September 9, 2014

7:00 P.M.

The Town of Pink Hill held its monthly board meeting on Tuesday, September 9, 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 Kerry Willis, Glenda Willis, Dora Evans, Susan Myers, Rod Howard, Manena Buck, Charles Barrow, and Allen Brown.

Mayor Sykes called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Commissioner King then led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner Grady made a motion to approve the regular board minutes from August 12, 2014. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Commissioner Grady made a motion to approve the agenda with amendments. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was the Pink Hill Methodist Church Community Block Party. Rod Howard came to address the board concerning this event. Rod stated that the Pink Hill Methodist Church is sponsoring a community block party. He said it is not going to be a United Methodist Church sanctioned event, it is for everyone. Rod said they are getting some bouncy castle type things and will be having music and they would like the town to allow them to have Walnut Street closed in front of the church for that event that day. He said they would be serving hot dogs from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. on October 4, 2014. Rod said they have a new pastor and this will be a good way for her to meet some of the people in the community. He stated if they could have the road blocked from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. that would be excellent for them to set up and have the block party. Commissioner Hill made a motion to let the church close Walnut Street on Saturday, October 4, 2014 from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the Golf Cart Ordinance. Mayor Sykes said they have been working on this ordinance for two or three months now and talking about it for a year. She stated they have finally decided to do something about it and make it legal for 16 year olds to drive on the streets with golf carts. It is not geared just because of the Rose Festival or the Christmas Parade, although the ordinance is for that too. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the golf cart ordinance. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion. Commissioner King asked a question about driving the golf carts on state roads. George stated that yes you can as long as the speed limit is 35 MPH or less. Mayor Sykes asked all in favor to signify by saying “Aye” and everyone was in agreement. Mayor Sykes said the ordinance is adopted this 9th day of September 2014 but we need to get an effective date. Commissioner Hill made a motion that the ordinance become effective on December 1, 2014. Commissioner King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the WASA Report. Commissioner Hill said they are still talking to state representatives and our state law makers about the well situation in Greene County and about letting them drill wells and make everybody comply with the capacity rule like we did. He said they are getting a little headway but it is going to take a lot more to get there. Commissioner Hill said that we need to get John Bell here to a meeting. Mayor Sykes stated actually the last time she saw Mr. Bell he wanted to have a town hall meeting one day. She said that John Bell is our representative in our district and that he would be more than happy to come.

Mayor Sykes asked Commissioner Hill to explain what WASA is and why we had to become members. Commissioner Hill explained that we buy our water from the Neuse Regional Water Plant and the reason we are buying it from them is because the water resource division of the public water supply deemed a 15 county capacity area. This meant that we had to cut back on our wells 75 percent over 15 years. He said there are 8 systems in it now and there was like 7 more and some of them dropped out. He said when that plant was built over there we had to go ahead and meet the full 75 percent, about 25 percent every 5 years. He stated now some like Greene County, Farmville, and Snow Hill are trying to get special permits to drill back into the same aquifer the state has told us to quit drawing water out of. Commissioner Hill said WASA is fighting it to make them comply to the rule just like we had to. He said we have had to raise our water bills here. He stated Pink Hill, Deep Run, Kinston, North Lenoir, Grifton, Ayden, Bell Arthur, and Eastern Pines’ systems are in. Commissioner Hill said they have met it and so has Wayne County and Onslow County. He stated these counties are pretty ticked with the state because the other ones will not have to pay $4 per thousand gallons like we are. It takes a lot less to do 1,000 gallons out of a well than it does out of a water plant. He said what they are trying to do is make everyone on a level playing field, not make us do something and not make the rest of them do it. Mayor Sykes thanked Commissioner Hill for the information.

The next item on the agenda was Police Updates. Chief Thigpen stated since the last meeting on August 12, 2014 they have had a total of 55 calls but only 4 calls where considered incident calls and had to have a report on them, 2 arrests with 2 charges, 2 accidents, they issued 14 citations with a total of 16 charges, and issued 17 warning citations. He said out of those reported incidents they had 1 break-in at Woodrow’s Shop and a couple of vandalism reports.

Fire Department Report was next on the agenda. Timmy stated for the month of July they had 6 EMS calls, 3 vehicle accidents, 1 water rescue, 1 service assignment, and 1 vehicle fire. He said in the month of August they had 1 electrical fire, 6 vehicle accidents, 4 EMS calls, 1 service assignment, and 1 structure fire.

Timmy stated they did receive their fire rating back and it was a 5 here in town and outside city limits was 9S. He said they dropped the 5 mile district to a 6 which he stated he was really proud of. Timmy said we missed dropping the 5 in town by one point. Commissioner Hill asked what the one point was. Timmy stated everything is rated and it all gets a score and then it goes into some type of equation. He said he couldn’t begin to try to tell you that he understands all the equations that it goes through to come up with it. Timmy said they were shooting for a 60 to drop the 5 to a 4 here in town and their score was 58.79. He said that is how close they came to reaching the score of 60. Mayor Sykes stated they appreciated what he did. Commissioner Grady stated she commended the Fire Department for their great job and it is a great team she is a part of. Commissioner King asked Timmy if he would explain to the visitors what the lower number means to them. Timmy stated it does not go into effect until December 31, 2014 but if you live outside of the city limits it would mean your insurance rate would go down pretty substantially for your homeowners insurance. He said in speaking to the ex-fire marshal who lives in the Deep Run District, when they went from a 9S to a 6, he said he saved almost $300 on his homeowners insurance. Timmy said you would need to go to your insurance company and say that the rating has changed and for them to check to see if it would make a difference in your homeowners insurance.

