March 12, 2019
7:00 p.m.

The Town of Pink Hill held its monthly board meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the town hall board room. Present for the meeting were Mayor Sykes, Commissioners Mike Hill, James Quinn and Penny Murphy, Town Attorney George Jenkins, Public Works Director Timmy Kennedy, Public Works Assistant Phillip Swinson, Police Chief Joey Thigpen, and Town Clerk Kimberly Mitchell.

Visitors present for the meeting were Al Rachide, Bill Turner, and Randy Byrd.

Mayor Sykes said I would like to call this meeting to order and I appreciate y'all coming tonight and welcome you to our March 12, 2019 board meeting and I would like to ask all of us to turn our cellphones off if we haven't done it. Mayor Sykes asked Commissioner Hill to lead everyone in 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 with regular board meeting minutes from February 12, 2019. Commissioner Hill said I make a motion to approve the agenda, any amendments, and all the minutes of the emergency meetings and the last meeting we had. Mayor Sykes said do I have a second? Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes said is there any discussion, if not, all in favor say "Aye" and the motion carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was Approve Amended Audit Contract. Mayor Sykes said Kim you tell us about #5. Kim said it is just Amanda called, well she actually stopped by and brought the audit contract. Because she has not received it back from the LGC, they have had to modify the due date so she just needed approval to change it. Mayor Sykes said okay I need a motion to approve the amended audit contract. Commissioner Hill said I make a motion to approve the amended audit contract. Mayor Sykes said do I have a second. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes said any discussion, if not, all in favor say "Aye" and the motion carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was Presentation of FY 2017-2018 Audit Report. This agenda item was skipped due to Amanda not having the audit back from the LGC so it will be the April meeting when she comes to present it.

The next item on the agenda was the Pink Hill Community Easter Egg Hunt. Mayor Sykes said Jennifer Murphy said she isn't going to be here? Kim said there is a letter in your packet. It is labeled #7. Mayor Sykes said she has done such a good job on this Easter egg hunt every year. It seems like it gets bigger and bigger. Kim said so she is asking for I think some streets and it gives you the date. Mayor Sykes said is it the same time as it was last year? Commissioner Murphy said I think last year it was April 2nd. Mayor Sykes said okay anyway it is April 20th. Commissioner Murphy said because I vividly remember slinging hot dogs twice. Mayor Sykes said and she needs all the volunteers she can get so if anybody in here wants to volunteer, raise your hand and I'll put your name down. Commissioner Hill said I make a motion to let the streets, she wants three streets blocked from Pine Street from the Methodist Church to the gym, Walnut Street in front of the Methodist Church and Macon Street in front of the gym for safety. I make a motion to close those streets for the Easter egg hunt. Commissioner Murphy said I

second that motion. Mayor Sykes said I have a motion and a second is there any discussion, if not, all in favor say "Aye" and the motion carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was Downtown Revitalization Grant. Mayor Sykes said if you remember at the last meeting I asked everybody to kind of think about this stuff and have us some plans going so we can submit it and how many of you did what I asked you to do? Commissioner Hill said well we talked about some…Mayor Sykes said there has been two or three things mentioned. I know Christmas lights, sidewalks, and the library. Commissioner Hill said the library and fixing the door and some other stuff that we had talked about. Mayor Sykes said well what I asked you to do and I know we have got some prices on Christmas lights but if you will, whatever you want done or what you think about having done, we have got $25,000 and that's all. Christmas lights are really expensive. I don't know if you know that but they are really expensive. We do need some because our wreaths have about had it. We do need some and the library we want to and it has been talked about doing a new handicap ramp and put a handicap door. I am waiting to hear back from the librarian on that. We talked about putting some computers in there so we are going to see and then I'm going to ask her what she wants the most. Mayor Sykes said but we need to think about it because I need to send the stuff in by the first of April unless I can get it delayed since we've had what we've had. Mayor Sykes said isn't that what you understood. George said yes. She said and George talked to the girl in Raleigh so we are doing what we are supposed to do with the downtown revitalizations in Pink Hill. Mayor Sykes said I am going to get Timmy and Phillip if I can get them to do it and I will be here tomorrow. I am going to help you with everything I can. I would like to get somebody that can build if y'all, I mean this is what I am saying and if you don't agree say so now, not that I wouldn't think you would. She said the ramp for the library. Timmy said you need some prices. Mayor Sykes replied yes and we need them soon. Timmy said you are going to tear off everything that is there? Mayor Sykes replied yes. Timmy said start fresh? Mayor Sykes said right. I mean I noticed today Phillip and I rode around today and I noticed that one of the posts right up to the steps is just, it looks like it is about to break in two. She said but that really needs to be done. I mean to me that is one of the first priorities. Commissioner Hill said are we talking about putting in a door where they can mash the button and it opens the door or just…Mayor Sykes said well that is what I want to talk to Melanie about. If we do this…if we agree to do this I want to know what kind she would rather have.

