

December 10, 2019

7:00 pm

The Town of Pink Hill held its monthly board meeting on December 10, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the town hall board room. Present for the meeting were Mayor Carol Sykes, Commissioners Mike Hill, James Quinn, Penny Murphy, Town Attorney George Jenkins, Assistant Public Works Director Phillip Swinson, and Deputy Chief Randy Byrd.

Visitors were Melanie Morgan, Kristie Suggs, Chris Suggs, and Tiffany Koonce-Crawford.

Mayor Sykes said I would like to call this meeting to order and welcome everyone. Mayor Sykes said our Neuse Regional Librarian Melanie Morgan is here with us and she's going to speak with me when we talk about the Pink Hill Public Library. I asked her to be here. Okay, if everyone will please stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Sykes said I need an approval of the agenda and any amendments if needed and consent agenda with regular board meeting minutes from November's meeting. Commissioner Mike Hill said I make a motion to approve the agenda, any amendments if needed, and consent agenda with the regular board meeting minutes from November's meeting. Mayor Sykes said do I have a second? Commissioner Penny Murphy seconded that motion. Mayor Sykes said is there any discussion on that, if no, all in favor say "aye" and the motion was carried unanimously.

Well I have some good news for you all Mayor Sykes said, We have two new people here that need to be sworn in by Crystal, that would be newly appointed Mayor, Carol Sykes and Commissioner James Quinn. She said Crystal is going to swear us in James, and I'll go first. Crystal said I will say a sentence and then you repeat after me, ok? Mayor Sykes says this isn't my first rodeo. Crystal said Carol S Sykes do you solemnly swear to support and maintain the constitution, Mayor Sykes said I, Carol S. Sykes, do you solemnly swear to support and maintain constitution, Crystal said

and the laws of the United States, mayor Sykes said and laws of the United States, Crystal said and the Constitution and laws of North Carolina. Mayor Sykes said and the Constitution and laws of North Carolina, Crystal said not inconsistent but there with, Mayor Sykes repeated not inconsistent but there with, Crystal said I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as Mayor for the Town of Pink Hill North Carolina so help me God, Mayor Sykes said I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as Mayor for the town of Pink Hill so help me God. Crystal said Congratulations Mayor Sykes. Mayor Sykes said Thank you all. Crystal said do you want to sign the form now or just at the end with James? Mayor Sykes said we will sign together at the end.

Crystal said you are up next James. Crystal said James repeat after me, James Shelton Quinn do you solemnly swear to support and maintain constitution, James said, I James Shelton Quinn do solemnly swear to support and maintain the Constitution, Crystal said and the laws of the United States, James repeats and the laws of the United States, Crystal says and the Constitution and laws of North Carolina , not inconsistent but there with, James repeats and the constitution and laws of North Carolina, not inconsistent but there with, Crystal says that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office, James repeat I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office, Crystal says as Commissioner of the Town of Pink Hill North Carolina so help me God, James repeats as the Commissioner of the Town of Pink Hill North Carolina so help me God. Mayor Sykes says congratulations James, Mike and Penny congratulated him as well.

Mayor Sykes said I'm reminding you all of the Christmas party that is Monday night at the Baron and the Beef @7 o'clock. Mayor Sykes said next is the discussion of the repairs on the Pink Hill Public Library and this is Melanie Morgan our librarian, I want to thank you for coming and welcome. Mayor Sykes said I went and met with the County Commissioners and I got a big zero from them to help us with the repairs and I can understand. They suggested that if they help us they would have to help Lagrange also. I reminded him that we pay taxes to Lenoir County and I found it

