

May 9, 2017
7:00 p.m.

The Town of Pink Hill held its monthly board meeting on Tuesday, May 9, 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, Public Works Assistant Phillip Swinson, Chief Joey Thigpen, Fire Chief Tony Heath, Town Clerk Kimberly Mitchell, and Assistant Clerk Shelia Ezzell.

Visitors present for the meeting were Travis Pope with Waste Industries, Susan Myers, Rodney Scott, Carolyn Whitfield, Daniel White, Turner L. White, Jayne Zesiger, Al Rachide, and Cierra Dunham.

Mayor Sykes called the meeting to order and requested for all cell phones to be turned off please. Mayor Sykes welcomed everyone to the meeting. Commissioner Hill then led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Sykes said before we get into the business of the meeting she wanted to show everybody what Andrew Odom with the Tiny House Festival, which was a huge, huge success, presented to the Town of Pink Hill (an appreciation plaque with a hammer on it) She said at the BBQ Fest on Saturday she had so many people come up to her and say how much they enjoyed the festival. She stated she had so many to say they wanted to get here and could not and said they hoped it would be a yearly thing. Mayor Sykes said she told them well I don't know but I hope so too because we had a lot of people and everybody was just so positive and so complimentary of it. She said my hats off to Andrew and to Susan and Al and to whomever helped him but I appreciate it and the town appreciates it. George Jenkins asked how many tickets were sold. Mayor Sykes said I don't know but I heard 4,100 or something like that. George asked Susan Myers how many tickets were sold. Susan replied 5,140 plus the number of free ones given away totaled over 6,000 and there was one unhappy lady.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the agenda with amendments. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the consent agenda with regular board meeting minutes from April 11, 2017. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was Eastern Carolina Broadband Lease Agreement with Rodney Scott. Before Rodney spoke Commissioner Quinn said he wanted to recuse himself from the broadband and anything again because of a conflict of interest. Mayor Sykes said that Rodney sent Kim a letter dated 04/20/17 and asked Kim to add him to the agenda for the May town hall meeting and his agenda item is the Eastern Carolina Broadband lease agreement which was given to George before the last town hall meeting. Mayor Sykes stated we have not had a copy of that yet. Mayor Sykes asked George you have not sent us a copy? George said no, I haven't been asked to but I will be happy to give you one. Mayor Sykes replied do what??? George said I expected them to send you one, whatever they wanted on the agenda. Susan Myers said I thought we sent it to town hall. Kim replied no ma'am. Mayor Sykes asked George why did he not call and ask if we had gotten it. George said because he just assumed that the people who wanted it on the agenda would send it over. Mayor Sykes said well the same thing happened last month when it was brought up and we had not received one then. George replied saying again I

said that I expected those who were advocating for it to send it over. Mayor Sykes asked Al, Susan, and Rodney if George had told them that and did they get that message. Rodney replied no ma'am. George stated he didn't tell them. Mayor Sykes said well something is just wrong with this picture, I mean it just is wrong. George said in any of these things that somebody wants put on the agenda, I expected them to send it to you or to the clerk. Mayor Sykes said ok but when you got the agenda did you not wonder what this was about. George said I just saw that it was there but I assumed that you all had what you wanted. Mayor Sykes said well we have not had a copy of it yet. George stated that he would forward it to her right then. Mayor Sykes said you can but we have not seen it and I don't know what we can do with it and not have seen it before tonight. She said we don't have a copy of it and she is sorry. Kim said let me go make copies of it. Mayor Sykes said it says here that it was given to George before the last town hall meeting. George replied and it was but it wasn't given to me to present to you all. Mayor Sykes said why would you not, this is the Town of Pink Hill and why would you not present it or give it to us. George said because it was not given to me to present to you. He said I am not representing those folks, I am representing the town. If they had wanted something sent to be presented to the town, they would have told me to present it to the town or they would have sent it to the town. Mayor Sykes said okay. Mayor Sykes said I am sorry we don't have a copy but we will have one shortly, but it is the first time that we have seen it.

Mayor Sykes said she would really like to have more than ten minutes to sit here and read this agreement before, I can't make the decision anyway. Commissioner Hill said the antennae itself and the installation, how are you going to do it. Can we get a drawing of that so we can get Scotty Wilkins to look at it and take it to all the tank companies and make sure it is proper? He said that Scotty would be the lead on it because we have a contract. Mayor Sykes said she would certainly want him.

