

December 12, 2017
7:00 p.m.

The Town of Pink Hill held its monthly board meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the town hall board room. Present for the meeting were Mayor Carol Sykes, Commissioners Mike Hill, James Quinn, and Penny Murphy, Town Attorney George Jenkins, Public Works Director Timmy Kennedy, Assistant Public Works Director Phillip Swinson, Fire Chief Tony Heath, Police Chief Joey Thigpen, and Town Clerk Kimberly Mitchell.

Visitors present for the meeting were Susan Myers.

Mayor Sykes called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone who was here and stated we are so happy to have you. She said she would like for everybody to turn their cellphones or whatever makes a noise off please. Mayor Sykes asked Commissioner Hill if he would lead everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner Hill then led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Sykes asked do I have a motion to approve the agenda and amendments. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the agenda and the amendments to the agenda and the consent agenda with November 14, 2017 board minutes. Mayor Sykes asked do I have a second. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes asked if there was any discussion if not, all in favor say "Aye" and the motion carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was Administration of Oaths of Office for Re-Elected & Newly Elected Commissioners. Mayor Sykes said it is my pleasure, my privilege, and whatever other adjective y'all can think of to swear in two of our fine, fine commissioners tonight. They have been commissioners for a while, especially this old thing over here but we got him back thank goodness and Penny. Congratulations to both of you. Mayor Sykes asked for them both to come in front of her so she could read their oaths to them. They were asked to put their left hand on the Bible and raise their right hand. Mayor Sykes read the oath to Commissioner Hill. Commissioner Hill replied "I do". Mayor Sykes said thank you so much. Mayor Sykes read the oath to Commissioner Murphy. Commissioner Murphy replied "I do". Mayor Sykes said thank you and congratulations. She said I am excited that y'all are back on the board. It is nice to have you and James thank you for being here with me too.

The next item on the agenda was Reminder of Christmas Party. Kim said it is just a reminder. Mayor Sykes said it is Friday night at 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Quinn said we have to be there at 6:30? Kim said it starts at 6:30 on Friday night at the Baron & the Beef.

The next item on the agenda was agenda amendment (a) Road to access property for Dean Rouse. Mayor Sykes asked Timmy if he would like to tell them about the road to access property that Dean Rouse is talking about. Timmy said everyone should have a map in their packet because I am a picture person. He said these property lines are for the town, we own this. Dean Rouse owns this little piece (pointed to map). Timmy said just to give you in reference to where it is at on the map, he showed the board on the map where he was talking about. Commissioner Quinn said is that where they cleared that land out? Timmy replied yes sir but he has asked for just a road right of way to get to his property. It is very wet in this area (pointed on map) and it is wet here (pointed). Timmy said actually we have a pond right here that stays with

water in it even when it is dry weather, but he was talking about trying to get an easement or a road. He wants to help us build a road for mostly him, I hope but to build a road right here and he wants to know if it is okay. Timmy said he has got a call in to DWQ because a piece of tile is going to have to be put in and the road built up pretty high because that is the natural run of the land. The water runs to this corner and to his property. It is trying to get to the creek and it stays pretty wet there except during the dryer months – June, July, and August. We keep it cut and it is an open area. He would be on the inside of the gated part of the spray irrigation.

Commissioner Hill asked if it would be on the like Penny's side of the tobacco barn or on the other side of the tobacco barn. Timmy said the tobacco barn is on this side. He said it will be on the opposite side of the road from the tobacco barn, same side of the road as the old plant.

Commissioner Quinn said so he just wants to get back here. Timmy replied yes sir, he is trying to access this property. He said some of this has been cut but some of it still has pretty good trees on it and he wants to get some equipment back there. He wants to build a road so he can access it without problem to go back there and maintain the woodlands. That is his purpose. He is not trying to interfere with nothing. Mayor Sykes asked would it benefit us to have a road. Timmy replied not necessarily, no. We would still have a locked gate there. He would be the only one who would have access to the key. Mayor Sykes said alright. George spoke and said what that needs to be is an easement to him. He would be given an exclusive easement, not a road, not a right of way, but an easement and that is doable. George said if you can get all of your permits or get all of your provisions, you are okay. Timmy said like I was saying because of it being so close to the spray irrigation, I have got a call in to DWQ and as soon as I could get them here was December 21, 2017. I called them like three weeks ago and she finally called me back and gave me the time of the 21st. Whenever I talked to Mr. David on the phone he pulled this map up and I told him in proximity about where it was at, and I said I would really rather you come out here and lay eyes on it if there is any way possible. Timmy said they are in Washington so they had to work it for where they could both come.

