

The Town of Pink Hill Board meeting was held on December 14, 2021 in the town hall board room. Present for this meeting were Mayor Mike Hill, Commissioner James Quinn, Commissioner Penny Murphy, Commissioner Pete Fantini Town, Town Attorney George Jenkins, Town Clerk Crystal Heath, Police Chief Michael Hoffman, Fire Department Chief Tony Heath, Public Works Supervisor Timmy Kennedy and Public Works Assistant Phillip Swinson.

Visitors present were auditor Gregory Redman and Rodney Scott from Eastern Carolina Broadband.

Mayor Mike Hill said I would like to call this meeting to order and I welcome everyone to the December 14, 2021 meeting. I would like to ask everyone to please turn your cell phones off. Mayor Hill asked everyone to join in the pledge of allegiance. Everyone stood and said the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Hill said I need the approval of the minutes for the November meeting. Commissioner Quinn said I make a motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Mayor Hill said any discussion, all in favor say "aye", motion carried unanimously. Mayor Hill said I need an approval of the agenda and any amendments. Commissioner Fantini said I make a motion to approve the agenda and any amendments. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Mayor Hill said any discussion, all in favor say "aye", motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hill asked for the auditor, Gregory Redman, to come forward. Mr. Redman stated each member has a copy of the report. All reports, per Mr. Redman, were that the Town of Pink Hill is in good shape. Mr. Redman went into detail with the board members of what each page contained. The board thanked him for everything. Mayor Hill asked for a motion to approve the budget. Commissioner Fantini made a motion to approve the budget. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Mayor Hill said any discussion, all in favor say "aye", motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hill said he had a couple remarks to make. He thanked the office staff, Crystal and Diana, public works, fire department, police department for their hard work. I think we had a good parade and appreciate all the work put into it.

Rodney Scott from East Carolina Broadband came forward to request leasing the town's water towers for their business. We have been here before, but we have had some changes since then that could be of interest. Businesses and people that are currently partnering with us to provide that, the amount of our money, and state money that we are bringing to Lenoir County. The number of jobs we brought to Pink Hill and the number of people who live in Pink Hill. Ever since COVID, we have been providing free public WIFI for kids who do not have internet, and to churches for after school services. Pink Hill water tower would help us do a much better job to service the smaller areas outside of the municipality of Pink Hill that are listed there. We are currently partnering with Duplin County, Jones County, Chinquapin Water Association, the Towns of Maysville, Pollocksville, and Beulaville. Tonight, Rosehill is going to be voting on allowing us into their towers. Four years ago, Duplin County allowed us to be on all their work towers. They were happy enough with us, that they came back with a 5 year contract with all their towers. When we came back to you guys we asked for exclusive use to your water towers,

we still need some exclusivity, but we really dialed that down to say we need exclusive use of certain frequencies that we are going to be broadcasting on. If we don't have that then our equipment does not work at all. We have revised the contract and Duplin County signed and pretty much everybody listed would be able to entertain that cell phone companies or anyone else who would license frequencies that we weren't using. This is something that I think would really help the Pink Hill area. All these towns are really pleased with us. I have a copy of the contract that is essentially what the Duplin County Contract was given. Every single person listed at the bottom of the page has agreed to let us own their towers for \$250 a year. That is what we are asking for Pink Hill. Our goal is to not make Pink Hill any money and not cost Pink Hill any money. We are also willing to provide free internet to the town locations that you are interested in like the water facilities, wherever you guys are interested. Commissioner Quinn said I need to speak to George, I have to recuse myself this is a huge conflict of interest for me. Mr. Jenkins said as long as it shows in the minutes you are covered. Commissioner Fantini said your business is expanding obviously greatly, and you are in Pink Hill, business owner in Pink Hill, and pay taxes in Pink Hill are your plans to leave Pink Hill? Mr. Scott said no, we have been approached to provide in a number of rural areas across Eastern North Carolina, but we are not interested in. We are trying to size one large network so all our stuff interacts. We are able to service people better and our service time is better. Commissioner Fantini said obviously Pink Hill residents get good internet, but will this give good internet to the ones that can't get it? I am going to say this, because my wife is a teacher in Duplin County she has students that don't have great internet out there will it give them good internet to do their school work so that they don't have to go someplace else to do it? Mr. Scott said I presented to Hutch Jones in Beulaville, but didn't present to a couple of this other towns. The truth is the majority of the municipalities in Eastern North Carolina is gray they do not have a need for us, but as soon as you consider the areas around the town the internet ends. Mayor Hill said any more questions? Commissioner Murphy said I don't have any questions just the same issues I had four years ago. Mr. Scott said can I address any of them? Commissioner Murphy said you said people within this town don't need the internet, but they elected the board and the people I am responsible for, and I just think what you are offering us is ridiculous. Before it was said you were a not in business not long enough, not making enough money, and you were not able to pay a reasonable amount. Here we are four years later and we have the same thing going on. That is my biggest reservation. Mr. Scott said if the financial guy left he would not be very happy with our books, with our expansion we hope to turn a profit one day, we are building out just as hard as we can go. Every water tower we are on at \$250 a year people are willing to partner with us to help out their community. I understand if that is a reservation you have, but not one I am able to amend. Mayor Hill said you would offer the town free internet to Town Hall? Mr. Scott said the way the contract reads two sites of your choosing that we can reach. If you wanted the Town Hall we can, again I don't know that you need your internet here. Mayor Hill said and a wastewater plant? Mr. Scott said if we can reach it yes sir. Mayor Hill said it would be right there by the tank. Mr. Scott said that would be the most logical. Mayor Hill said in reality how much money would it cost us to service us if it weren't free? Mr. Scott said if somebody had not recused themselves they might could answer that. Commissioner Fantini said how much is the internet here in Town Hall? Town Clerk Mrs. Crystal Heath said Town Hall internet is \$99 a month and then I have to