Rodney Scott said if I may first I would like to start off by apologizing. It was my understanding that copies of the contract had been delivered right after our meeting on April 11, 2017. He said I came by on the 12th and Kim said yes and you said you were going to email it and I did not get it. Rodney said and I apologize. He said what the contract does say is that nothing goes on the tower until it is approved by both y'all and the contractor that is managing your tower. While I understand your desire to see, you're agreeing to put us on there doesn't really put us on there without your maintenance company's approval. Mayor Sykes asked if that was in the contract. Rodney replied yes ma'am. He said so we are not going to do anything to penetrate the tank or what we do with the railings will not affect the water at all. Also because we have had some conversations already with Scotty about this, he actually also is the one doing the maintenance for the Deep Run Water towers and we presented to Deep Run. Rodney said we have had some conversations with him so we could move forward as soon as possible once this has been approved. Due to the materials that the tower is made out of there actually will have to be some additional brackets welded to the tower to the rail. He said we pay for him to contract with his welder to do all that. Mayor Sykes said just so Scotty is there to see everything. Rodney said nothing happens without his approval. He said in that regard I want you to be pretty comfortable. Rodney said he will talk just as little as they want him to talk. He said one of the things you might not have seen, this is a presentation that was given out to Deep Run. Rodney said it is some pictures and we cannot talk about it but it does have some pictures of antennas that we will actually be installing so you can look at some pretty pictures. Mayor Sykes said it

reads in the contract that water tower maintenance is the responsibility of the town and what do we mean there. Rodney said you guys are doing the maintenance of the tower just like you are doing now. We are not maintaining the tower. Mayor Sykes said okay and I don't know if that needs to be in there. Commissioner Hill said that should be in there because we maintain that tank but we don't maintain that antenna. He said that is on them. Mayor Sykes said okay she wanted to make sure that it is them. She said insurance should be liability and workers comp. Mayor Sykes asked Kim what else we have to have. Kim replied general liability and workers comp is what we have normally from everybody. Rodney said I have the general liability and Mayor Sykes jokingly said well you should have you are an insurance man. He said we have general liability already purchased. We are insured to \$1 million dollars and ready to go to work now. Commissioner Hill said he reads this as a kind of long term contract. Do y'all still want to do like before with the other company a 90 day trial. Mayor Sykes said 60 day trial. Commissioner Hill said yes a 60 day trial to see if it works. Rodney replied no sir. If that is something y'all feel you need, but we are ready to commit to a long term contract where we are very confident that everything is going to work as advertised. Mayor Sykes asked what is the long term. Rodney replied it is a 5 year contract. Commissioner Murphy said #10 says they can opt out after 90 days. Commissioner Hill said yes we can opt out, anybody can do it after 90 days. George said but the town can't opt out except within 90 days prior to the end of a 5 year term. Commissioner Murphy stated but they may if I'm reading this correctly? Rodney stated yes ma'am. Mayor Sykes said what about the payment, what did they think about the rent department on the tower? Rodney stated they were offering \$1,250.00 annually for the rent which is in the contract. Mayor Sykes said she disagreed with that and thinks that is mighty low, and that is just her opinion. George said for the first year. Mayor Sykes said she was thinking more like \$10,000 a year at least. She stated she thinks \$1,250 is not anything. Mayor Sykes said let's face it you are going to make money from it, that is the idea of it, you are going to make money. She said well I think the town should certainly reap some of the benefits, and this is just me talking, but I don't think the town is benefiting and reaping much from \$1,250 a year. Commissioner Hill said he could talk to Scotty about it next week to get an opinion from him.

Rodney said if I could respond to that, currently, and again this is something that is big out in the western part of the United States and actually it is also large in western North Carolina. He said there is a company called Star Communication out of Clinton and it is currently on the water towers in Duplin County. It has been on the water towers in Duplin County for about 8 years now. It was Duplin County's opinion that the ability to get internet to their customers was a good thing and Duplin County is not charging them anything at all to be on their towers and have not. I had a conversation with the chairman of the county commissioners yesterday or day before yesterday. I will be presenting to Duplin County on the 15th of May and Mr. Dowe's question to me was how much were we going to charge Duplin County to be on their towers. Rodney said so they were thinking they were going to have to pay us to come and provide internet to the residents of Duplin County. Commissioner Murphy stated she doesn't think Duplin County's situation is really comparable to the Town of Pink Hill's situation. Rodney said he doesn't either and that is why they are offering \$1,250 to be on the tower. Mayor Sykes said personally she thinks that is a joke, I mean maybe it isn't, it may be a lot but I just can't see using a tank like that and you all are going to reap the benefits and it is going to grow I am sure. She said but we have internet in Pink Hill but every time we see something in the news it is like we don't have internet in Pink Hill. We have internet in Pink Hill and the schools provide, and I am