Kim said you need to bring that to their attention that email we got this afternoon. Mayor Sykes said okay and also we talked about doing some sidewalks and Kim gave me this a while ago. It is in your packet. It is #8 about this lady from Eric Sparrow Road came to Pink Hill and said our parking lot and curb for the businesses were not safe for the disabled or people friendly. I've had a couple of problems in the past. Mayor Sykes said I think it is talking about the sidewalk there mostly in front of Realo. I know there have been problems there before and that's something else that could be fixed. Commissioner Hill said I mean sidewalks shouldn't we take that out of Powell Fund? Mayor Sykes said yes that could come out of Powell Fund and that is what we were discussing a while ago but I don't know how much of the sidewalk needs doing or would you do the whole sidewalk. What do y'all think? What do you think Timmy? Commissioner Hill said is what she is really talking about a handicap ramp in front of Realo is that what we need? Timmy said we have got a ramp there. Commissioner Hill said you have got a ramp there? Mayor Sykes said I think maybe the cement is taller. Kim stated she said she lifted

herself up and fell on my knee and side and only injured my big toe. It feels broke but she…Kim said so she is saying I think where the sidewalk and the asphalt and isn't that what you were saying Timmy needed repaving or resurfacing was the actual parking area. Timmy said because there is drains coming off, you are not going to be able to build it up very much because then you would be covering up the drainage pipes there coming off the top of the building unless you reroute that type stuff. Mayor Sykes said you can't reroute that? Timmy said it is in the sidewalks in the cement. Mayor Sykes said that's right. Timmy said so you can't. Mayor Sykes said well what would take care of the problem? Timmy said we would have to talk about it and look at it. I just know it is very lumpy and it has been patched over a few times. Mayor Sykes said was it the sidewalk itself do you know or was it…Timmy said it is because of the step I think is what she said. Mayor Sykes said is it the step from the pavement on the sidewalk is that what she is talking about? Timmy replied yes. Kim said that is what it sounded like. Mayor Sykes said okay. Commissioner Hill said my thing is if there is a handicap ramp there, why didn't she use it? Mayor Sykes said is it marked if it isn't, I mean I know it is probably marked but it really needs to be marked big. Timmy said it is marked. Mayor Sykes said it is? Timmy said there is two handicap spaces the way I remember it. Mayor Sykes said okay well I haven't noticed it but we need to make sure that handicap ramp is real visible. I mean if you say it is, then I know it is. Do we need to put handrails up? Phillip said you can't do that in a parking lot. Mayor Sykes said okay. Well anyway so I mean we need to know something. Commissioner Quinn said is that where you would cut the curb and maybe slope it down so it would be a step. Mayor Sykes said I don't know. Phillip said it is a possibility. Timmy said it is serving as a tire stop right now too so if you slope it, then probably somebody may run into the building. Commissioner Quinn said right. Timmy said I am just saying.

