June 16, 2015

7:00 P.M.

The Town of Pink Hill held its monthly board meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2015 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, and Town Clerk Kimberly Mitchell.

Visitors present for the meeting were Marsha Whaley, Miriam Ledford, Tim Ledford, Richard Murphy, Katie Whaley, and Bill Turner.

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 Grady made a motion to approve the agenda and amendments if needed. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Commissioner Grady made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 5, 2015 board meeting. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was Remembrance Tree & Plaque for Vickie Bunn Daughtry. Mayor Sykes welcomed Miriam Ledford, Richard Murphy and the rest of the family and thanked them for what they are doing. Miriam said they were interested in doing a memorial placard and tree in a designated area in the front of Town Hall. She stated that Vickie was very Pink Hill oriented and for thirty some years she did a lot of volunteering up here. Miriam said most of you knew Vickie and for those of you that didn’t you missed a great soul and a dedicated person to the Pink Hill Rescue Squad. She stated Vickie was her sister, friend, and family. Miriam said they would like to have permission to put this placard up in memory of her and of the volunteer and the service that she gave to Pink Hill and the entire community. Mayor Sykes asked Miriam how big was the placard. Miriam replied it would be an 18x12 placard and would be placed on a piece of granite so it is not flat but slanted and, therefore would be the size of a 22x16 on the piece of granite. She said the Japanese Maple would be a slow growing tree but it still takes care of the space in front and then going with the traditional pink for Pink Hill, we will either put small knockout roses or go back with the pink dianthus. Richard suggested a Laceleaf Japanese Maple Tree would be nice also. Commissioner Hill made a motion to give the Bunn Family permission to put a plaque and tree in remembrance of Vickie Bunn Daughtry in front of Town Hall. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. It was also suggested to have a dedication ceremony when it is installed. Kim asked Miriam if she knew about when they would be planting the tree and putting the plaque up and she stated the headstone would take about 10 weeks that they are doing in Kinston. Miriam said it can be done in 5 weeks or whenever. Kim asked Miriam to just let her know and she would let the board know. Miriam also told the board that there is going to be a blood drive on July 14, 2015 in memory of Vickie Bunn Daughtry from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Methodist Church here in Pink Hill.

The next item on the agenda was adopt the Neuse River Basin Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution. Commissioner Hill made a motion to adopt the Neuse River Basin Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution. Commissioner King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was adopt FY 2015-2016 Budgets: General Fund, Water Fund & Economic Development Budgets. Commissioner Hill made a motion to adopt FY 2015-2016 Budgets as presented: General Fund, Water Fund & Economic Development Budgets. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was FY 2015-2016 Audit Contract with Amanda Murphy. Commissioner Grady made a motion to accept FY 2015-2016 Audit Contract with Amanda Murphy. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was discussion of property & two-story building for Fire Department. Mayor Sykes stated that George and Kim both received a letter from Attorney Chris Waivers. The letter was then read out loud by Mayor Sykes to everyone. In the letter it explained three conditions of donating the property to the Fire Department. The first condition was that the committee would like a method for retaining a right of first refusal or its equivalent in the property. The second condition was that if the town should decide to use the property for a different purpose, the committee would like the authority to approve its future use because the property is part of the Wellness Center campus. The third condition was that the committee would like to set up the donation so that the town takes care of any transaction costs associated with the transfer. Commissioner Grady asked Mayor Sykes to go over each condition again and George explained each condition in more detail to help everyone have a better understanding. Commissioner Hill made a motion to decline the offer as presented. Commissioner King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Commissioner King said that he will not accept with the first two conditions but is okay with the third condition. He said they did not need to accept anything with strings attached. Commissioner Hill stated the reason he made a motion to decline all three conditions is because he wants them to rewrite the whole thing. Mayor Sykes said this is not really an agreement that she would want to accept. Mayor Sykes asked all who decline the offer as presented to answer by saying “Aye” and everyone replied “Aye”.

Discussion of Tar Heel Drive was next on the agenda. George stated that he checked with Christy in his office and we have done that and it has been signed by Charlie. It was in their file that got burned up in the fire. George is going to get Charlie to sign it when he gets back in town and will have at the next meeting.