was only fair for them to help us a little bit. A couple of them did mention coming to look at the library their selves. I said when you come please let me know but no one came. They told me to come back the next Monday at 9 o'clock in the morning and they would give me their decision. As days went by I decided that I weren't going to go back. Because I know their answer was no. I spoke with J Mac county commissioner, and he advised maybe combine the money for the library and Neuse Regional Library together in the future for repairs. Melanie said, now I do work with three different towns in our county and I'm must say that Pink Hill is the most responsive and we're very thankful for that. Mayor Sykes has been wonderful. What they have going on is a structural beam issue. So I got two quotes and gave them to Mayor Sykes. So what the county commissioners have told me is that they would like for me to budget this in my next fiscal year budget, combine it with the Neuse Regional Libraries budget with Pink Hill Library and Lagrange Public Library, Of course that would not be until July 2020. And I do not think we need to wait that long. Mayor Sykes said no we do not need to wait that long that is a danger, the door is rotten and the structural beam is damaged. Melanie said what I propose is that the Neuse Regional Library could contribute \$1825 to apply to the structural beam damage However at that point my budget will be maxed out. So that would not include the stairs and we would need stairs and a new door. I've come to present that to you all to the board to see how we can go about this. Mayor Sykes said and I talked to Connie about our budget because I really think we've got to fix this. Commissioner Mike Hill says so you're proposing to put up front \$1825? Melanie replied yes and there's two proposals there, that money will take care of the proposal for the structural damage but I need to know what you guys can do as far as the stairs and a new door. Mayor Sykes said we have discussed the proposals because we've had these proposals for a while and we have the money to help fix it. Commissioner Mike Hill said if you take these two bids right here to replace the structural being damage, new stairs with pickets and a new metal door, that would leave \$1700 for town of pink Hill to cover the remaining balance for the repair. Mayor Sykes said that sounds about right, right Melanie? She said yes ma'am and it's going to be better for the children to come in and out because it's right there at the children's

room. So the total to fix the repair is \$3500, subtract their payment of \$1,800, we pay \$1,700 roughly right Commissioner Mike Hill asked. Yes Mayor Sykes replied. Commissioner Mike Hill said I make a motion that we use the Kennedy Brothers construction to make the repairs on the structure of beam damage, build a new steps with pickets, and install a new door which is option one and three on the proposal. The town will pay \$1700 and Neuse Regional Library will pay \$1,800. Commissioner Penny Murphy said I'll make a second on his motion. Mayor Sykes said OK then is there any discussion on the floor about the same. There was no discussion on the floor. All in favor say "aye" the motion carried unanimously. Melanie Morgan said thank you so much to the board. Mayor Sykes said you're surely welcome I've heard a lot of good stuff about you since you've joined the Neuse Regional Library and we just appreciate all that you do.

I'm going to skip what's next and ask our visitors to introduce themselves Mayor Sykes said. Hi everyone I'm Chris Suggs, I'm from Kinston, I'm the founder for the organization Kinston teens, we do a lot of volunteering throughout the community. We recently helped with the Rose Festival and the Tiny House Festival. I just try to keep middle and high school aged teen's active, to help keep them out of trouble. I'm here with my mother Crystal Suggs, city council women and Tiffany Koonce-Crawford candidate for Lenoir County commission. She would like to speak to you all. Hey everyone I am Crystal Suggs. Most people know me as Chris's mom. I do serve on the city Council of Kinston I'm going into my third year, I'm excited about the work that we're doing there. Chris has been the busiest kid in North Carolina I think and he keeps me busy also. I would like to thank each one of y'all for letting me stand up and acknowledge me for being here tonight. Thank You. Hey everyone I am Tiffany Koonce-Crawford, I'm am born and raised in Kinston North Carolina, I spoke with city councilman Antonio Hardy, he said that you have invited me to come on down and speak on why I am interested in the running for county commissioner. Like I said I am from Kinston, North Carolina, Lenoir County, I believe that there needs to be a bridge between the smaller surrounding communities like Pink Hill, Seven Springs, Lagrange and all the small towns. I'm a detention officer as my trade, so I understand

what it is being a stepchild because when you working at the detention center you have deputies on the road, police officers, and you know what I'm talking about. Sometimes the smaller people are not really heard but you are just as important and so is your tax dollars. Thank you for allow me to come down.

