

September 11, 2018  
7:00 p.m.

The Town of Pink Hill held its monthly board meeting on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the town hall board room. Present for the meeting were Mayor Sykes, Commissioners Mike Hill, James Quinn and Penny Murphy, Town Attorney George Jenkins, Public Works Director Timmy Kennedy, Public Works Assistant Phillip Swinson, Fire Chief Tony Heath, Police Chief Joey Thigpen, Town Clerk Kimberly Mitchell, and Assistant Clerk Shelia Ezzell.

There were no visitors present for the meeting.

Mayor Sykes said I would like to call this meeting to order and welcome everybody that is here tonight. Mayor Sykes asked Commissioner Hill to lead everyone in the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Everyone stood and said the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Sykes said I need a motion to approve the agenda and amendments if needed and consent agenda. Commissioner Hill said I make a motion to approve the agenda, the consent agenda with regular board meeting minutes from August 21, 2018 and any amendments. Mayor Sykes said do I have a second? Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes said is there any discussion, if not, all in favor say "Aye" and the motion carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was Moment of Silence in Remembrance of 9/11. Mayor Sykes said if everybody remembers 9/11 which was 17 years ago so we are just going to have a moment of silence for that. Everyone in the board room paused for a moment of silence. Mayor Sykes said thank you. She said on that day 17 years ago Narcie Turner and I were at a town conference in Greensboro. I know exactly where we were standing when we heard it. Commissioner Hill said I do too. Commissioner Quinn said I think everybody does. Commissioner Hill said I was at a Water/Sewer Corporation called Speed. I was in the store with a lady that was the secretary of treasury watching it on TV.

The next item on the agenda was Discussion Foreclosure on Properties. Mayor Sykes said we talked about this one time before, doing a foreclosure on the H.J. Chevrolet building property because taxes are behind and there is other debts owed on it which we will have to find some way to collect it. I just wanted to bring that up again and if you are for it okay, I mean I hope you are. We can get the county or however we have got to proceed to get the county to do a foreclosure because they collect our taxes. So I am assuming they would be doing the foreclosure. Mayor Sykes said there is state and federal taxes owed right? George said right and the federal taxes we can't do anything about. Mayor Sykes said okay. George said but when I contacted the IRS back in March of 2017 when we filed this thing against the building. Mayor Sykes said right. George said the IRS basically said that once you get your money anything over and above that you need to pay to us because any overage would go to the property owner. Mayor Sykes said right. George said and there wasn't any overage but the IRS keeps their lien but that was done under a different statute than what we would do here. It has the same bottom line but as I understand it this is for weed cutting and undergrowth. Mayor Sykes said and taxes. George said and property taxes? Mayor Sykes replied yes. George said okay the property taxes the county will do that but the weed cutting, I understood that y'all have been cutting the weeds every so often and it is not a minimal expense. Mayor Sykes said we have tried to collect it too. We have sent letters and they have come back, I mean we have tried. George said if you have

sent the letters or sent a bill. A letter is as good as a bill. Kim said it is an invoice actually. George said yes if you have sent that, then get me copies of those and we will file a similar action like this and ask the court to declare that we have a lien against that property. Then I will take that lien to Darryl and tell him collect this like you would property taxes. Oh by the way the property taxes are past due. Mayor Sykes said two or three years. George said collect those. Mayor Sykes said well I knew there was a difference in the lien than there was taxes. I knew it was two separate things but I didn't know how we would go about. Kim said and if I'm not mistaken I think we billed, I know I have done one invoice which was for \$300 and then I think we have mowed two more times which would be \$300 each. George said get me an invoice for each one of them. Kim said now I have only sent one invoice and that was the one back in 2017 because that is the one we kept receiving back. George said the law says you have got to send it to their last known address and if it comes back, it comes back. Kim replied okay. George said it doesn't say you have to get it in their hand. You have to send it to the best address you have. Kim said oh okay so I need to send one for the additional two times we have mowed. George replied yes. Mayor Sykes said just put both of them on the same invoice, just date them. George said there is one other little thing and I am not trying to pile on anybody here, but what you cut in 2017 shouldn't that earn a little interest. Mayor Sykes said well yeah, through the date that the foreclosure is dated through whatever. George said no through the date you get your money even further. Mayor Sykes said yeah. Commissioner Hill asked George if they needed to make a motion for Kim. George said no, she just needs to get that to me. Well it wouldn't hurt for y'all to make a motion that I perfect the lien. Mayor Sykes and the board replied okay. Mayor Sykes said well are we in agreement to do the foreclosure on the property. Commissioner Hill said he is just like everybody else he needs to pay his taxes. George said Darryl Parrish gets to decide whether they foreclose or not. Mayor Sykes said well if he doesn't foreclose, I am going to have something to say. George said that is not a bad thing. Mayor Sykes said thank you for saying that because I was getting ready to say something back even worse. George said I am trying to measure my words. Mayor Sykes said you know you better around me don't you. Everybody laughed. Kim told the board that property is 101 East Broadway Street. Commissioner Hill said I make a motion to let George proceed on perfecting the lien at 101 East Broadway Street. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes said I have a motion and a second is there any discussion on it, if not, all in favor say "Aye" and the motion carried unanimously. Mayor Sykes said now we need a motion to...we don't. George said no, you just need to call. Mayor Sykes said oh, so the lien is all we need a motion for. George said that is all we need a motion for at this point. Mayor Sykes said okay, alright. George said I have got to get it before a judge. Mayor Sykes said okay. Thank you all. She said that will be one property that we can make it look better and it being right in the middle of town. I mean I certainly think that we should do that and thank you all.