The next item on the agenda was discussion of the H.J. Building. Mayor Sykes said she has heard a lot of complaints about that building and she agrees with every one of them. She stated she has been working really hard. Mayor Sykes said they have some grant money that they have had for 25 years and was not able to spend it unless they got approval from the state. She said she did get enough to put a new roof on the library. Mayor Sykes explained that she was in a meeting with David Rouzer and his representative when he first started running and she told him about this grant. She told him that she wanted some clarification and that she has been working on this for a while. She stated she had talked to Lewis Pate and to everybody in Raleigh that she knew to talk to and it was always given to somebody else and nobody knew anything about it because of how long ago it had been and there were no records. Mayor Sykes said one of Congressman Rouzer’s representatives, Chance Lambeth, came and said that he would see that this was taken care of one way or another. She stated she went upstairs at Town Hall in the attic and found the information that she needed for Mr. Lambeth to look at. Mayor Sykes said she finally pulled out the letter that she had been looking for and it was right there in black and white that this was a grant to be paid back to the town. She explained that the money is available for the town to spend on Economic Development. Mayor Sykes said she is sure that the H.J. Building would be considered economic development. She said now they are ready for George to send out the letters to Alex. George explained that we have to give Alex notice to tear it down and if he doesn’t, then the town is going to tear it down. If we tear it down, then we will send him the bill and give him 30 days to pay it and if he doesn’t pay it, then we will sue him to have it put on the county tax rolls as unpaid property taxes. At the end when the property taxes are not paid, then the tax department can do a tax foreclosure on the property. Until that time it is Alex’s property and if somebody wants to come buy it, then they buy it from him and not from the town. The town will have a lien on it for the demolition, hauling, and tipping fees expense. Mayor Sykes asked George to do a list to show them each step in the process and how many days they have to give the owner to complete each item. George stated the lien runs with the land for 10 years. Commissioner Hill made a motion to tear property down after process has been done. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the WASA Report. Commissioner Hill did not have anything to report at this time.

The next item on the agenda was Police Updates. Chief Thigpen was not present at the meeting due to a family situation, so no report was given.

The next item on the agenda was Fire Department Report. Timmy stated since the last meeting they have had 2 electrical investigations, 1 structure fire, 7 vehicle accidents, and 1 automatic alarm.

Timmy said they had applied for a 50/50 grant this past year and they did get it. He said it is going to come out of this year’s budget. Timmy said all the equipment that they bought is either here or at the fire station and it will be installed next week or by June 23, 2015. He said the rescue will be up to date like they wanted it.

The next item on the agenda was Fire Department By-Laws & SOG Amendments. Timmy said it was mostly wording changes and everyone should have a copy of it. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the amendments to the Fire Department By-Laws as presented. Commissioner King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The Water/Sewer Report was next on the agenda. Timmy said everything seems to be going well. He said over the last month they have finished painting the outside of the water tank and got it back in service. Timmy stated he is still waiting on Triple S to come clean up a couple of his stations for grease. He said everything else seems to be going well as far as grass cutting. Timmy told the board that Alex passed his test and is now a C. Distribution Operator. Commissioner King asked Timmy how the cafeteria project is going. Timmy stated they had to stop because of money in the budget but as soon as the new budget begins they will be bringing something before the board so that they will know what is going on. Commissioner Hill thanked Timmy.

The next item on the agenda was Budget Amendments if needed. Kim said the water fund did not have any budget amendments. She stated it is getting to the end of the fiscal year so this is where we are recognizing fire department income money and we are distributing it to line items that are going to need monies to pay the end of the month and year end fiscal bills. Kim also told them about the budget transfers that could be seen on their copy that they had in their packet. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the General Fund Budget Amendments as presented. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Remarks by Town Attorney was next on the agenda. George apologized for being a little bit behind because he has been gone all over the state for the last thirty days.

The next item on the agenda was Comments by the Board. Kim wanted to let the board know how hard Mayor Sykes had worked to get them to say that the grant money was for the town and that we can use it for economic development. Kim stated she wanted to commend Mayor Sykes for her hard work. Mayor Sykes said about a year ago they had discussed getting a debit card machine for paying the water bills and as of July 1, 2015 they will begin using it. Kim said we will be able to take debit or credit cards in the office or over the phone for customers to pay their water bills. Commissioner Grady brought up that it has been 100 years since Pink Hill was incorporated and she suggested that the town put something in the paper to promote the centennial anniversary. The board agreed and it was suggested to do it in the month that the town was incorporated.

The next item on the agenda was Public Comments. 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.