for broadband, classroom time for children to get their homework if they don't have internet. Mayor Sykes said so it is not a dire necessity which I can understand the farmers and that is properly more what it is for but I just can't see, I may be wrong, but you board members need to say something, Penny, y'all need to talk about this. Commissioner Hill said well all I know is I don't know what other towns charge and that is why I say let me talk to people that do know and talk to other towns and I will see. Mayor Sykes said well that is fine. Commissioner Hill said the only way we are going to be able to do this is table this and let everybody get a chance to read it good and bring it back to the next meeting, then we will talk to y'all about what he has learned from like Scotty and other tank companies. He said he knows some towns that are doing this, so then I would know about what kind of line we would be in. Mayor Sykes said we had talked about this before and never got any figures. Commissioner Hill said well we never got any figures, it went by so fast nobody said anything about getting figures so he didn't but he can now. Commissioner Hill said he was going to make a motion to table this until the next meeting. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mayor Sykes asked was there any discussion Penny and Mike? George said you don't discuss a motion that was tabled. Mayor Sykes said excuse me. Mayor Sykes said motion carried, I reckon is that what I am supposed to say? George said ask for a vote, but I think you have got your vote. Mayor Sykes stated she was sorry but maybe if we had gotten this before then we might could have resolved it tonight but we didn't and that is just history. Al Rachide spoke and said I think it might be history. Mayor Sykes said pardon me and Al said again I think it might be history. Mayor Sykes asked you think it might be what? Al and Susan said we will talk next month. Mayor Sykes asked what did you just say? Al replied I said nothing. Mayor Sykes said you did. As Al got up to leave he said thank you. Mayor Sykes asked Rodney if he had anything else. Rodney replied no ma'am.

Rodney said if I can ask you, when I was looking at the minutes from previous meetings there seemed to be a lot of confusion about wireless internet and stuff. He handed out some pictures of some antennas and that sort of thing that would be on the tower. Rodney asked if there were any other questions about the contract or the pictures or any information we have provided. Mayor Sykes said well we need to read it. Rodney said he has presented to Deep Run Water which is something he hasn't done with you guys. He asked if there were any things up there that the board might have some questions about. Mayor Sykes said this is in Scotty's hands. Commissioner Hill said the way they are mounted, they are mounted to the rails not the tank, so I have no qualms with that.

Rodney said he actually purchased a paper and there was something interesting in the paper and he didn't know if they say it or not. He said there is \$300,000 for internet in Pink Hill in Governor Cooper's budget. Mayor Sykes said but it hasn't been passed yet. Rodney said the budget hasn't been passed but his concern and the one thing that he wanted to make real clear was just that he found out about this on Friday or Saturday after the budget was passed. He said and neither I nor Eastern Carolina Broadband have any knowledge or have applied for any money and don't really know anything about it or if any money is going to ever exist. Rodney said one of the things it does state in here was that \$14.5 million of the \$20 million would allow partnerships between local governments, utility cooperatives, and private providers according to a release. He said if there was any money coming to Pink Hill based on this article it would actually come to you to then dower out for internet to Pink Hill. Mayor Sykes asked do you

know that? Several citizens in the audience spoke up and said no, that is not what it says. Rodney said well partnership would be more than one person. Daniel White spoke up and said they would allow partnerships. Carolyn Whitfield stated it also mentions Pink Hill in the article. Rodney said when you are figuring out how much to charge for that tower, my big thing was I didn't want y'all thinking that Eastern Carolina Broadband was getting \$300,000. Mayor Sykes said absolutely not, I just saw that article today and I had already said what I thought. Rodney said he doesn't think it has a snowballs chance with the dysfunction between our governor and the state legislature but like I said I just wanted to put that on the record. Mayor Sykes stated she appreciated him bringing it up because she had looked at it and thought oh my gosh. Commissioner Hill stated he appreciated it.

The next item on the agenda was Pink Hill Gym Floor. Mayor Sykes said she was excited for Commissioner Hill to make this announcement. Commissioner Hill said the gym floor has been in need of repair. He said he thinks the county has put \$21,000 to fix the floor but they wanted the Pink Hill community to match some of it. Commissioner Hill said he is happy to say that the Pink Hill community has raised \$7,125 our one fourth for the new gym floor, the J. Melvin Jones Gymnasium on Macon Street in Pink Hill. He said right now they have a total of \$5,936.50 in hand and there is some more people who have donated money. Commissioner Hill said he was going to kind of read the list of who donated: Pink Hill Pharmacy \$3,562.50, Pink Hill Ruritan Club \$1,000, Clark Barfield personal donation \$500, Tiny House Festival \$500, RoseFest \$374, and then other people who have told that they will donate are Pink Hill Business Alliance \$500, Turner-White Photography \$250, North Carolina Spurs \$390, and \$60 from Daniel and Marie White. Commissioner Hill said from the Town of Pink Hill he appreciates this. Mayor Sykes said yes we all do. He said they were going to bring it up in their budget meeting to see if they could find some money to help but with this right now we appreciate it. Mayor Sykes said but if we can find a little extra money, maybe we can put something in it just in case you need something later on. Commissioner Hill said they need some painting done. Mayor Sykes said we will have to look at our budget. I mean it won't be a whole lot because we just don't have that much money but we will look at it. Commissioner Hill said we appreciate everyone for stepping up and doing this. Mayor Sykes said thank you Mike and everybody else that made donations, we appreciate it.

