October 13, 2014

7:00 p.m.

The Town of Pink Hill held its monthly board meeting on Monday, October 13, 2014 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 were Slade Harvin and Dora Evans.

Mayor Sykes called the meeting to order. 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 public hearing Golf Cart Ordinance and the regular board minutes from September 9, 2014. Commissioner King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the amendments to the agenda. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was an update on the Water Meter Project. Slade Harvin with the Wooten Company thanked the town for allowing him to come to give an update on the automatic meter reading project. He said unfortunately it has gone on longer than anticipated by the town but the end is in sight. They have four meters left that are needing to be installed and they are to be installed by the end of this week. He stated they arrived Friday and are now in the possession of the contractor. Slade said the contractor is hoping to schedule the installation on Wednesday if it doesn’t rain but is promised that they will be installed by the end of the week. He stated as far as the punch list items there were several meters that had settled and they worked on some of them today. Slade said the contractor adjusted three meter boxes and added some additional asphalt to touch up around those installations. He said as far as the actual completion of the project that should take place November 6, 2014 the day after the installation and scheduling the training of the employees for the actual billing and software by the town. Slade said the representative from Badger will be coming November 4th and 5th to town to prepare the installation on the computers and also work with the town to ensure the billing software is running smoothly and integrates between the reading and the billing software. It is to also make sure the town’s staff knows how to properly use the software. Mayor Sykes asked if when this is done is all they have to do to read the new meters is to ride by and Slade stated that was correct. He said what the software will allow is when the truck goes by and reads the information and then they will bring it to town hall to plug the jump drive into the computer, and those readings then will go into the billing software and generate the readings without having Kim or other town staff to have to manually enter anything in. Kim said when they come to do the training the office will be closed on November 4th due to the election so that will be good. Commissioner Hill stated he would just close the office on the 4th and 5th due to training. Slade said the project should come under budget about $15,000 just on some of the items that were not needed but most of this money was grant money. He stated Timmy had mentioned about several of the meters getting hit. Slade stated he talked with Kim also as far as the town to consider possibly adding a policy if any are damaged, that it wouldn’t be the responsibility of the town to continue to pay and replace those damaged by the citizens. Mayor Sykes asked if there was any way to have meters that you could drive over. He said there is but the reason it was on the type of meter box as it was installed was to just provide better reception in reading the drive by unit. Slade said he thought part of it was it may have been the ones installed by E.R. Lewis that were raised higher or had dirt settle from that installation that may have resulted in the meter box being higher than what it had been and resulted in it being hit by a mower. Commissioner Hill said that is what they had talked about when they were talking about the project to have a meter box but then Timmy told him that he said something about changing them. Commissioner Hill said he would rather have them in the box. Slade said with the available money those could be placed in boxes. Mayor Sykes asked if they could use the $15,000 to buy these boxes. Timmy said if that is what they want he would rather he and his guys do the job instead of KBS. It could be done as purchase the material with or without the labor. Slade said he could request quotes for either and then it could be the town’s decision about how to proceed. Mayor Sykes asked if they could get the lids in and then see if Timmy could do them. Timmy said he would rather do them himself because if KBS does them he will have to be there any way. Commissioner Hill made a motion to put the same statement that Jones County has on their water bill on our November 2014 water bill. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Timmy stated he needed one more thing added to what he would need for the meters. He said what KBS was using ¾” PVC and stripes and tie straps. Slade said what he is planning or at least what he has called to ask for is a fiberglass adaptor that should mount here and then allow it to stick in the ground and be free standing from the meter itself and not attached to anything. Kim asked if that could be done for all the meters. Commissioner Hill asked if he could get a change order for all the meters. Timmy said KBS did not put that in and if that was what they were supposed to put in, then he was unaware. Timmy stated what KBS actually put in was a piece of PVC stuck in the ground and then just tie strapped it there and that looked kind of flimsy. He said they had all the hardware to go through the lid and all they had to do was drill a hole so that is the reason he went that way and evidently he made the wrong decision. Slade said he would inquire into this and get a detailed list of the actual components. The board thanked Slade for coming.

The next item on the agenda was Amendment #1 – NC League Wellness Agreement. Kim stated that each employee that has health insurance with the town is now required to have wellness checkups each year and if they don’t have it completed by December 31st the town will be penalized 10% of each employee’s premium the next fiscal year. She presented the board with the NC League of Municipalities Wellness Initiative Participation Agreement. She said they will come every ten months and do the wellness checkups here at Town Hall for free. It includes blood work, walking one mile, lifting a few weights, checking weight, blood pressure etc. Some employees may have to go to the doctor for certain things at certain ages, but they will let us know in advance. Commissioner Hill made a motion to accept the North Carolina League Wellness Agreement. Commissioner King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was Amendment #2 – Using Town Hall Internet. Kim stated that Beth Maxwell called this afternoon and apparently where she lives does not have internet but they can get internet but it is going to cost them $12,000 to get the lines put down. She said she has been going to the library to use their internet. Kim said Beth wanted to know if the town would allow her and her husband to come to the Town Hall for like four hours one day a week to use our internet. Kim stated she suggested to her CenturyLink, Verizon and Time Warner. Kim told Mrs. Maxwell that she would have to get back with her about this issue. George said if we do this then we are setting ourselves up as competition for landlords who have other commercial properties or for someone breaching our information. This issue died due to lack of motion.