pay for the internet for the guys to have at US Cellular that is \$200 a month. Commissioner Murphy said but this would take care of the guys with US Cellular. Mrs. Heath said I only brought up the guys because that is where they need their internet service at. We did have to purchase IPADs just so that they could have an additional US Cellular contract so they could have internet service out at the plant. Commissioner Fantini said so they would not need that? Ms. Heath said yes they would not need the US Cellular contract if they have internet out there, if not we would still have to pay for it. Commissioner Fantini said if it worked there that would be \$300 a month for 12 months, \$3600 a year on top of the \$500 a year. Mr. Jenkins, town attorney, said I have been given the proposed contract, but before the meeting, it is a multi-page document of course I haven't had a chance to review it so of course I cannot give an opinion on it at this meeting. Mrs. Heath said do you want to table it. Mr. Jenkins said, no that is for the Commissioners to use in making their decision. Mayor Hill said I would love for you to know and read the contract before we make a decision really. Mr. Jenkins said I looked through the headings and a couple paragraphs in particular and didn't have a problem, but have not read the entire contract. I cannot give an opinion just two or three paragraphs. Mayor Hill said do we want to table and wait for George to read through the contract, or do you want to go ahead and make a decision. Commissioner Murphy said I am not going to make a decision without getting some input from George. Mayor Hill said I need a motion to table it for the next meeting. Commissioner Murphy said I make a motion to table it to the next meeting. Commissioner Fantini said I second the motion. Mayor Hill said any discussion, all in favor say "aye", motion carried unanimously. It is tabled until our January meeting.

Discussion of housing ordinance was the next item on the agenda. Mayor Hill asked for Commissioner Fantini to speak. Commissioner Fantini said I read through our housing ordinance for the town and there are good parts about it and bad parts about it. The bad part about it is part of it requires personnel from town to hold positions in town to go an inspect it to see if their habitable or inhabitable. We really truly need a person that is dedicated and has been trained to do that and can say it is contaminated or not contaminated. Solely relying on the county to come and do these things takes forever for them to get them to come down here. We have some homes here that really need to come down. What I am trying to say is should we upon someone for this position in town it should be someone trained. That is what I am trying to say we need someone here in town. I don't think picking someone just to do it is not also the right thing to do. Mr. Jenkins, town attorney, said can I make a suggestion G.S. 150.02.A the inspector can go into any home at any reasonable hour. I think also from Constitutional perspective upon reasonable notice. Commissioner Fantini said and how do you work that if they are abandoned? Mr. Jenkins said you put a piece of paper on the door saying this house will be inspected 24 or 48 hours from now whatever date and time, or if someone is there hand it to them. I can get with Crystal to work that out. Mayor Hill said what you say we need to change part of that ordinance? Mr. Jenkins said I would recommend that. Mayor Hill said do we have to have a public hearing to change the ordinance? Mr. Jenkins said have you had a public hearing on the proposed ordinance? Mayor Hill said that is the ordinance that we have now, but we had a public hearing back years ago. Mrs. Heath said so would you have to have a public hearing to change the ordinance? Mr. Jenkins said I think you would. Mayor Hill said talking about ordinances we have another issue taking care of part of the problem about the compost pile in town. While we