The next item on the agenda was RoseFest update. Susan handed out a schedule for the Rose Festival to the board members. She said the first page is the main stage and the second page is the dance stage. We will have the opening ceremonies and Carol will be there and Imelda Pate will be there and some other people. In addition Mike I believe you are going to be after J. Mac Daughety's presentation. Susan said we have got different people coming for different times. For the opening and welcome to Pink Hill we have Carol and then any other town councilmen that want to be on there. Mayor Sykes asked what was the J. Mac Daughety thing? Susan said I am sorry I meant Luther Ledford.

Susan stated they have 69 commercial vendors. We have a record number of vendors. We have a record number of sponsors not of dollar amount but numbers. We will have helicopter rides. We will have a new fun zone that cost her \$2,000 and we will have all new, big, better, more cooler inflatables. She said that Realo is paying for a guy to come around and blow up balloons all day for free. He is mainly going to be in the kid's area. We are also having a magician.

Susan said we really expect more people especially if it doesn't rain. She said the success of the Tiny House Festival, I don't expect the Rose Festival to be as successfully as the Tiny House, but it really let a lot more people know about the RoseFest. Susan said secondly we bartered with Andrew and the RoseFest helped Andrew a lot at the Tiny House Festival. In return he is doing all of social medial marketing. She said Andrew has a huge draw and that is what got people in. Susan said they also got a joint grant from the Department of Tourism and we have a commercial running. We had one for the Tiny House and now we have one for the RoseFest. The goal is to get people to stay in hotels. She said that April Howard Houston is organizing it and she is doing most of the work for it and she is very good and she is very organized. So between those three things we really expect a very good and successful festival. Susan asked if anyone had any questions. Mayor Sykes said like I said at the BBQ Fest there were people who couldn't come to the Tiny House Festival but then I told them too about the RoseFest. Susan asked Kim or Mayor Sykes if they could call the owners of the lot over by town hall and see if they will mow it. Kim asked if she was talking about the one in the corner. Susan replied yes the one we call every year before the RoseFest. Susan also asked Mayor Sykes if they could use her lot again this year for parking. She said and the last thing is the town's lot that they use for parking and she knows the town guys have a lot to do but is there any way they can pick up some of the trash because there is a lot of trash over there. Susan said maybe pick it up next week right before the festival. She said Andrew Odom's father who did all the parking for the Tiny House Festival is in charge of the parking lot and he does a great job. Mayor Sykes told Susan thank you for all your hard work that you have done on these festivals and what you do every time on them, I really appreciate it. Susan said they have Dr. Jennifer Murphy working on it and a lot of people including April and Josette.

Mayor Sykes said if anybody is on Tri-County Electric you get this book every month and there was an article in there about the Tiny House Festival and Andrew Odom was the spotlight. She said if you get it, please read it. Susan said he is the national leader in the tiny house movement. Mayor Sykes told Susan thank you so much.

The next item on the agenda was the CDBG Grant. Mayor Sykes stated she received an email from George Sherrill concerning the CDBG Grant and she told him that we had not heard anything from the Preservation committee but she saw Danita today and told her. She said George Sherrill said the Department of Commerce needs a final decision by all parties involved whether to move forward with an application for CDBG funds or not. Please convey to your board and the nonprofit leadership that a final decision on moving forward with the current proposed project must be made not later than June 13th. Mayor Sykes said she will make sure that Bruce Maslin gets a copy of this. She said we can get the grant but we have got to move forward.

The next item on the agenda was Garbage issues and policy – Travis Pope with Waste Industries. Kim said first off just to let the board know being with have got new members, the Town of Pink Hill has a contract with Waste Industries. Kim said she was going to read what the service says: Customer hereby grants to contractor the exclusive right for the collection and transportation of all residential solid waste and all commercial solid waste in the Town of Pink Hill from the point of pickup to solid waste disposal site. She said in other words we have a contract with them and it started in January of 2014 and it is good until March 31st of 2019. Kim said so they are

