Town of Pink Hill Board Meeting

7:00 PM

August 11, 2020

The Town of Pink Hill Board meeting was held on August 11, 2020 in the town hall board room. Present for this meeting were Mayor Carol Sykes, Commissioner Mike Hill, Commissioner James Quinn, Commissioner Penny Murphy, Public Works Director Timmy Kennedy, Public Works Assistant Phillip Swinson, Police Chief Michael Hoffman, and Town Clerk Crystal Heath.

Visitors present were Carolyn Whitfield and Michael Whitfield.

Mayor Sykes said I would like to call this meeting to order and I welcome everyone to the August 11, 2020 meeting. I would like to ask everyone to please turn your cell phones off. Mayor Sykes asked Commissioner Mike Hill to lead everyone in saying the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Everyone stood and said the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Sykes said I need a motion to approve the agenda and amendments if needed and consent agenda. Commissioner Hill said I make a motion to approve the minutes, the agenda, and the consent agenda. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes asked if there was any discussion on that motion. No discussion made. Mayor Sykes said okay, all in favor say "aye". Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Sykes said the next item on the agenda is the speed bump on Lynwood Avenue that was discussed from last month. Mayor Sykes asked Commissioner Hill to address the speed bump. Commissioner Hill said I brought it up about removing it or putting up a four way stop sign and I told everybody to think about it. He said I have had a lot of debates about it. I just say put a four way stop on that street and that would slow traffic down. Commissioner Hill said either at Central Ave or Front Street. That is my opinion, and everybody else has got one too. Mayor Sykes said like I said last time I think we have more streets in terrible shape than just Lynwood Ave taking up that speed bump. She said I do think that speed bump needs to be painted. Why don't we try it that way, because you cannot really tell there is a speed bump there until you get right on it. Commissioner Hill said right on top of it, you're on top of it before you know it. Mayor Sykes said well I know it, but if you got it painted you can see it before you get to it. That is my opinion and there are small children in the area that the speed bump staying would hopefully protect the kids at play. Mayor Sykes said we have some people here that want to speak for or against. Mrs. Carolyn Whitfield said I would like to say something. She said I have mixed emotions about the four way stop sign mainly because of people not obeying it, and in the event of a possible accident, they will go right through it and who knows what might happen. One way there is not going to be a problem because there has been a stop sign there for eternity. Ms. Whitfield said I was very disappointed when we lost the other speed bump, I was very happy when we had both of them. She said she hates when she has to go over it, but would like for the speed bump to stay. Commissioner Hill said the reason why the other speed bump was removed because of undermining the street? Mayor Sykes said I really believe if that speed bump was painted over again because really I noticed it the other day you can hardly see ones there until you get right on it. Mrs. Whitfield said people don't slow down. Mayor Sykes said I

hope that if they saw the color of it maybe that would help and let's try that. The Mayor said that is my opinion and I'm not a fan of the four way stop sign because we have one down there and nobody ever stops. Commissioner Hill said I spoke to Timmy and that street is 20 miles per hour too. Mayor Sykes said and there is a "children at play" sign that is pretty well marked. Mayor said I really think the speed bump would work better if it was painted again that is what I would like to see and that is my opinion. Commissioner Hill said to the board members do y'all have an opinion? Commissioner Quinn said well it sounds like the public would like to keep the speed bump. Commissioner Murphy said painting it is a good idea because that is probably why it sneaks up on me and the fact that I don't go that way very often. Mayor Sykes said and you know I had not noticed about the paint because I know it's there, but I did notice it the other day well people don't see the speed bump sign. She said if it is painted again and I think we will see a difference. I have seen people come down the road like they are flying and get right to it and slow down, and I really think the paint on it would really—I mean let's try that, that is my opinion. She said let's try that before we put a four way stop sign. Commissioner Hill said well since we have people that want to keep it. I make a motion then to keep it. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes said any discussion on it. Timmy Kennedy said I'll try to get it painted. Mayor Sykes said all in favor of the motion say "aye" motion was carried unanimously. Chief Michael Hoffman said do we want to address the signage also? Mayor Sykes said well every street down there has a 20 mile per hour speed limit sign because I rode down and Mike did too and they have been there forever. Commissioner Hill said I think I am the one that put them up there. Mayor Sykes said you probably are, because I rode down there the other day and you go down somewhere and don't see anything, but they are there along with a sign "children at play." Commissioner Hill said I think you put one on Front Street. Mayor Sykes said well there is one on every street 20 miles an hour and like I said some of them have "children at play" sign, but I really believe that painting it I mean I don't know but we do have small children. Mayor Sykes said okay thank you all.