Kim said you have got to contact the lady to find out the date too of when it has got to be sent in. Mayor Sykes said yes I have tried to call her a couple of times and she hadn't called me back but I will talk to somebody tomorrow but our information says April 1st. She said but there is two or three different dates in there and it is kind of confusing as to what but I am going to call tomorrow and find out again I am going to try. Mayor Sykes said but what do y'all think. I mean is the library a go? Is the Christmas lights? Commissioner Hill said the stuff for the library like we talked about doing the handicap ramp and the door a couple of computers would be great because that library is used a lot. Mayor Sykes said it is yes. Commissioner Hill said because if you look at some of the other stuff she was talking about like painting. Mayor Sykes said well I would think that the big stuff like the computers and the ramp and all, I mean they can paint or get whoever does that. We will try to get some prices if y'all can tomorrow one of you or somebody can get some prices tomorrow. Timmy said for asphalt work too? Mayor Sykes replied yes. Who do we use? Timmy said for asphalt? Mayor Sykes said yes. Timmy said I'm going to call Onslow Paving and Garris. Mayor Sykes said now are you talking about the whole place there, the whole block there from the old R-Mart down to…Timmy said that is what I think needs to be done. That is the only thing on main street that hasn't been done in the last few years. Mayor Sykes said I mean I saw that, I mean we looked at that today and you want to fill up where those holes come out, I mean where the drainage is. Commissioner Hill said that is what he is talking about. Timmy said you can't make it thick or you can't build it up because you would cover up that drainage. Mayor Sykes said well get some prices on that. Commissioner Quinn said and the library. Mayor Sykes said the library and we got the Christmas lights price on those. Commissioner Murphy said I will call Daniel one more time

about the tree. Mayor Sykes said I will remind you tonight before you leave because I will be here tomorrow. I am coming tomorrow. Mayor Sykes said so is everybody in agreement that that is what we are going to look to do. All board members said yes. Mayor Sykes said okay and I mean we can't go over $25,000 and we'll let y'all know what the price is on everything. Commissioner Hill said okay. Mayor Sykes said I mean it has got to be done. Commissioner Quinn said that would be one block done. Mayor Sykes said yes, I mean I think with these three things I think you are going to spend your money. Commissioner Hill said I mean if we have to call a special meeting. Mayor Sykes said yes we can do that so we will have time to advertise it. Do I need a motion for that George? George replied yes. Mayor Sykes said okay I need a motion for that. Commissioner Hill said I make a motion to get prices on paving from R-Mart down to Realo to the bank driveway and to do handicap ramp and door at the library and a couple of computers and then if we've got any left, buy some Christmas lights. Mayor Sykes said okay do I have a second on that motion. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes said is there any discussion? Do y'all want to add or take away from anything? Commissioner Quinn said it sounds pretty good. Mayor Sykes said okay thank you motion carried. She said we will get on this tomorrow.

The next item on the agenda was NCRWA Conference May 13-16. Commissioner Hill asked Timmy if he was going to go. Timmy said I know Alex has already said that he did not want to go and you hadn't said. I haven't seen what classes are going to be held. Kim said we have not received a packet from them yet. Timmy said I know we usually have certification classes and Phillip needs B-Distribution. If so, I would like to see him go but I don't know that he could be gone that long. He's going to have go up there and stay four days starting Sunday night. Commissioner Hill said no it doesn't start until Monday at lunchtime. Timmy said okay. Kim said so the class isn't starting at 8 o'clock on Monday? Commissioner Hill said they are going to start at 12. Kim said oh okay. Timmy said I thought they started at 8 o'clock. Commissioner Hill said I think that is right but I will make sure. Timmy said okay. Commissioner Hill said but I am pretty sure that is right. Mayor Sykes said so do you want to wait and check that out and see who is going. Timmy said at least one is going. Commissioner Hill said I make a motion that possibly two going to the water conference. Mayor Sykes said okay I have a motion do I have a second. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes said okay is there any discussion, if not, all in favor of the motion signify by saying "Aye" and the motion carried unanimously.

The Fire Department Report was next on the agenda. Fire Chief Heath said our call report since last month's town board meeting is 16 EMS assignments, 2 vehicle accidents, 2 structure fires, 1 electrical fire, 1 fire alarm, 2 brush fires, and 1 service assignment for a total of 25 calls since the last meeting.