Timmy said that it seems like a lot of people have had questions about is the old school cafeteria. He stated they have had ownership of the old school cafeteria and they are starting on it. He said they have had it washed out and have had several people come in and look at the place to give them prices on electrical and things like that. Timmy said there are a lot things that need to be done to get it ready for the public to be in there. Mayor Sykes said since the building is deeded and belongs to the Town of Pink Hill, the Fire Department needs to come here with the information and let the board know. Timmy asked in what sense and Mayor Sykes stated in every sense. Timmy asked did he need to ask the town or bring in bids. Mayor Sykes stated to bring it to the town board meeting. Mayor Sykes said it is because it goes in our audit report. Timmy said they are going to try to do most of the work themselves. Timmy stated they have had a commercial refrigerator donated from the Piggly Wiggly in Kinston. Mayor Sykes said it is mainly for the bids that he gets because they have to make sure they have all the correct insurance, because that covers them and all of us. Kim asked Timmy to explain to the board what the fire department is wanting to do or achieve with this building. Timmy stated it would be for public use, hopefully they will be able to gain a little bit of revenue off of it. He said like charging $300 for renting it for a family reunion or something like that. He said they are hoping it will have kitchen accessibility. Timmy said there is already one bathroom and they want to try to have two bathrooms. He said hopefully seating for about 200 people. He stated that is their plans. Timmy said it could be a multi-purpose building. Mayor Sykes said she would be glad to go to one of the fire department’s meetings to explain this to the group. Mayor Sykes thanked Timmy for doing what he is doing.

The next item on the agenda was Water/Sewer Updates. Timmy stated everything seems to be going well. He said KBS lacks four meters. He stated three of them were 1” meters and the count was off when they originally ordered and KBS is waiting on those three 1” meters to come in so he can finish installing all the new meters. Mayor Sykes asked Timmy when they were expecting those meters to come in. Timmy said they were hoping that they would have come in last week but he has not seen them. Commissioner Hill asked if everything was finished with the water project with ER Lewis. Timmy said ER Lewis is finished but they are not closed out yet. He said he has one issue with a 12” valve which is under warranty which he has contacted Derek about and he has not come yet. Timmy said the valve will not shut off.

The next item on the agenda was Water Meter Replacement. Timmy showed the board what a new meter looks like and showed them how it is read and how they will work. Commissioner Hill said in the proposal it stated that there would not be any wires attached to the lids. Timmy said that was not what he was told from Slade. Timmy stated it was put in the bid that there would not be any wires and nothing going through the lid. Commissioner Hill said they need to go through the specs and see what they say. Timmy said he was sitting in the meeting with Slade when Commissioner Hill told Slade that they wanted the new meters to have no wires to the box. Timmy said the transmitter can be set inside the box but it will transmit better sticking through the lid. Kim said her and Timmy had talked about the issue and said the town cannot replace a meter every time someone runs over a meter or hits it with a lawnmower. Timmy said the only part that would need to be replaced would be the top part. He said the whole unit with the bass is like $279. Timmy said he does not know how much the transmitter would cost to replace. Timmy stated a policy needs to be implemented concerning the new meters and the replacement of them due to accidents. Commissioner Hill said that Slade needs to come to the next board meeting to discuss this issue. He also said for Kim to do a letter to send out to the customers and put on the webpage to reiterate not to run over the meter boxes and be aware of where they are.

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

The next item on the agenda was Remarks by Town Attorney. George stated they have a lot of ordinances that needs to get to the publisher. He said we might need to look in the budget about the cost of publishing and printing the new ordinance books. Kim stated she already had it in the budget. George said we would need six copies here, one for the public library in Pink Hill and Kinston, and then we will need several for the court system. He said one dozen would be more than enough.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to amend the Powell Fund Street and Construction line item $36,000 for the paving to be done on the streets approved at the last meeting. Commissioner King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Comments by the Board was next on the agenda. Commissioner Hill thanked all the employees for a good job. Commissioner Grady stated she seconded that comment. Mayor Sykes said she wanted to thank the board for doing a good job. She said that they were all working well together and it makes everyone’s life easier.

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. Commissioner Hill made a motion to go into closed session to discuss property and contracts. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Commissioner Hill made a motion to come out of closed session. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Sykes said after the board’s discussion she needs a motion to pay the people for the permanent and temporary easements. Commissioner Hill made a motion to pay the permanent easements $1.00 per running foot and all temporary easements $1.00 per running foot not to exceed $30.00. Commissioner King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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