are working on that have an ordinance for that so we won't have that problem again. Can you draw up an ordinance for that? Mr. Jenkins said it would need to be in the nuisance section, but I will get up with you. I don't think we can outlaw compost piles. Mayor Hill said but can we do size? Mr. Jenkins said size yeah. Like these composters that have crank on them and you can roll them are not going to be a nuisance to everybody. A compost pile that is wire fence that is different. Mayor Hill said we will work on that and have it ready for the next meeting. I need a motion to have a public hearing at 6:50 and 6:55 at our next meeting which will be January 11<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Fantini I make a motion to have a public hearing at 6:50 PM and 6:55 PM on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Murphy said I second the motion. Mayor Hill said any discussion, all in favor say "aye", motion carried unanimously. Mayor Hill said anything else on ordinances? Mr. Jenkins said before Mrs. Carol, former Mayor, passed away she was getting the ordinances straightened out ready to go to the printer. Bottom line they are still in binders with paper clips, I would recommend maybe in the spring start looking at companies that can put it together for us and print them out. Mrs. Heath said in order to have a public hearing, I believe, you have to give 30 days' notice so it would have to be February. Mayor Hill said okay so it would be February 8<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Fantini I make a motion to have a public hearing at 6:50 PM and 6:55 PM on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Murphy said I second the motion. Mayor Hill said any discussion, all in favor say "aye", motion carried unanimously.

Fire report was the next item on the agenda presented by Chief Tony Heath. Last calls since our last meeting were 8 EMS assignments, 4 vehicle accidents, 5 structure fires, and 1 fire alarm for a total of 18 calls. Mayor Hill thanked him and the fire department for everything they do.

Police report was the next item on the agenda presented by Chief Michael Hoffman. Chief Hoffman said everything has stayed the same. We have had a decrease in house calls in regards to domestic disputes. Also larcenies have decreased because our guys are hanging out more in the businesses. I would like to speak on the speed limit signs they have greatly reduced speeding throughout the town. As you are coming into town you see several brake lights to reduce the speed in front of you. The citations have also reduced as well. Other than that we are keeping the guys out on the streets patrolling. Mayor Hill thanked him and his department for their service.

Public works remarks were provided by Public Works Supervisor Timmy Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy said as far as the thinning of the spray field that has been put off until after the holidays. I've gotten a bid to remove a couple trees down here and would like to see them removed. It is in between the well house and the fire house. It is \$2,875 from Screaming Trees, one is close by the power line. Mayor Hill do we need a motion to remove those trees down? Mr. Jenkins said if it is in the budget to take them down I don't think you need one. Timmy said this is the copy of the list I made of the streets and were emailed to you, but I haven't gotten the quote yet. I've had several complaints about the beavers and I've called the State Wildlife Services for that and they finally came and assessed the problem. We had to sign a contract could cost us at much as \$1,150.00. I signed the contract because we need to get rid of them and the folks in Park Circle are complaining. We did a budget amendment way back in May 2019 for

some surveying we need done for the sewer plant to find out exactly where some points are at. We had some discrepancies with some new land owners about where they were at, but I finally received that information. According to the survey, I was correct and the new land owners were wrong. Mr. Jenkins said the older survey, if still valid, then the new survey can't overrun it. Timmy said my new survey matched our old survey. They are supposed to come the last week of December to show us exactly where each points are at, and we are going to mark them so we won't have this issue again. Everything else is in compliance. The board members and the Mayor thanked him and his department for the all the work they do.

The next item on the agenda was the attorney discussion on 702 N Kinston Boulevard. Mr. Jenkins said we need to send the owner of record of that property a bill for the work that was done. Once the bill has been sent we need to send a Claim of Lien to the Clerk of Superior Court and put it in their file as well as our the foreclosure file. I've got names of the owners of record and I'll share with Crystal so she can send it. Mayor Hill said if there was any board comments. Commissioner Murphy said I want to ask George something, do we think we can have a copy of the ordinances? Mr. Jenkins said I really believe they need to be organized first. Commissioner Murphy said there is just a lot of things I have questions about. Mr. Jenkins said I think the Commissioners, Mayor, town hall, and Clerk of Court all need a copy of the ordinances. I also think there needs to be a copy of ordinances in the District Criminal Courtroom, if Mike writes a ticket for violation of an ordinance the Judge has a copy of the ordinances there. Mayor Hill said I think sometime the League was supposed to do it they had the information, but they never finished it. Mrs. Heath said that is something I remember Mrs. Carol said that when I first started. There were no public comments, the town board meeting was adjourned.

Typed by Diana Rodriquez

Approved by Crystal Heath