picking up all of our commercial and residential solid waste. We had an incident on Friday, April 28, 2017. There was a couple of businesses that their dumpsters didn't get dumped because the truck broke down and then they were supposed to be picking up on Saturday the 29th and I think there was one that did get picked up on Saturday but two other ones that did not get picked up. On Monday we received a call here at town hall because any of the complaints that our customers have concerning their trash pickup are supposed to come through town hall so that me or Shelia can contact Waste and let them know what the issue is. We received a call that morning from one of the businesses saying that her dumpster did not get dumped and she was completely full. So I got on the phone and I called the one girl that we always call and then we deal with Travis as well and they were dumped by 10:30 that morning on Monday. Then we had one of the owners come in on that same day May 1st and he was requesting that his dumpster be removed because he was not satisfied with the service that he was receiving from Waste. He said that he had already replaced and got another dumpster. Kim said she called and had the dumpster removed. She said I guess what I am thinking that we need to do is figure out how to fix this because we are in a contract with them and we get billed by Waste every month and every business and every resident we are charged for for their dumpsters and they are paid. Kim asked Travis if there was anything that he wanted to say or did she miss anything. Travis said the only thing that he could say is the reason it was missed it wasn't the normal driver and he checked it off as he got it but he didn't. The reason when that truck broke down, we have got two brand new front end trucks and one was under warranty and something went wrong with it. He said so that was sent back to the company for the warranty issues, so we didn't have the spare truck that we usually have. The guy was on the spare truck that actually broke down. Mayor Sykes thanked Travis.

Commissioner Hill said the way he reads it everybody is supposed to use Waste Industries. Mayor Sykes said yes that is supposed to be it. Kim said she put a copy of the town's garbage policy in there just so y'all would have it. Commissioner Hill said that is just for residential there. Kim said that is our town's policy. She said in the actual contract it says residential curbside trash collection, each home will be provided with a 95 gallon cart to be serviced on a once per week basis. Carts must be placed at curb no later than 6:00 a.m. on the scheduled day of collection. Commercial waste collection – all commercial businesses within the town will be provided with a front load container or cart for solid waste and recyclables to be serviced as requested on what date they want. Mayor Sykes said they do have garbage receptacles right? Kim said the person who wanted their dumpster removed they ended up getting two carts. They still have the dumpster from the other entity but they do have a cart at each place, so they are paying for two carts because it is two businesses on one property. They are going to be billed for the trash cart receptacle. Kim said she just didn't know if we needed to update our policy, I just didn't know how we needed to handle it because Waste knows what businesses we have and most of the commercial businesses have a dumpster, so the town automatically gets billed for each of those dumpsters and every how many times they get dumped. I just don't know, do you want to make any changes, I just wanted y'all to be aware that we did have an issue. Commissioner Hill said maybe we might need to update the policy. Mayor Sykes said that is what she thinks too. She asked Kim if she had emailed everyone a copy of the policy. Kim said everyone was emailed a copy of the policy. Mayor Sykes asked what about the personnel policy. Kim replied yes. Mayor Sykes said well if all of us would take it and look at it and things we see that might need to be changed, just make a note and then when we come together for a meeting

maybe we can kind of be prepared and so we won't have to sit there and read every word. Kim said so you are talking about this policy too. Mayor Sykes said no all of our personnel policy because there might be other things that need to be updated because it has been a while.

The next item on the agenda B.F. Grady Sewer Contract was moved to closed session.

The Lien on 101 E. Broadway Street was next on the agenda. George explained that we had signed a claim of lien six or eight weeks ago. We then drafted a complaint for you to sign that is filing suit against Alejandro and various other entities to collect the money. He said that has been filed. It is out for service with the sheriff of Duplin County and with the postal service. Mayor Sykes asked and it has been delivered to the sheriff's department? George replied yes. Mayor Sykes asked when was that done? George said that he delivered it this morning at lunchtime today to the sheriff's department there. He said we are also having to serve the Internal Revenue Service because of the tax lien on it, North Carolina Department of Revenue because of their tax lien, the United States Attorney General because of the federal tax lien, and the County of Lenoir for their tax lien. Mayor Sykes asked if all of that has been done. George replied yes. Mayor Sykes said so everybody has been served. George stated those had been served by mail. The postal service has those and I don't have the receipts back. Mayor Sykes said okay, but when were they mailed. George replied yesterday. Mayor Sykes said you know that has been the first thing on the agenda for the past almost two years and how long now do we have to wait before we can do whatever we need to do. George said we have to get everybody served with the process. He said after you signed the complaint last month, we drafted the complaint and got it filed with the clerk of superior court, and she issued summons and summons are out for service. Mayor Sykes said and that was yesterday and today that you got all that done. George replied yes. Mayor Sykes said so how long do you anticipate us hearing from them. George asked from Alejandro and them? Mayor Sykes stated from whomever or all of them. George said well they have from the day they are served they have 30 days to respond. He said the Internal Revenue Service, I don't know how long they will take. They have to be served. In other cases that I have had with them, they have sent an automatic request for an extension of time but the others, the county will probably file an answer admitting and agreeing to it and the Department of Revenue will probably do the same. It is just going to be a matter of when Duplin County can find and serve Alejandro and his wife. Mayor Sykes said when you hear from those will you let us know ASAP please. George stated that he would. Mayor Sykes said thank you. George said we are serving Alexandro and his wife at their post office boxes also that is where the law says I have to serve them. Mayor Sykes said but you can serve them at their house too. George replied I have sent that also. Mayor Sykes said but did you give that to the sheriff's department. George stated that was what he gave the sheriff's department. Mayor Sykes asked if anybody had any questions on that. Commissioner Hill replied no, but it has been a long time.