Mayor Sykes said OK thank you for being here. Next is the fire departments report, Randy Byrd will give that. Randy said last month we had 8 EMS assignments, 6 vehicle accidents, 3 structure fires, 1 fire alarm and that's 18 total calls for the month. We also would like to invite any of you that would like to come to our Fire Department Christmas party it's going to be at the cafeteria December 14 at 6:30. Thank you so much, Mayor Sykes said I cannot thank you enough for all that you and all you guys do for our community.

Mayor Sykes said all right Joey you're next with a police report. Chief Joey Thigpen said since last month we have had 117 calls. I'll be glad to read through them if you want me too. No Mayor Sykes replied if everything is basically the same or if there's anything we need to know please let us know. Chief Joey Thigpen said no ma'am everything is going good, cars are working fine nothing else going on. Thank You Mayor Sykes said.

Next on the agenda is going to be Phillip standing in for Timmy Kennedy he is out tonight. Phillip said OK Timmy is not here tonight because he is at the funeral home for a visitation for the passing of a family member. But he wanted me to let you all know that the damage to Central Avenue and Lynwood Ave Culverts have been approved by FEMA in the amounts of \$67,550.54 for Lynwood Ave. and \$137,641.78 to fix Central Avenue. This will include the engineer fees also. Timmy has been in contact with Derek Smith with the Wooten Company to assist him in getting bids and specs so we can get this job moving. Between myself, Timmy, and Crystal we have met with FEMA representatives to wrap up this process with FEMA. We also started the process with FEMA from hurricane Dorian from where we ran the generators and we worked overtime. We have a need to replace Alex's position also. We would like to take applications by word-of-mouth or by those that are turned in.

We need to know what the rate of pay maybe for another full-time position. We are interested in bringing someone hopefully forward to our next board meeting. Phillip said Timmy wanted me to ask if the board would like for him to sell the two ton truck and dodge being we already purchased the new dump trailer, am I to say at work vans fantastic. We just want to know what you want us to do with the truck. Mayor Sykes said how much do you use them? Phillip replied we don't use them that much they're only used as a reserve vehicle. Commissioner Mike Hill asked is it runnable the dodge truck? Phillip replied yes it is it runs well. Commissioner Mike Hill said well why we don't just keep it in case one of the other trucks goes out y'all have something to drive. Phillip said that's generally what we use it for if we have to put one of our trucks in the shop then we drive that but we just wanted to ask the board to make sure that that was OK to keep doing. Commissioner Mike Hill said I'd rather see you keep it. As for The two ton truck I say sell it because we have no need for it because you have the dump trailer. We will just have to go through the bid process to sell it. Phillip said the truck runs fine but the brakes are bad on it. We just need to make sure we let the buyer know that there is issues with the brakes. Commissioner Mike Hill said I make a motion that we put the 2 ton truck on surplus and try to sell it. Commissioner James Quinn second the motion. Mayor Sykes said I have a motion and a second on the floor do I have any discussion on this truck? All in favor say "aye". The motion carried unanimously OK thank you Phillip for stepping in for Timmy tonight.

Commissioner Mike Hill said someone has a birthday in a couple days. Mayor Sykes said I wonder who. Everybody said happy birthday to Mayor Sykes. Mike said and I also would like to wish everybody a merry Christmas.

Mayor Sykes said next on our agenda is closed session and do we need to go in close session anyone? Commissioner Mike Hill said I make a motion that we go into closed session and discuss a personnel matter. Commissioner Penny Murphy second that motion. Any discussion on this mayor Sykes asked? No discussion all in favor say "aye". They motion carried unanimously and everyone walked out.

Closed session was opened back up at 8:43.

Mayor Sykes said welcome back everyone. Commissioner Mike Hill Said I make a motion that Timmy can find someone full time and at the pay rate of \$10.00 hour for 40 hours a week and that we open up a position for Crystal an assistant town clerk at the rate of \$10.00 hour at 20 hours a week part time. Commissioner James Quinn second that motion. Mayor Sykes said I have a motion and a second, any discussion on this? All in favor say "aye". The motion was carried unanimously. Mayor Sykes said George do you have any business or anything to bring up? George replied no ma'am. Mayor Sykes said I adjourn this meeting if no one has anything else to bring up. We adjourned at 9:00 p.m.