Kim said I have got a question. I just thought about it. Is that just going to be where the H.J. building is or what about the other piece on the other side of the road? George said if the county forecloses on that, that is fine but there is another foreclosure in the works on it too that is pending in court. Kim said already? George replied yes. Mayor Sykes said okay, does that include the restaurant or not? George said no. Mayor Sykes said okay because I knew the restaurant was...Kim said you are just talking about the parking beside...George said the vacant lot. Kim said beside...George said where the barbershop was. Mayor Sykes said well who started that? George said I can't go into that. Mayor Sykes said well the reason I say that is it is

town's taxes. George said it is not the town that is foreclosing. Mayor Sykes said okay, he must have owed somebody else something.

The next item on the agenda was Fire Department Report. Fire Chief Heath said my apologies for not being here in August. It was my daughter's birthday and it was my obligation to take her out. Mayor Sykes said we don't accept it and everyone laughed. He said since August 22 until today's date we have had 11 EMS assignments, 2 service calls, 1 fire alarm, and 3 traffic accidents for a total of 17 calls. Since our last meeting we have also received the skid unit that we applied for on the 2017-2018 State Grant. It was delivered, it is installed, and it is in service. He said everything is in place. All we have got to do now is finalize the paperwork and get it sent back to the state and it is a done deal. Mayor Sykes said thank you Tony. Kim said and that check has been sent.

Fire Chief Heath said on September 22<sup>nd</sup> we are going to have a Fireman's Day Car Show with some barbeque sales and some fire department demonstrations and we would like to close a couple of the streets for the duration of the car show. He said and that is going to be Walnut from Central to Pine Street and a portion of Pine Street from where our parking lot ends close to the old Remus Teachey Store back to Broadway. So that we will have a sufficient area to park those cars during the car show. Mayor Sykes asked the board did y'all get that? Commissioner Hill asked for Fire Chief Heath to repeat it again. Fire Chief Heath said all of Walnut which is from Central over to Pine between our two story building and the church. Commissioner Hill said okay. Fire Chief Heath said and then from our parking lot where we park going into the cafeteria back to Broadway. Commissioner Hill said okay, I make a motion to let the Fire Department close the streets of Walnut and part of Pine. Mayor Sykes asked from what time, I mean about 9:00 a.m. or what time? Fire Chief Heath said probably about 8:00 a.m. so we have time to get the cars in there and get them lined up because I think the actual car show starts at 10:00 a.m. That will give them time to get their car in position. Timmy said it goes from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Mayor Sykes said okay. She said we have got a motion, how about a second? Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes said I have a motion and a seconded, is there any discussion, if not, all in favor say "Aye" and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Sykes said thank you Tony. She said you are selling barbeque. What are your tickets? Fire Chief Heath said they are \$8.00.

The Police Department Report was next on the agenda. Mayor Sykes asked if Chief Thigpen was not going to be here. Kim said he is doing his escort for the ABC Store but his report is in your binder. Mayor Sykes said okay I see it now. Mayor Sykes told the board if you see something that jumps out at you, mark it and we will ask him about it. Do y'all see anything? Okay well if he comes in and you want to ask him anything. Is he coming in? Kim replied yes, he is supposed to. Mayor Sykes said okay, when he comes in if you will ask him anything, that will be fine.