Commissioner Hill said I know with the state road we are supposed to be so many feet from the state road and the spray field. Timmy replied yes sir. Commissioner Hill said I don't know how far this road would be from the spray field, do you know. Timmy replied no, not in footage, I do not know that. Commissioner Hill said I think it has to be so many feet from the pavement. Timmy said I do know there is a footage limit and I am unsure about that. Mayor Sykes asked but it is not from the state road is it? Timmy said from a piece of tile for running water. Commissioner Hill said it would depend on what the state says. Timmy said because it is so wet right here and because of the pond, it would be... Let me ask you another one. If he decides to go on his side which is out of the fenced in area and just wants to come across the corner right here, which is not fenced in for us it is just a piece of our woods, would that be in agreement? Commissioner Hill said I would be in agreement and I would even be in agreement with going in the fence as long as the state approves it. Timmy replied okay. Commissioner Hill said I don't want to have anybody landlocked. George asked if he could make a suggestion to you. Commissioner Hill replied okay. George said after you have discussed it somebody make a motion to table it and then it will automatically go on the next agenda, but that will take care of it for tonight and give Timmy a little bit of time to do some research. Timmy said I mean I still have got to meet with

DWQ on the 21st. George said right, that buys you some time. Timmy said I tried to get them to come last week but they couldn't work it out in their schedule.

Commissioner Hill said where it is at I don't think David will have a problem. Timmy said putting the tile to build the road up, that is going to be the problem. Commissioner Hill replied yes. Timmy said if he just wanted to be able to drive through there once in a while with a piece of equipment or with a truck, it probably wouldn't be a problem at all. I think the tile is going to be the big problem. George said and you might talk to him about what kind of material on the road... asphalt or cut and run. Timmy said I am pretty sure he is going to have to rock it. George replied yes. Mayor Sykes said well wouldn't DWQ tell you that. Timmy replied I don't think they would care as long as... George said they might care if you want it paved. Timmy said he is not going to want it paved. George said I don't think they are going to want a harden structure. Timmy replied yes sir.

Timmy said do you think I might need to ask DWQ about some specs if any. George replied yes. Timmy responded I got you. Commissioner Hill said the other thing is what they might do is, say he has got to build the road up, they might want him to put tile ever so often so the natural flow of water will keep going. George replied yep. Mayor Sykes said but they will certainly address all of that, want they? Commissioner Hill said they can address all of that. Timmy said that is one of the main reasons I wanted them to come out here actually lay eyes on it and see the lay of the land and all of that because you can't see that from a picture. George stated you might want to get them a topographical as well. He said I think you are wise getting them to come in. Mayor Sykes said I don't think we could do it if they didn't come. George stated I mean get them coming in at the beginning of the process. Mayor Sykes said that is what I mean. Timmy said y'all on board with keeping on. All of the board replied yes. Timmy said that is all I need to know. Commissioner Hill made a motion to table it until the next meeting. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was Police Updates. Chief Thigpen handed out to the board a paper with his activity log event summary for November 14th through December 11th. Chief Thigpen said I gave you a piece of paper but I would be glad to read them out if you want. If you want to look over it and if you have got any questions, or I will read through them if y'all prefer it.

Commissioner Hill asked if he had any updates on the shooting. Chief Thigpen said yes, he was going to give an update on the shooting. He said we have got warrants issued for him and he is entered as a wanted person. We haven't had any tips on where he is and I was going to ask y'all tonight about seeing if y'all would approve a \$500 reward that we could issue just to try to get some leads on maybe his location and get him arrested. Mayor Sykes asked Chief Thigpen didn't y'all used to have a little kitty for that. Chief Thigpen said I have done it in the past but the budget has got so tight and we took that line item out. Mayor Sykes said well if we have got it in the budget, then I would certainly suggest it. Chief Thigpen said I feel like I have got enough in there. Kim said I apologize I was talking to George. Chief Thigpen said I was going to do like a \$500 reward. Kim said you have got some in your line items that we can move.