The next item on the agenda was Questions concerning sick time/retirement in personnel policy. Mayor Sykes said Timmy had brought this to our attention concerning the sick leave and retirement. Kim stated everyone should have a copy of that and it is letter "G" and it has been highlighted. Mayor Sykes stated in the original policy when we first started receiving retirement, that policy was just like this one except, Timmy you go ahead and tell them what you want to ask them about and then I will explain that. Timmy said he has been working with the town almost

17 years and ever since he started, not that he read it somewhere or anything, it has always been told to him that sick days you never lose them. He said you keep building and at some point and time you would be able to add them to retirement or something of that order is the way he understood it. Timmy said it was brought to his attention a couple of weeks ago that that was not the way it was written in our personnel policy. He said he would like for it to be revisited by the board and the mayor. Timmy said the way he understands it and the way it is written you can only use 10 days per year of service to add to your retirement or anything like that. He said I could only use 170 days. Timmy said he has in excess of 350 banked up right now which is a good thing. I haven't been sick and I haven't had to take any. Mayor Sykes stated you see on the back page where it says accumulated sick leave this is the state's policy. Mayor Sykes said she is suggesting that we leave that last sentence out so that it would go back to what it was several years ago. Timmy said personally he is not asking for the board to make a decision tonight, I would just like for it to be revisited. He said do the research and find out what other towns or governmental is doing. Commissioner Hill said if we are in local government, I think that is what we ought to follow as far as retirement. Mayor Sykes said that was what had been done for years. Commissioner Hill said that is something we didn't catch when we changed the policy. Mayor Sykes asked Commissioner Murphy you know what we are talking about and Commissioner Murphy said oh trust me I do. She said it certainly is not much reward for going to work every day if they are going to take it away from you anyway. Timmy said it kind of felt like to him when he got to thinking about it was because you are not able to use all your sick days at the end to maybe retire a year or two early, it is kind of a slap in the face for coming to work sick instead of calling in. Commissioner Hill made a motion to strike out the last sentence in this policy, the maximum number of sick days, and change it to we follow the local government guidelines for sick days and retirement. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Police Updates was next on the agenda. Police Chief Thigpen said since the last meeting on April 11, 2017 we have had a total of 3 reported incidents, 2 arrest, 2 accidents, issued 12 citations for a total of 12 charges, and issued 15 warning citations. He said everything is going good so far. Police Chief Thigpen said he did a secondary employment contract. He said he pulled it from the county because that is what they use to do their secondary off duty employment. It is actually for the RoseFest and I thought it would be a good idea for us to have something in place to cover everything in case something were to happen. Police Chief Thigpen said everyone should have a copy and asked Kim if George got one. Kim said yes she gave it to him and asked Joey who gave him the copy. He responded Chris Russell at Lenoir County. Police Chief Thigpen said it is supposed to be notarized. He said that way if anything was to happen because basically when they are off duty they are still in uniform but they are employed through the person that pays them or contracts them unless we have to make an arrest and then it would fall back under the town. Mayor Sykes asked was it good to go. George said he doesn't have an opinion on this but is the \$15 an hour is that reasonable. Police Chief Thigpen said actually that is real cheap because Lenoir County charges \$25 an hour. Mayor Sykes asked why don't you charge \$25 an hour. Police Chief Thigpen said we are a small agency and I am not trying to really gouge somebody but it is more to help them and get some pay for what I do. Commissioner Hill made a motion to accept the police department contract for contract police officers. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was Fire Department Report. Fire Chief Heath said for the month of April they had 12 EMS assignments, 2 structure fires, 1 brush fire, 4 motor vehicle accidents, and 1 service assignment. He said that is a lot better than they had last month. Fire Chief Heath said they are supposed to find out from the state next Monday whether we have been approved for the grant we applied for. Mayor Sykes asked did it look positive. Fire Chief Heath replied yes. He said on July 12th they will be hosting the Duplin County Fire Association meeting here at Pink Hill. It is for all the fire department personnel and whoever they choose to bring. It will be held at the cafeteria and the board members are welcome to come. Mayor Sykes thanked him.

Commissioner Hill asked did he have a number of how many people would be attending the appreciation dinner. Kim said she was going to mention it but they need to base it off of 100 people for everybody.