Fire Chief Heath said we did receive approval on the Forestry Grant that we applied for. That information was approved we submitted to purchase 15 pagers for the department. Those have been purchased and they were delivered today. So as soon as we get all the information so we can get them a check written to get all the documentation back to them. We will receive half of our money back on that back into our account. Mayor Sykes said and Tony I say it every time but I mean it we just appreciate y'all so much what you do. Fire Chief Heath said thank you ma'am. Mayor Sykes said you are just great. Thank you. Commissioner Quinn said how many

members do you have now? Fire Chief Heath replied 45. Mayor Sykes said and they are all pretty good and active? Fire Chief Heath said we have got a good group of men and women right now. Mayor Sykes said that is what I have heard. That is good. Fire Chief Heath said we got dispatched to a structure fire Saturday night and we were not the first duty department but we were the third duty department because it was mutual aid with somebody else. We had the first two engines there. We had the fire spritzed and maintained within the first five minutes of arrival. Mayor Sykes said thank you. Commissioner Hill asked how many went. Fire Chief Heath said Sarecta and Beulaville and I can't say enough good things about our guys. They do a great job. Mayor Sykes said well I certainly have been hearing, I never heard any bad things but I don't know why lately it has been more so. Just maybe it has been where I've been and who I've seen but they appreciate you. Fire Chief Heath said they train hard and when it is time to call and serve, they do an outstanding job.

The next item on the agenda was the Police Department Report. Police Chief Thigpen said since the last meeting on February 12, 2019 we have had 5 accidents, 3 alarms, 2 animal complaints, 1 arrest, 1 assault, 3 assist Duplin County Sheriff's Office, 2 assist Highway Patrol, 3 assist Lenoir County EMS, 11 assist Lenoir County Sheriff's Office, 2 assist motorist, 4 assist Pink Hill Fire Department, 1 assist Probation and Parole, 1 breaking and entering of a residence, 2 citations, 8 disturbances, 1 domestic, 1 fraud, 1 intoxicated person, 1 involuntary commitment, 1 larceny, 10 suspicious persons, 8 suspicious vehicles, 1 trespassing, and 1 vehicle unlock for a total of 74 calls. Commissioner Quinn said you've been busy. Police Chief Thigpen said everything else is good. Mayor Sykes and the board thank him.

The next item on the agenda was Water/Sewer Report. Timmy said over the next four to five weeks we will be doing our annual burnout which is we're switching over our disinfection in our water system to just chlorine. So I will be putting a bunch of water on the ground flushing which that is what you are supposed to do to get a good burnout to get everything flushed through. So if it smells like bleach or chlorine, that's why.

Timmy said on our zoning issue that I brought up last meeting, I did contact Wayland Humphrey and he said it wouldn't be a really big ordeal. He said it could be done by zoning overlay. I haven't had time to go to his office and get it all plotted out on a map so that we will be able to bring it back to the board to get you know to make sure that y'all are okay with what he is proposing and then we will have to advertise it and all sort of stuff like that. I will bring more about that as time passes.

Timmy said on our notice of violation the Wooten Company has sent in a response to the state on our behalf with my approval and it pretty much requested to the state that we continue monitoring our wells as normal. He said because that has only been one hit as far as being high level or at any level actually for the ammonia. I haven't had a response back from DEQ yet. I have been expecting something in the mail any time but it has been about five work days anyway. Timmy said and that is all I have. Mayor Sykes said and thank you guys.

Commissioner Hill said do you kind of prove that the water flow comes that way. Timmy said I can't remember exactly how it's written. I would be glad if I need to bring it to a meeting I will. Commissioner Hill said I will come down there one day and see it. Timmy said okay.