Mayor Sykes asked why are people saying that he didn't do it on purpose or whatever but now he is hiding, so I mean what is that all about. She said I mean he must be guilty of something if he is hiding. Chief Thigpen said there is no question that he did it. We have got several eye witnesses. Commissioner Hill said that is what they all say. Mayor Sykes said well I know that. George said that is why you have trials in court.

Commissioner Quinn asked how was the girl? Chief Thigpen said she is better. She was in ICU for about two days and she come off the ventilator yesterday. Chief Thigpen said he has got to go interview her tomorrow in Greenville at the hospital so I have been keeping in contact with the mother. She is lucky, very lucky.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to let Chief Thigpen put out a reward for \$500. Chief Thigpen said I was hoping to get some leads with the news and facebook, and we didn't even get one call. He said which most time people are not going to talk if you don't put up some money. Commissioner Quinn said they said on Channel 7 he was from Snow Hill. Chief Thigpen said no he is from right here. Commissioner Quinn replied he is from here? Chief Thigpen said they had it wrong, it happened right here on Hunter Street 306. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes said we have a motion and a second, do we have any discussion if not, all in favor say "Aye" and the motion carried unanimously. Kim said I will just have to do a check. Chief Thigpen said I just want to get it approved and I am going to put it on Facebook tonight to see if I can get it out and get some information. He said we think he is local but you know people hide and people lie. Mayor Sykes asked Chief Thigpen did he have a picture of him. Chief Thigpen replied oh yeah. Mayor Sykes said I know I know him but I can't place him right now but I would like to see a picture. Susan Myers spoke up and said it is Virginia Midgett's son who has schizophrenia and mental issues. Mayor Sykes said well I know Virginia, so it is her son. Susan said they are trying to get him to turn himself in. Chief Thigpen said yes people have put on Facebook, his family to turn himself in. Mayor Sykes said well I hate it for Virginia.

Chief Thigpen asked the board did they have any questions about any other calls. Mayor Sykes replied no. Commissioner Hill stated it looks like you have had a busy month. Chief Thigpen said yes, I started breaking it down that way y'all because a lot of times we go on calls and we don't get dispatched. We get it on our phone where people call us like the stores, somebody locked their keys. Commissioner Quinn said oh okay. Chief Thigpen said so I mean that gives y'all more of a list instead of two or three calls. I usually do the incident reports if somebody actually reported a crime. He said I mean a lot of times with stuff like this there is no incident report. Chief Thigpen said and that is about it, everything else is going good. Mayor Sykes and the board thanked Chief Thigpen.

The next item on the agenda was Fire Department Report. Fire Chief Heath said since our last meeting on November 14, 2017 we have had 11 EMS assignments, 7 vehicle accidents, 3 structure fires, 3 fire alarms because they are not necessarily automatic for a total of 24 calls for the month. He said and as of today's date that put us up to 298 calls for the year.

Fire Chief Heath said we are anticipating receiving notification this coming Friday, December 15, 2017 on our rescue grant whether we were approved or disapproved for it. He said we feel

pretty confident we will receive that grant. Mayor Sykes asked how much was the grant they were applying for? Fire Chief Heath said that rescue grant was about \$5,000.

Fire Chief Heath said the federal grant is opening up soon. We haven't got an opening date from the federal government yet on when that date is opening. We anticipate it being before our next board meeting and probably will have to have it submitted before our next board meeting. It is usually around the 1st of January when we have to have it all put together and submitted back in, but it is a 95/5 grant. We are going to be submitting for 20 sets of new turnout gear. Mayor Sykes asked are there any matching funds for it? Fire Chief Heath said only 5 percent and we are anticipating 20 sets of gear is going to be somewhere around fifty some thousand dollars and we will have to end up paying 5 percent of that. Mayor Sykes said well it is better than having to pay it all. Mayor Sykes and the board thanked Fire Chief Heath. She also stated she wanted to commend the fire department on their supper the other night. It was delicious and we are so proud of every one of you and just cannot thank you enough for what you do for everybody in this community and the surrounding area. Fire Chief Heath said we appreciate it. Mayor Sykes replied we appreciate it too and thank you so much.