Fire Chief Heath said at the RoseFest they are going to cook 100 chickens and 3 hogs. Mayor Sykes thanked him for his job and for inviting them to the meeting on July 12th.

The next item on the agenda was Water/Sewer Report. Timmy said they are back on regular chloramines as scheduled and everything is going well. He said the big job on Front Street we did tile replacement and repairing the sewer line, that job has been 98 percent complete. We are waiting for the grass to grow back and make sure that the core of engineer is okay with everything that happened. Timmy said it is not exactly like what was there. We have had a five inch rain and it held so we will wait and see. He said it seems to be holding up well. Commissioner Hill asked Timmy if he had contacted the core about the other ditch. Timmy replied no sir, as far as getting it cleaned out the rest of the way, because it does need doing but I know as far as our budget it is kind of funny. He said he was waiting on a price from Ricky to get that ditch cleaned out and that is the reason he was leaving his equipment. Timmy said if he comes and gets it, it has got to run through your guys before I can hire him and plus it has got to be approved through the core of engineers before he can go on that property and clean that ditch out. He said that Ricky had already told him when he came out to look at the previous job that it was considered wetlands he was pretty sure. It is going to be pretty expensive. It is going to make the cost of the job a lot more expensive. Commissioner Hill said in talking to them see if they haven't got some money to chip in to help with this thing because it is a main line stream. Mayor Sykes asked who? Commissioner Hill said the core because that is what they did after Fran. They came in and cleaned all the streams out. Timmy said just to get the ditch cleaned out wouldn't be so expensive, I am just guessing off the top of my head \$2,000 to \$3,000 maybe but according to the core because it is wetlands everything that they take out has gotten to be taken away from that property. It can't be just turned around and dropped or scattered out on that property. It has got to be carried away. Timmy said that is going to jack the price way on up probably out of our range to get it done. Commissioner Hill said that one section is a strip of woods and he is going to have to pile it and take another thing then move it. Timmy said the way Ricky was going to price it was because the ditch banks have got so many trees and things on it, he was going to get a machine and this is another company that would be subcontracted out to come on property and grind him a hole on each side of the ditch bank so he would be able to straddle the ditch. Timmy said everything else seems to be going well. Mayor Sykes thanked Timmy.

The next item on the agenda was reminders of 5/24/17 @ 2:00 p.m. Budget Workshop FY 17-18, 5/30/17 @ 8:30 a.m. Budget Presentation FY 17-18, 6/14/17 @ 6:50 p.m. Public Hearing FY 17-18 Budget, and 6/14/17 @ 7:00 p.m. Regular Board Meeting Adoption of FY 17-18 Budget. Mayor Sykes said she had a conflict with 5/30/17 @ 8:30 a.m. Kim said the thing about the budget presentation, we are going to do the budget workshop on the 24th and she will have the budget completed and any changes that you guys request we will get those done on the 24th and on the 30th at 8:30 a.m. she is just going to present it with the figures changed if there were any changes to be made, and Mayor Sykes doesn't have to be here because if all three of the board members come there will be a quorum. Kim stated it has to be done on the 30th because of the time frame that she has to advertise. Mayor Sykes asked if everyone was okay with the dates and times and everyone responded yes.

Budget Amendments if needed was next on the agenda. Kim said there were no budget amendments at this time. She said there was only one transfer and that is in your budget packet.

The next item on the agenda was Remarks by Town Attorney. George stated he would hold those until closed session.

The next item on the agenda was Comments by the Board. Commissioner Hill stated he just wanted to thank everybody for being here. Mayor Sykes said that George sent a letter to Open Broadband to Mr. Kent Winrich and Mr. Alan Fitzpatrick concerning the effective date of the termination is May 12, 2017. We voted on April 11, 2017 with one member recused due to conflict of interest. Mayor Sykes stated George did send a thirty day letter to them.

The next item on the agenda was Public Comment Period if needed. Kim stated no one signed up to speak. Carolyn Whitfield asked when were you suppose to sign up for that. Kim stated 6:30 to 6:55. Carolyn Whitfield asked are we supposed to know that? She said she was here but didn't know there was a paper to sign. Kim stated yes we have a sign up. Carolyn said she signed her name. George spoke up and said it is a separate document. Mayor Sykes stated it has been like this, but told Carolyn to go ahead and speak. Carolyn stated no because she hadn't signed up. Mayor Sykes told her to go ahead because they are asking her too. Carolyn Whitfield said that she would like to clarify some comments about the Waste Industries stuff. She said I have a great respect for Waste Industries because they come to our house every Monday. Carolyn said she thinks that the whole story wasn't presented. What happened this week was a story but it wasn't the first time, it is not the only time, and when you run a business and you have a restaurant being one of those businesses, the trash needs to go away because there is nowhere to put the trash. She said in frustration is why the dumpster was switched. Now I realize that may have caused a problem and y'all can try to explain that to Tom as far as that, but he owns the property and he thinks he should be able to put any dumpster he wants to on it. Carolyn said he is willing to pay the price for the trash cans which are not on the property because he said they would be stolen and one of them is at our house. It can be on the books about the carwash. She said it was not a one-time event. This week was a one-time event but he has a history and getting up with Waste Industries is next to impossible and he was told that he needed to get up with Waste Industries and he had a lot of trouble doing that so he took the problem into his own hands and he got a dumpster. Carolyn said so that part of the story and she is not saying that you misrepresented anything but there was more to the story than what was told. Kim said when she

