can see he struck through the words “construct a” and the part that is underlined “improve its” is what he added in. George told Mayor Sykes that he would ask of her, if she is authorized to sign, to initial that change. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the resolution with the amendment of from “construct” to “improve” by our attorney. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to appoint member to CTP Steering Committee. Mayor Sykes said they kind of had one in mind but Commissioner Hill had volunteered at the last meeting. Commissioner Grady made a motion to appoint Commissioner Hill to the CTP Steering Committee. Commissioner King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was generator repair at Smith Grady Road lift station. Timmy said they have got a call into KB Power. He said the problem is the main brain which is the computer part of the generator is broke down. Timmy said he has one bid which was in the packet from last month. He said he has kind of been dissatisfied with our service agreement with Palmer Generator and he is looking at KB Power. Timmy said because it is the main brain KB Power has told him that he could get something reworked to where it is a little more simple and it won’t cost us much either to replace what is already there and it will still be just as safe and just as efficient. He said somebody else is going to be building it for KB Power and he will just be installing it and he hasn’t received anything back from the folks that he sent it to. Timmy said KB Power was going to call him back today but he didn’t. Commissioner Hill asked did they need to table it until the next meeting. Timmy said he hated to table it again because they still have a generator out there that is not in use but he would still like to hear what KB Power has to offer. He said his recommendation for the upcoming budget is to change from Palmer to KB Power because they are a lot more thorough. Kim said the only thing about holding it until the next meeting which is going to be June 14, 2016 is that work will have to be completed and we will have to have them paid before June 30, 2016. Timmy said he did not know if that could be done. Commissioner Hill made a motion to let Timmy at his discretion decide on which one to use, Palmer or KB Power. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to reschedule May 26th at 1:00 p.m. budget workshop to May 31st at 1:00 p.m. Commissioner Hill made a motion to move budget workshop from May 26th to May 31st. Commissioner King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The WASA Report was next on the agenda. Commissioner Hill said WASA has a budget but have not adopted it yet. He said it is pretty much in line with last year’s budget. He said no rate increase.

The next item on the agenda was Police Updates. Chief Thigpen said since the last meeting on April 12, 2016 they have had 9 reported incidents, 1 accident, and issued 17 citations with a total of 21 charges. He said everything else has been pretty quiet. Commissioner Hill asked him if the cars were still working well and Chief Thigpen replied yes. Commissioner Hill told him to keep up the good public relations. Chief Thigpen said they arrested the guy that was doing the car break-ins. He actually was in either Rose Hill or Faison when he was arrested. He was breaking into a lady’s car and she came out from a recreation center. She came out and saw him and got his tag number which matched the same car we had over here. Chief Thigpen said now we are going to get warrants on him at least for the one at the Mexican restaurant because that is the only one he has film on. Mayor Sykes asked where he was from. Chief Thigpen said he was actually on probation for the same stuff and he was from Wallace. He said Duplin and Pender County also have pending warrants on him. Mayor Sykes thanked Chief Thigpen and Officer Hoffman for their good work and for their public relations.

The next item on the agenda was Fire Department Report. Timmy said that he would give the fire department report because Fire Chief Tony Heath could not be here tonight. He said it has been a pretty slow month. Timmy said since the last meeting they have had 4 EMS calls, 1 traffic accident, and 1 electrical fire. He said hopefully by their next meeting we will have heard from our 50/50 grant that we put in for which is five suits of turnout gear.

Timmy stated they will be selling BBQ and grilled chicken plates at the Rose Festival like they have in the past years. He said they appreciate the support. Timmy said they will be selling the plates at the fire department just like we always have out the front door but we will also have everything over in the cafeteria too. Mayor Sykes thanked the fire department for their job and all that they do.

The next item on the agenda was Water/Sewer Report. Timmy said hopefully Milton has received all the parts to get their jet machine fixed and back up and working again. He said it has been about a month or so without the jet machine and we have had one stop up but we didn’t have to have it. Timmy said it is going to be a pretty healthy bill. Milton told him to look for it costing about $1,800. Timmy said between him and Kim they have made sure that the money is in the budget. Mayor Sykes asked Timmy how old was that jet machine. Timmy said he was thinking it was bought in 1999 which was the year before he started working here. He said they have had minimal problems with it. Whenever Milton started working on it he found out that they only made this particular style for about 2 years and so they can’t find parts. So Milton is having to switch everything over to something that is more up to date. Timmy said it was either switch that motor over to the new style firing system or a new engine which could cost about $8,000-$10,000 according to Milton.