The next item on the agenda was the WASA Report. Commissioner Hill said the only thing that they had at WASA the last time that was really important was a guy from NCDENR came and spoke to them about some changes in laws on taking water out of the river. He said he asked a question about how it was going to affect our systems and he said there would be no effect on us. He said it was just something they were changing. Commissioner Hill said about two months ago they got a permit to actually take more water out of the river. He said we are permitted for 30 million gallons a day if needed and that would not affect us. Commissioner Hill said people in Raleigh are afraid that we are going to take too much water out of the river. He said the other thing that we are having to spend a lot of money on is our river intake. When they take the water out of the river then they have to blow air back in to clean the filters and the air going back in has holes where the fittings are because they are messed up. The only way they can fix these fittings is with a diver. The diver is having to go in the Neuse River which is very muddy and fix these fittings. The only other option was to pull them all out and replace the whole thing. He said it is costing less with the diver than pulling them all out and replacing the whole thing. Commissioner Hill said if you have never been to the plant, then you need to go.

Police Updates was next on the agenda. Chief Thigpen stated since the last meeting they have had 4 reported incidents, 3 arrest, no accidents, 14 citations issued and 12 warning citations issued. He said they arrested Lonnie Graham and he is in jail. Commissioner Hill thanked Chief Thigpen for them keeping a check on his house while he was away. Mayor Sykes thanked Chief Thigpen for the good job that they do.

The next item on the agenda was the Fire Department Report. Timmy said this past month they have done 7 EMS calls, 3 structure fires, 3 vehicle accidents, 1 controlled burn, 1 vehicle fire, and 3 automatic alarms. He said as far as their fundraisers they have the Spook Trail which is going really well and the annual gun raffle fundraiser which is $20 per ticket. The gun raffle will be on November 8, 2014 at 6:30. Timmy said the fire department building where it got damaged has been repaired. He said everything went well with the repairs.

The next item on the agenda was Water/Sewer Updates. Timmy said over this past month he got a bad bacti sample. But when he did his retake, which was only one in his distribution system, that one came back bad. He said this time he picked the Fire Department and because it was there he did not have to do a notification because it is a town owned building but if it hadn’t been he would have to have done a notification. Timmy said when he took the retakes all the samples came back good so probably most likely a fluke. He said he talked with Public Works Supply Engineer, and told him that he took waste water samples before he took the bacti sample. Timmy stated this coming Wednesday morning at 9:00 a.m. he has a collection inspection at all the sewer plants.

Timmy said they have an aerator in their lagoon and they have been having trouble with that over this past month. Pearson Pumps came and pulled the pump and got it all fixed up and put back. He said it is now in working order.

Timmy asked the board to look in their packet at a quote from Bear Contracting. He said that was the only person who he could get to come. He stated he called three people to come and give him a price repairing a sewer line that runs through the woods behind the old Remus Teachey house to the old T.J. Turner house which is owned by Rod Howard now. Timmy said it is a 12” pipe. The pipe has a small hole right now but he needs to get it fixed. Commissioner Hill said he was back there with Timmy and Alex and Dwight Lancaster and they ran across it by accident. He said something has fell on it or some kids or something has been back there and mashed in the pipe. It is about halfway down and the guy from Bear said the best thing to do would be to replace it from manhole to manhole. Timmy said the estimate is just for 40 feet if we replace it with duct wiring pipe. Timmy said the guy from Bear actually recommended PVC and haul enough dirt in there to cover it but he did not give a price for that. He said he could put a rubber boot on it and patch it but he would not want to leave it like that for a long period of time. Timmy stated the big thing is that we do not have the money in regular water/sewer expense to take care of a bill this size. Kim said they would have to do a fund balance appropriation which means a motion will have to be made to take money out of savings to pay for this. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the contract for $14,815.00 contingent on proof of insurance. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was questions concerning streets. Commissioner King said Susan Meyers would like to have Pineview Street paved and widened. He said he would like to see if the two property owners, Bill Turner and Murphy Brown, would release enough property to make that street come back out to old Hwy. 241. Kim told Commissioner King that the town has already spent for this year the money on the Powell Street Fund. Commissioner King said College Street and Hwy. 241 have a blind spot at the stop sign due to some bushes and that he thought they needed to be cut. Commissioner King said that he would talk with Bill Turner concerning cutting the bushes.

The next item on the agenda was Change November Meeting Date. Commissioner Hill said that we need to change the board meeting for November due to it being on Veterans Day. Commissioner Hill made a motion to move the November 11, 2014 board meeting to November 10, 2014 due to holiday. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Golf Cart Ordinance Effective Date was next on the agenda to be discussed. Chief Thigpen said that he would like to change the effective date to now instead of December 1, 2014. George said if it is an ordinance then you are going to have to give notice and have a public hearing. After some discussion the board decided to leave the effective date December 1, 2014.

The next item on the agenda was Budget Amendments if needed. Kim stated there were no budget amendments at this time.

Remarks by Town Attorney was next on the agenda. George stated he did not have anything to discuss but was just glad to be here.

The next items on the agenda was Comments by the Board. Kim said Mayor Sykes had asked her to go ahead and check with the Country Squire about the town Christmas Party. Kim stated she was given a date of Friday, December 12, 2014 between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m. and she did everybody two people like we did last year. Kim asked if that date was good for everyone and everyone stated yes. Timmy told everyone that the Fire Department is holding their annual Christmas Party on December 6, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. He stated the board was invited to attend. Kim told Commissioner Grady that she would need to do the Ethics Training and it takes two hours sitting in front of the computer and listening. She said it needs to be done before October 31, 2014. Kim said she would find out if Commissioner Hill has to do it again or not and let him know. Commissioner King stated he wanted to tell everybody that he appreciates what they are doing.

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

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

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