The next item on the agenda was Water/Sewer Report. Timmy said since our last meeting we had an incident on the Smith Grady Road at the lift station. We have a portable generator that sits at that site all the time. It has wires and it runs from the generator to the transfer switch and some of them just plug in to keep the battery charged up and all that kind of stuff. Somebody

came in there sometime the week of August 21<sup>st</sup>. I can't remember the dates but on Monday that is our general check time and sometime after Monday from Monday to Thursday somebody went in there and cut the wires and stole the wires I guess to do the scrap copper. They messed up the fence and cut a hole in the fence and stole the wire. We have already got everything back repaired. Kim said we just got the check in the mail today from the insurance company from the difference, so it was like a \$1,400 check that we got.

Timmy said just so you know I called the Sheriff's Department and they came out and did a police report which I haven't got a copy of yet, but I know they are still working on it. I did speak with the detective over the weekend and he called me on Saturday and he said hopefully that he had a lead but that was all he told me. Mayor Sykes said well I hope so, I hope he does. Timmy said like I said we have already got the generator back in operation and we've got the fence fixed back. We put some locks on the hitch because they could have cut the fence or gate and went in and pulled the generator completely out I guess if they wanted to. Timmy said but we have got locks on the hitch now so it will make that a little bit harder to do anyway. Commissioner Hill said have you ever thought about putting a trail camera out there on those isolated stations. Timmy said and that one is isolated and that has been thought about but I didn't know how good that would work as far as keeping it working in good working order. Commissioner Hill said I know we had an incident at Cove City Baptist Church and one of the guys put some trail cameras up and he took pictures of people going and coming so it works. Phillip said the only thing about that is the battery life on it ain't...you would have to change the batteries ever so often. Commissioner Hill said yes. Phillip said that would be just something to remember because most trail cameras don't have a plug in where you can plug it in. Timmy said if you would like for me to look into some type of unit to go there, I will be glad to do that. That is the only time I have ever had an incident at any of our plants as far as something being stolen or broken in to. That fence actually is right around the curve. The fence has been hit a couple or three times I mean but we have always got it repaired from the person's car insurance you know. We have never had any trouble with anybody stealing anything.

Commissioner Hill said I know a couple years ago, Duplin County had a bunch of stuff stolen. Timmy said well if you remember this has been probably and maybe longer than 5 years ago where we had extra pumps and actually they were brand new pumps still in the crate. We thought it was the easiest way to store them to put them under the old barn shelter. Somebody went out there and cut every one of them and that was pretty expensive for us to get them repaired. Since then we put them in the shop. We have got them behind locked door and inside the shop. Commissioner Hill said okay. Timmy said that was some spare pumps.

Timmy said I went to a meeting today that I was asked to go to and I didn't know if you wanted me to give you kind of an update on that. Everyone said yes. Mayor Sykes said Tony Sears called me yesterday afternoon late and said they were having a meeting at the city complex. Timmy said it was a city council building and it was actually a town meeting. Mayor Sykes said okay. Timmy said a special called town meeting concerning this hurricane. It was pretty much just informative to let you know what they knew at this point and things that they had already in place. Which was they had shelters set up at LCC, South Lenoir, and North Lenoir and I know you had the same information given to you as Fire Chief last night. They are saying the worst of the storm that is expected to be Thursday afternoon through the night, Friday and maybe some

on Saturday. He said winds of up to 80 MPH sustained which is the most I think we have ever seen here and that is plus, they said 80 plus. They are advising all citizens to be able to stand on their own for at least 72 hours as far as medications and food. I don't think we are subject to any flooding here. There hasn't never been before but they are expecting 15 to 20 inches of rain at least with this storm which would be a lot.

Timmy said and that being said I will switch back to us for a second, our lagoon is around 6 feet so that gives us about 4 feet of free board. We have got 6 feet of free board but we are supposed to keep 2 feet anyway. So we can take on 4 foot of water is what I am trying to say. Commissioner Quinn said we don't need 4 foot of water. Timmy said no sir but 20 inches that is getting close to 3 foot ain't it. Commissioner Hill said especially with all the runoff and stuff.

Timmy said they sent a whole bunch of other stuff that really didn't...Mr. Roger Dail talked about the river levels but I don't think whenever it flooded before but that really doesn't concern us at this point I don't think. Mayor Sykes said people were stopping here with their campers and all when that happened and when they couldn't get to Kinston. They were stopping at the Town Hall.