Mayor Sykes said now we have a grant, the county got a grant for COVID-19, corona virus relief fund. We get $11,000 of it. What we have to get is like wipes, masks, and anything that has to do with COVID for $11,000, but we have to get bids on them. The money goes to the county, but when we get all our stuff in we send it to the county and they send us the money. It has to be in by the 31st and so far what I have thought about is I have been wanting a PA system in here. Mayor Sykes said sometimes you don't hear everybody speaking have it work here and in there. She said we have to split up for COVID, which we need to, then that is—a podium with a microphone. We have also called on a price on cleaning the whole building and we got a quote on that. Mayor Sykes said what is that? Town Clerk Crystal Heath said it is almost $1,100.00 it with Serv-Pro. Mayor Sykes said it is deep cleaning so we got that bid. Commissioner Murphy said are we going to have to pay for the cleaning and what not that has to be done to the voting booths? Mayor Sykes said no, absolutely not. Commissioner Murphy said okay just wondering. Mayor Sykes said no we do not have no dog in this fight, we never do. Mayor Sykes said wait a minute, I am going to turn over the mic to Commissioner Mike Hill.

Commissioner Hill said Timmy Kennedy will you come up here. He said Timmy came to work for the Town of Pink Hill when I left that was 20 years ago. Timmy we want to present you

with this plaque for 20 years of service to the Town of Pink Hill. Commissioner Hill said we present it to Timmy C. Kennedy in appreciation for 20 years in dedication and service to the Town of Pink Hill August 11, 2020, from Mayor Carol Sykes, Commissioner Mike Hill, James Quinn, and Penny Murphy. Mayor Sykes said if he can put up with us for 20 years he's done a good job. Commissioner Mike Hill asked for Phillip Swinson. He said Phillip has been with us for 9 years from the Town of Pink Hill for 9 years of service to Public Works we recognize Phillip D. Swinson in appreciation of 9 years and dedication of service to Town August 11, 2020, from Mayor Carol Sykes, Commissioner Mike Hill, James Quinn, and Penny Murphy. Mayor Sykes said thank you all for coming.

Mayor Sykes went back and addressed the grant given to the county for COVID. She said it is the North Carolina Recovery and Coronavirus. What we can get is hand wash, gloves, wipes, 95 masks, coverings, town clerk Crystal Heath said if you need a Chromebook because you have to work from home something like that would suffice. Mrs. Heath said the PA system would suffice because that way we can sit six feet apart and be able to hear each other. Mayor Sykes said none of us work from home so we don't need that, but it has to be for coronavirus stuff. Timmy Kennedy said me and Crystal were talking today and we are in need of a –because of all the stuff that is going on in the fire department as far as humidity and being in there it is causing mold issues, we were hoping because it is a breathing thing that we get a humidifier. Crystal Heath said a humidifier it should fall under it. Mayor Sykes said I would think so we will find out tomorrow. Timmy Kennedy said I got a price of $1100.00 for one, but we are looking at a different unit that will be out of the way I don't know if it is going to be a little more or less we are still waiting on that price. Mayor Sykes said let me see if it can be done through this, I think it probably sounds like it can be, but I will call tomorrow and let you know. She said and then you can get a price on both on what you need. Commissioner Mike Hill said is this stuff just for the Town of Pink Hill? Mayor Sykes said yes just for the Town of Pink Hill. Commissioner Hill said it is not being given out to nobody? Mayor Sykes said no, we got $11,000 allocated for us I do not know how much La Grange got or whatever. She said what we don't spend will go back to the county and other places will use it that need it. We do not need some stuff like a computer none of us work from home, but I think with what we come up with to me it sounds good. Mayor Sykes said and we will check on that. Commissioner Quinn said the PA system and personal protective gear. Mayor Sykes said yeah all that stuff. She said the girl at the county has been really helpful in you know telling us, it's easy grant to do. Commissioner Quinn said we don't have to pay back or nothing? Mayor said no and it's really kind of silly when she tells you about everything that can be done. We can do it, we are going to do it, and we are not going to waste we are not going to do something on what we don't need. Commissioner Hill said we don't need a motion on this? Mayor Sykes said yeah I would like to have a motion to accept it just to be clear. Commissioner Hill said I make a motion to accept the grant for COVID-19. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes said any discussion, all in favor say "aye", motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Sykes said the resolution accepting the annual settlement number of taxes. That is every year we get that. She said did you ever think about calling and getting a copy of unpaid taxes? She said okay we will do that tomorrow. She said that is number 7, town clerk Crystal

Heath said I've got the sheet everyone needs to sign to send back to him. Mrs. Heath said everyone has a copy of the sheet, but I have the one to send in. Commissioner Quin said where it says gap vehicle is that the difference between property and vehicle taxes? Mayor Sykes said vehicle is license get your tags in, I'm not looking at that part yet. The town clerk asked Commissioner Quinn which page are you on, the very last one. Commissioner Quinn said yeah well the second. Mayor Sykes said what it is for real estate and car taxes. The town clerk, Crystal Heath, said because we were supposed to collect $178,000 see that at the charges on the second page? She said you collected everything, you collected most of the taxes which you did well, except for $7355 is still owed to us 95.8% collected. Mayor Sykes said we did that last year it was 98%, but 95 is still pretty good. Mayor Sykes said anyway I do not know the answer to your question. The town clerk said I think you're talking about this page right? Mayor Sykes said that is this minus is the releases when tax was filed, but is the wrong place to file it or whatever and it is just minus from the total. She said I think the total is 179 and you subtract. Commissioner Quinn said right here it says gap vehicle that what I was asking I don't know what it means. Commissioner Hill said I don't either. Mayor Sykes said I don't see where you are talking about let me see where. Commissioner Quinn said it is right there it is not much just wondering what it is. Mayor Sykes said I do not know what that is, it didn't charge anything. Mrs. Heath said you know it's like when you have a lapse in your insurance a gap in your insurance we don't have any so there wasn't anything. Mayor Sykes said as long as they don't charge anything. Commissioner Hill said I make a motion to approve the resolution accepting the annual settlement of the Lenoir County Tax Collector 2019-2020 Fiscal Year. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes said any discussion, all in favor say "aye", motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Sykes asked Phillip to provide the fire department report. Phillip Swinson said the calls since the last meeting of July 14, 2020 thru today are 2 EMS assignments, 2 vehicle accidents, 1 structure fire, and 2 fire alarms. 1 brush fire, and 10 service assignments for a total of 18 calls. Phillip said that is all I got.