Timmy said none of the construction jobs have been done yet but he is still waiting on RB Construction. RB Construction did call him today but he did not get a chance to call him back. Timmy said he will call RB Construction first thing tomorrow morning and kind of touch base with him and find out. RB Construction told Timmy over the phone that they were trying to get some jobs behind them before they come up here. Timmy said the last time he looked the hole on Carol Drive is still holding up. He said he is hoping that Garris Paving doesn’t show up next week because he and Alex will be gone but if they do Phillip can steer them in the right direction. Garris paving told Timmy either this week or next week.

Timmy said he hopes that everybody has noticed that they have over the last month worked on some curbs on the streets. He said they have worked on some edging and getting all the dirt and grass out. We are not finished but we did make a very good showing in three days and that was a lot of shovel work. Timmy said he thinks it was worth the work and it looks a lot better.

Timmy said he does not think that we had any phone calls with people having ugly water after the bad leak they had last Thursday. Kim replied no, we did not get any calls at town hall. Timmy said it was bad and they received a lot of help. He said the Pink Hill Police directed traffic because it was running water across the street and they stayed out there until they were finished or until NC DOT came out and set up barricades. They actually shut that portion of the road down because they couldn’t get out here to put the asphalt back. It worked out well that they couldn’t do it Thursday night because on Friday while they were waiting for the rock and asphalt it started leaking again. So they had to dig it up again and DOT helped them dig it out. We fixed it a different way. Timmy said he did not realize when they dug it out on Thursday night because it was dark and there was a lot of mud and all that kind of stuff in the hole but it was cut all the way around. The water when the leak started cut that pipe all the way around. Mayor Sykes asked how long had that pipe been in the ground. Timmy replied since 1950. He said they also received help from Deep Run Water that night also because they needed an additional mud pump. There was so much water that one mud pump could not handle it and he called Jamie and one of his guys came out and helped until they got finished and nobody got hurt. Mayor Sykes suggested sending Deep Run Water Corporation a letter of appreciation. Timmy agreed with that. He also said that NC DOT was here within 20 minutes after they called them to help. Timmy also said that he appreciated the police being out there like they were because without the blue light the people were not wanting to slow down and there was an inch of water and their work trucks were parked in the street also. Mayor Sykes stated that is what is so good about a small community though everybody helps one another. It doesn’t matter what your job is everybody jumps in and helps and she appreciates it. Mayor Sykes said she and the board appreciates all that they do.

Commissioner Hill told the board that Alex was Top 5 and will receive a $250 grant towards his next class that he goes to. There were ten people who put in for the scholarship and Alex was one of the Top 5. Timmy said Alex is signed up for an exam in June for collections which is sewer. Mayor Sykes asked how many more classes he needed to have. Timmy said he needs Spray Irrigation for sewer plant and he needs to get Collection II which he has already been through the schooling. All he has to do is pass Collection I and sign up for Collection II and he needs Distribution C. Commissioner Grady thanked Alex for his help.

Timmy let the board know that he and Alex would be gone next week to the Rural Water Conference and he will be sitting in class all week. Mayor Sykes thanked Timmy.

The next item on the agenda was Budget Amendments if needed. Kim said there was some budget amendments and everyone should have a list of them. She informed the board that the budget amendments are to adjust the revenue accounts to actual collections and adjust the expenses to the anticipated amounts that we are planning on having now until the end of June to the end of our budget. Kim said it is for General Fund only because the Water Fund did not have any budget amendments. Commissioner Hill made a motion to accept the budget amendments. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Remarks by Town Attorney was next on the agenda. George said he appreciates not only the opportunity to be here but the kind of cooperation that he gets from staff of the town and from the board. He said he is just sorry that we don’t have more folks from the town who come and see the kind of work that we all do. Mayor Sykes thanked George.

The next item on the agenda was Comments by the Board. Mayor Sykes said she has ridden by the ball court two or three times a week and so far it seems that they have kept the trashed picked up. Alex replied yes and said every now and then there is a little bit. Commissioner Hill said he has been to two towns lately who are getting DMV offices in the town and both of them are kind of like us out and away from everything. He said one Mayor said it is a good way to get people in your town. Mayor Sykes said who would you see about this. Commissioner Hill said start with calling Bobby Jackson with the Town of Hookerton. He is the Mayor there. Commissioner Hill said they set up a little office just for that at town hall and it is open every day.

Mayor Sykes allowed Susan Myers to speak one more time concerning the RoseFest. Susan said the property that Ronald Smith who lives on Mark N. Smith Road in Deep Run owns across the street from the media center at the corner of Central Avenue and College Street has a tree that is breaking in half and this happened just yesterday. She said it is dangerous for the Rose Festival because the Rose Festival is not going to be on that property but all around that property. Susan wanted to know if the owner could be contacted about the tree. Mayor Sykes said if Susan would give her his phone number she would be glad to call him. Susan stated she appreciated it.

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.