Timmy said the question was asked if the National Guard had been alerted or they are going to come in automatic and the answer was that that request hadn't been made yet. That request has to be made to the governor's office or somebody at the state level and then they would dispatch them as needed. Mayor Sykes said do we make the request or does Roger make it for us. Timmy said if we make a request that we think we need them, we have a need for them here, we can make request to...I don't know if we make it to Roger's office or not. Mayor Sykes said I am thinking because the last time we made it I think we didn't make it through there and we got chewed out about it. Timmy said that really wasn't clarified to me as to who the chain of command. I guess was the best way to answer that question. Mayor Sykes said well if it comes to that, I mean we will find out but if he doesn't do it we can do it. Timmy said hopefully we can make...I think Roger's office would be able to point us in the right direction as to the person to get up with. Mayor Sykes said I was trying to think of who we called before, we can find that out. Timmy said but it is not automatic, I just wanted you to know that. He said and that is about it. It pretty much sums up the meeting. As far as the hurricane goes for what we have done, we have been around the generators and made sure they are all fueled up. I am going to fill up the water tanks tomorrow and we are going to isolate one of them. We almost got caught the last hurricane. If we hadn't isolated one, we probably would have went without water for a little period. We opened that tank up just in time and got WASA cutoff. Our water was back feeding because of the lines that were broken in Deep Run's water system because of all rains and the water runoff. Mayor Sykes said but we will have or should have plenty of water now. Timmy replied yes. This generator it's fueled up and it is on block with this generator and we have generators at each one of our plants, not every single one. We do have a bypass pump that we work with and that we know we can go to different plants and hook up to keep us going.

Timmy asked Phillip was there anything else they needed to mention. Phillip replied the well. Timmy said talk about what. Phillip said what we talked about today. Timmy said I am a little bit scattered, sorry. Phillip said Pearson. Timmy said oh yeah. I brought you a bid sheet at our last meeting and we kind of put it off until this meeting and I was supposed to bring back a price

which I hadn't received. I did contact Pearson Pumps and his response back to me about my phone call which is not on paper and he didn't give me a price, he said that he couldn't give me a price for the whole job. He said as long as it has been since anything had been done to that well he is pretty sure that there is going to be some mechanical stuff that is going to have to be replaced or at least repaired. Timmy said but he could give me a price of to pull the pump, camera it and put it back and anything in between would be extra on any bid sheet. I sent him something back that requested those three prices to pull it, put it back in and to camera the well and that way at least we will know that it is pretty much set in stone and the rest of them he doesn't know what he is going to find whenever he pulls it. Mayor Sykes said makes sense. Timmy said but like I say I don't have that price on paper yet. Commissioner Hill said okay. Timmy said I was going to continue with Mr. Pearson unless you want to try to do something different. Commissioner Hill said I say continue with him. Mayor Sykes said I would too since he has done that. Timmy said and see what kind of money he comes back with and if it is within budget you know I will bring it to the next meeting. I made at least a couple of phone calls and he never called me back. Mayor Sykes said okay.

Mayor Sykes said while you are standing there Kim had mentioned about, I think Timmy had mentioned about working the rest of the week and what time maybe to close. What time the county is closing. Is the county closing? Kim replied I don't know about Lenoir. Timmy said I got an email today that said all Duplin County Government offices were going to close at lunch tomorrow or noon 12 o'clock and they didn't know when they would open back up, actually it didn't say. Kim said no it didn't. She said I just wanted to be prepared with what we need to do as far as me and Shelia here and plus what I need to put on the door and on our message for work. Mayor Sykes said so you don't know about Lenoir County then and what Lenoir County is doing. Timmy said it hasn't been broadcast to me anyway. Kim said and I looked on line on Lenoir County. Timmy said schools are closed tomorrow and until Monday. Kim said what did you say about the court house? Chief Thigpen said Dawn is letting them leave at 12:30 tomorrow but that is the clerks. Kim said so you don't know anything about the county either? Chief Thigpen said no and I want to say that come through the judges. Kim said okay. George said that would have. Mayor Sykes said will the courts be open tomorrow. Chief Thigpen said no they close at 12:30 too. Mayor Sykes said that was what I was thinking. Chief Thigpen said all court and then they are closed Thursday and Friday. Kim said so I didn't know what we needed to do. I looked earlier but they may have posted something, I don't know. Mayor Sykes asked the board so what do y'all want to do. Commissioner Quinn said I think they should get out of here at 12 o'clock. Mayor Sykes said okay. Commissioner Hill said give everybody time to get home and get everything straight. Mayor Sykes said okay. Timmy said I know for sure Kim is going to be on call for me and so she is going to be working from home either way. Kim said I have got all my information that I am taking with me because what he will do is call me and I will make the calls that I need to make for him. I don't foresee somebody getting out paying their water bill. Timmy said and the public works department is going to be on call. If the lift station calls, then we are going to go if it is where we can still travel. Commissioner Hill said when that wind reaches 40 MPH you need to stay off the roads. Timmy said we usually start getting calls from the lift stations way earlier than that because of rain episodes. The first time we go out we usually just cut the dialers off and whatever happens just happens. Commissioner Hill said yes because we don't risk nobody getting hurt. Commissioner Murphy said no. Commissioner Hill said it ain't worth it. Kim said do you want us, I mean do we leave