Mayor Sykes asked Chief Hoffman to provide the police report. Chief Hoffman said the police department has purchased a mini fridge that we need for biological evidence. He said myself and Officer Weaver have taken an evidence class to be better prepared. The hiring process is still in effect and all of our cases are caught up to date. There is no lag, and we have also picked up patrol on Park Circle and East Lynwood Avenue. Our new items have been placed in use, temp meter jump boxes. Mayor Sykes said so how about our part time is everything about ready for them start. Chief Hoffman said no. Mayor Sykes said what all is lacking. Chief said Raleigh is a large process, normal hiring process is 2-3 months because of back log and sending in everything. We have to do our background and we have to send it off and they have to do their background and send it back in. Once they send it in an okay it we can set up a drug test, psychological if need be, physicals, and then get them hired. Mayor Sykes said I know about the drug tests, but who says they have to have a psychological test if they are already hired with the county or anybody. She said that is not required unless you say so. Chief Hoffman said no. Mayor Sykes said I would not do you think they need one? Chief Hoffman said no that is why I said if need be. Mayor Sykes said ok just wondering why it is taking longer is it

because of the pandemic. Chief Hoffman said I tried back in March when I started to get pushing the guys that is when the COVID hit and we couldn't meet. We need to bring everyone in and meet everyone first that is what I tried to do, I tried to do with each one of them just letting an office meet you so we can get on board we did not do it until a prior month. It is just taking time. They are also working full time, they are not jobless, they cannot come in just on any day and I am pushing it as hard as I can go. Mayor Sykes said well I understand I figured it would be because of the pandemic that is why I was asking. Chief Hoffman said yes Raleigh's process has increased substantially. Commissioner Hill said yeah another thing you call up there and cannot get anybody. Chief Hoffman said that is why I thought it was a good idea versus sending I am going to email the request, but I am also going to hand deliver it versus putting it in the mail and they get lost. Mayor Sykes thanked Chief Hoffman.

Mayor Sykes asked Timmy Kennedy to provide the water report. Timmy said we will be having a reconstruction meeting here in the meeting room tomorrow at 10 with one of the contractors and the other one at 11. It is kind of like a preliminary before they start work and that will be here if anyone would like to be here if anyone has a question. Over the last couple of weeks because of the hurricane and several other storms we have had two bad issues with lightning. Phillip said one of them got the surge protector and Commissioner Quinn said and the other one blew the meter apart. Timmy said it didn't get the water meter, but I was planning on bringing in those parts. He said both of those customers had a tree in their yard and it ran through the metal, because they both had metal on their side of the meter and it burnt—melted a portion of the pvc that connected everything together. That was an issue that we had. Phillip said one of the houses got their sewer drain line on their side it busted the cast iron pipe. Timmy said we repaired a culvert at the corner of College and Old Beulaville and the curve right there by the ballfield the pavement has been broken there a number of years. I would like to hire a contractor to that corner plus a do that patch because we cut a place for about three foot wide and the width of the street. I don't want to put another cold patch in there I would rather have regular hot asphalt if that is okay. The Powell Fund should be able to pick the tab on it, but I would like to get that street fixed at the same time. I just want your blessing to get a quote to the street and that patch and I'll bring it to the next meeting. I am not just going to hire somebody. Commissioner Hill said it needs to be done people are tearing their cars up. Mayor Sykes said to Timmy is that the one that you have been having problems with for a while? Timmy said it is. Mayor Sykes said yeah go ahead. She said congratulations to both of you again I love you both for all the work we all appreciate it.

Mayor Sykes said our attorney is not here because he broke his heel. He could not find anybody to bring him to Pink Hill tonight. He had court today and someone had coronavirus. Town Clerk said someone in court had coronavirus and they had to shut the court down. Mayor Sykes said does anyone have any comments. Commissioner Murphy said congratulations to our two men.

Mayor Sykes said by the next meeting we will have all this stuff done and if anything else comes up we will let you know. Mayor Sykes stated that if there is nothing else to be discussed I adjourn this meeting.

Typed by Town Clerk Assistant: Diana Rodriguez

Verified by Crystal Heath 9/4/2020