Water/Sewer Report was next on the agenda. Timmy said our last meeting I've had them hired for a couple of months but we are waiting for the truck to be fixed. He said Triple S Farms came with the wet back truck and cleaned up the old plant like they do about twice a year, both wet wells. They get all the sand and grit and stuff out. Timmy said Ash Davis Road, we did that one also. He said and while he was here, a month or two back we noticed a lot of sand right at the intersection of Hunter Street and Old Beulaville in the manhole. I had him go try to get that sand out and he couldn't get his jet machine to go through it and he said most likely it was a collapsed line. We have got it called in and we have got to get it on the schedule. Hopefully I can do it one day next week or we are going to attempt it anyway to repair the line and I may have to end up calling him back to get the sand out because we don't have any way of getting the sand out. Mayor Sykes said and that is at where did you say. Timmy replied at the intersection of Old Beulaville and Hunter Street. Mayor Sykes said okay. He said it is right at the intersection and that is the only bad part, I mean we are going to have to cut a big hole in the road there and it is probably about 5 feet deep. Timmy said we are going to have to dig it out big enough but I think we will be okay as far as being safe with the dig. Commissioner Hill stated that is the main thing. Timmy said and the earth is usually good whenever you start digging in that area. Some of the areas it is a little bit sandier and the ground usually holds up pretty well.

Timmy said Utility Services if here and they are painting the Pinewood Tank or they started. He showed up yesterday and started setting up some of his staging and stuff like that and he has got to pressure wash first. Timmy said I am going to dump that tank and leave it empty while he is painting so it won't condensate and cause the paint not to stick and stuff like that. Mayor Sykes asked is he going to start tomorrow. Timmy replied he said if it was 25 or 30 degrees tomorrow, he probably weren't going to show up. Mayor Sykes said I wouldn't blame him.

Timmy said Stroud Engineering contacted him today and he is hoping either Thursday or Friday or the first of the week their going to start on that asset management plan for us. You remember we put in for a grant and we got it and Stroud Engineering is kind of heading it up. There will be

a lot of guys around surveying and starting to locate all of our lines and our valves and stuff like that so we can get it all on GIS. Mayor Sykes stated that would be nice. Timmy said that is finally getting started.

Mayor Sykes said I know this is kind of off subject but did those big old pot holes or whatever you want to call them across from the ABC Store and Woodrow's old station, did the state ever agree that it was theirs. Timmy said I called and complained about that the week of the parade. The parade was supposed to happen on Sunday and I called and said look we have had those cones out there or the drums out there and they are supposed to be yours. Can you come out here and do something with it because people are going to be walking around out there and there is sinkholes. Timmy said they came out here and just put a little bit of dirt in it which was a patch and they haven't come back. So that is their drum. I put them there but it is DOT's drum. Mayor Sykes said but do they agree that it is their responsibility. Timmy replied yes, they have a crew that comes out for storm drain issues. Mayor Sykes asked well how about the one down at the church. Timmy replied that one they put dirt on it. Mayor Sykes said well I noticed the cones were not there. Timmy said yes they carried some dirt and put in that sinkhole also. Mayor Sykes said okay, but if they don't come within the next week I think we need to call them. Timmy said you asked me if they agreed, no not really. Mayor Sykes asked but they are going to do it? Timmy said the person he talked to was Chris Blizzard and he is actually not in charge and he sent somebody down here that day with dirt because he was in charge that day. He said that is because his immediate supervisor was on vacation or whatever. Mayor Sykes said but they have agreed that they are going to fix it. Timmy replied that is the reason I can't answer that question yet because I have talked to Chris and Chris agreed that it was theirs and he brought the dirt and that is the best I've got. Mayor Sykes said okay, I appreciate you doing that much. Timmy said he agreed with me but he said his boss sometimes overrides it. Mayor Sykes asked is that Len White. Timmy said Robbie Smith. Mayor Sykes said okay I didn't talk to him. Timmy said Len White is the engineer. Mayor Sykes said okay because I talked to him about Darnell's. Timmy said they did come out and put a little bit of dirt which I was glad to see it. Mayor Sykes said okay thank you for doing that.

The next item on the agenda was Budget Amendments if needed. Kim said there are no budget amendments at this time just transfers and you have got a copy of that.

The next item on the agenda was Remarks by Town Attorney. There were no remarks at this time but George said thank you.

Comments by the Board was next on the agenda. Commissioner Hill said he is fine but wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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. Timmy stated that he would like to ask for a closed session for some possible contract negotiations. Mayor Sykes asked do I have a motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Hill made a motion to go into closed session.

Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes asked if there was any discussion if not, say “Aye” and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to come out of closed session. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to send \$50 to Kerry Willis’s charity. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.