tomorrow, not be here Thursday, and come back Friday? I mean what do we need to do? Mayor Sykes said I would say don't come back until Monday because isn't the worst of it supposed to be Thursday and Friday. Kim said I don't know. Commissioner Hill said yes. Timmy said projected right now and this is coming from some meetings that I have heard in Emergency Services. Fire Chief Tony said I don't think they will be able to come back to work on Thursday and Friday. Mayor Sykes said that is what I was thinking. Phillip said according to the conference call with Duplin County that we had at 5:30 today it was supposed to start out as tropical storm Thursday morning and then it is going to switch over to your hurricane stuff about 5 or 6:00 a.m. Friday morning and last for at least 12 more hours after that. Kim said I mean y'all have got my number if you need me. You have got the credit cards, the debit cards. Joey you have got a credit card if you need to get gas if something happens and we don't have gas or something and I have got all of y'all's numbers. Commissioner Hill stated Alex is staying at his house. Timmy said I know he has got a death in the family and he is going to be out tomorrow and I told him just not even worry about coming in tomorrow at all. Commissioner Hill said yes. Timmy said we have pretty much got everything as much as we can done. Because it rained today we may go out in the morning and look over the storm drains a little bit just to clean them up again one more time hoping the water will go on out and get out of the street. Timmy said nobody can prepare for this type of situation.

Kim said Blake did call us today and spoke to Shelia to let us know that the bank was closing early. Mayor Sykes said oh that's tomorrow. Kim said yes. George said the only thing on the WITN site is the Council on Aging is closing at 1 o'clock tomorrow. Mayor Sykes said the Boy's and Girl's Club too. George said they just didn't put it on here. Mayor Sykes said so y'all close at 12 o'clock. Kim said do we need to put that in a motion George. George said that probably wouldn't be a bad idea to have it in the minutes. Mayor Sykes said okay I need a motion. Commissioner Hill said I make a motion to close Town Hall at 12 o'clock tomorrow and reopen Monday. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes said I have a motion and a second is there any discussion, if not, all in favor say "Aye" and the motion carried unanimously. Mayor Sykes said thank you Timmy.

Mayor Sykes said Joey we haven't talked about you. Will you be on call? Will you be out scouting around as long as you can I mean like you normally do? Chief Thigpen said that was what I was going to see what y'all wanted me to do. There's not gonna be nobody but me. I'm not going to have any other help. Mayor Sykes said no relief or anything. She said well if we need you, we will call you. How about that? Chief Thigpen said I mean I was planning on just working tomorrow and as much as I can Thursday. Mayor Sykes said well if you could that would certainly be...Chief Thigpen said if the power goes out, that is the main concern. Mayor Sykes said I mean if you could that would be good and then you could take extra sometime. Chief Thigpen said yes. Mayor Sykes said okay. She asked the board if that was okay and they replied yes. Commissioner Hill said I just want everybody to be safe. Mayor Sykes said I do too. Mayor Sykes said thank y'all.

The next item on the agenda was Budget Amendments if needed. Mayor Sykes asked Kim if there were any budget amendments. Kim replied no ma'am.

The next item on the agenda was Remarks by Town Attorney. Mayor Sykes asked George if he had anything to say. George said I agree with the last thing Commissioner Hill said everybody needs to be safe. Mayor Sykes said okay.

Comments by the Board was next on the agenda. There were no comments by the board at this time.

Chief Thigpen said I did have one other thing. Mayor Sykes said okay. Chief Thigpen said they have gotten the other car fixed so I am probably going to go get it tomorrow. It was an ABS module and was like \$1,400 or \$1,500. They said they had to put the whole communication head on it but he said it was good to go. So I am going to try to go get it in Jacksonville before the storm comes and get it back here. Mayor Sykes said okay.

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.

Mayor Sykes said well if there is no other comments, I declare this meeting adjourned. Wait a minute I forgot something. I am going to open it back up. Last meeting somebody on this town board said it was their birthday today and I think we should sing happy birthday to Commissioner Quinn. The board and town employees sang happy birthday to Commissioner Quinn and he said thank you.

Mayor Sykes said with there being no further business I declare this meeting adjourned.