talked with Tom she explained to him. She said I think Gayle told him that town hall didn't have a number for Waste and I told Tom that all complaints concerning garbage comes here and then we direct them and he understood that. Kim said when she was talking to Tom she asked him to my recollection is this maybe the second or third time, no more than three times that she hasn't got dumped on her regular day. Carolyn said it is not just her but it is the carwash also. Kim said yes because y'all share a dumpster. Carolyn said yes and we will pay for the trash can that is fine if that is okay. She asked do you have to have a dumpster as a commercial business if you don't need a dumpster. Carolyn said I am just curious because he thought that he would be okay with just a trash can but listening to that tonight if he has to have dumpster or does he have to have a trash can. Because if I had a business but I didn't have to have a dumpster, I would not want to pay for a dumpster. Kim said it is what is comparable for your business like we have had some that started out with a 4 yard and they said well we don't fill that up let's move to a 2 yard and then they determined well we don't even fill that up can we go to carts and they get ever how many carts they need. Carolyn said she just wanted it understood that it wasn't like everybody got mad because the trash wasn't dumped, it was not the first time that it has happened. Kim said that Tom explained to her after they got to talking because they talked multiple times. She stated he said that Duplin County was where his big concern was when y'all had Waste at Duplin County at Wallace and Faison. Carolyn said she just didn't want it to be misrepresented, there was a problem. So we just need to know whether we have to have a dumpster or if we can get by with trash cans. Commissioner Hill said they would look at the policy. Carolyn replied thank you.

The next item on the agenda was Closed Session if needed. Commissioner Hill made a motion to go into closed session for the B.F. Grady Sewer Contract. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to come out of closed session. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mayor Sykes asked if there was a motion to keep, send away, or do nothing. She said she knows it is a hard decision. I understand and it was hard for me to say this but I had to say it, I had to say it because it was just what I had to say. I think the world of George and he is a great fine man. His children especially his son is very good friends with my grandson and we are friends with them. Mayor Sykes said I would hate to see that go but that doesn't have anything to do with what is going on here tonight. Commissioner Murphy said she is going to feel really uncomfortable working and doing this if the two of you are not going to be okay. Mayor Sykes said whatever goes on tonight it is gone, I mean if he stays I will work with him just like I always have. George said I say the same thing. Mayor Sykes said but I can tell you if it doesn't change, I am coming back. George stated he understands that. Commissioner Murphy asked if there was any way to make some sort of proposal for a probationary period and then to revisit it. George replied you can certainly do that and I would accept that. Mayor Sykes said whatever y'all want to do. George said you have a contract with me through June 30th unless I commit malfeasance or commit a crime or something like that. Mayor Sykes said we do not have a contract. George said I was elected I guess by the board back years ago. Mayor Sykes stated you were appointed but I don't think we actually got a contract. George replied no. Kim said I think we had a contract before. Mayor Sykes said but we don't now. George said I think each year it just rolls over. Commissioner Murphy asked why did we do away with the contract. George stated his copy of the contract burned up when

his office did but he is sure Kim has the town's copy of it. Kim said she doesn't think that they did one this past year but I don't even remember what the last date was that we had. George stated it has probably been 5 or 10 years ago. Mayor Sykes said there may have been a contract but it is a retainer. George said if you want to do a probationary period of 3 or 6 months at the beginning of the next period, I would cooperate with that. Commissioner Hill said it is hard and either way. He said when we had to let Ted go it was hard and this is hard too. Mayor Sykes said well if y'all are satisfied with his performance so be it, I am just not satisfied with his performance. Commissioner Quinn stated he has not been here that long. Commissioner Quinn said he has pro's and con's and he has addressed the con's. Mayor Sykes said well let's get it done, you are going to do one thing or the other and I don't mean to be sharp or to the point but we are sitting here. Commissioner Hill made a motion that after June 30th we put George on probation for three months and if we still have concerns we can terminate. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mayor Sykes said George I am going to look forward to working with you and George replied I as well. She said and we are going on not like we have been going. She said you're not going on like you were. You are going on like you should go on. She told George she loves him to death and you know I do.

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