Commissioner Hill said okay I just want to look at it. Timmy said I didn't see the need to bring that whole document because it is about six pages. He said waterfront wells was up gradient and one was down. The down gradient one which is over by the lagoon, that is the one that he is recommending we continue just monitoring and matter of fact we just monitored it this week. It was last Wednesday for the next round and actually we have had two rounds counting the one we just did and we will just have to wait and see. Commissioner Hill said okay. Timmy said how the results come back. Commissioner Hill said when were they hit. Timmy said November, no that's not right. It was July of 2018. Commissioner Hill said and you have took another one since. Timmy said I took November's and it came back nothing and before that it was nothing also. The nitrates on the up gradient one which was Mercury 1/7. They are pretty much putting that off on a field that is very close to it and just being so close. They are tending that field and we can't control that. Timmy said that is all I had. Mayor Sykes said thank you and thank y'all too. The board thanked him too.

The next item on the agenda was Swearing in of New Town Clerk Crystal Heath. Mayor Sykes asked to do this at the end of meeting.

The next item on the agenda was Budget Amendments if needed. Kim said we have got a budget amendment. She said Category A. Project for FEMA which was Carol Drive. We just had that project completed and we have got the paperwork turned in to FEMA. We are supposed to…FEMA is going to pay for that correct Timmy? So we are going to do a budget amendment so we can pay the gentleman and then we will get the money back from FEMA. Kim said so it is in your book. Mayor Sykes said well Kim I have to say and I will say it now before you leave but you and Timmy and Phillip and all of you all this FEMA stuff. I don't know if any of you have ever worked with it but it's a mess and they have worked hard and did a good job and I appreciate it. We all appreciate it so thank you. Mayor Sykes said yes it has changed too I think so much from the time before to this time and thank you all for your hard work. Kim said so we need a motion. Commissioner Hill said I make a motion to amend the budget for $3,311.65 to take care of the project on Carol Drive. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Remarks by Town Attorney was next on the agenda. George said I will be bringing you an affidavit signed saying that Alejandro and Osorio owe property taxes and I calculate, well the tax office says right now it is $2,261.09. He said and I calculate that by the time you sign the affidavit and I file the lawsuit it will be $2,270.51 and my math might be off a dollar or so.

The next item on the agenda was Comments by the Board. Commissioner Hill said Kim thank you for the job you've done. I was here when you were hired so we gave you a chance and you did a good job. Kim said thank you I have thoroughly enjoyed it. Commissioner Hill told Crystal you have got some big shoes to fill but I think you can do it. Crystal said thank you. Mayor Sykes said if we didn't think you could, you would have never gotten the chance. Crystal said thank you so much for having faith in me. Mayor Sykes said Kim I can't say any more but thank you for being a good town clerk, a good friend, a good person, and just everything. Thank you. Mayor Sykes said I would like to ask the audience if you would like to say anything. You are welcome to. Bill if you would like to say something. Bill said yes ma'am you don't know what you've got until you lose it and Kim I want to thank you as a citizen of Pink Hill for what

you've done for Pink Hill. You will truly be missed. Crystal I want to welcome you to Pink Hill. Kim and Crystal said thank you. Kim said I am going to miss all of y'all. Mayor Sykes said the thing about it is Crystal has worked with the water system in Duplin County which was a big plus. I mean that is what we needed and she just kind of fell into our hands and pocket. Kim mentioned it and to me there was no if, and's, or but's about it because I knew she could do the job and she is familiar with the water system and the billing part and it just couldn't have been a better match. Commissioner Hill said it is like I told Crystal I knew who she worked for in Duplin County and she is about as tough as there is as far as for her finance. She runs a tight ship over there and if she could work for her, then she can do a good job for the town. Mayor Sykes said and we appreciate it and thank all of y'all for coming and I know you will support her. She said and if there is anything that you need to tell her or ask her to do or not to do, then tell her. I think she is a good fit for the job and I really do. Kim said I do too.

The next item on the agenda was Public Comment Period if needed. There were no public comments at this time.

The next item on the agenda was Closed Session if needed. Mayor Sykes said we need to go into closed session a little while. We have got a little issue we need to talk about and Joey has asked for us to go into closed session. Kim said you need to let everybody know that they can come back after the closes session is over. Mayor Sykes said but we are going into closed session right now. Commissioner Hill said I make a motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Murphy 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 said I have a do's to do and I'm loving it since I've got to do it that it's for Crystal. I think I can do it. Kim is leaving us. Tonight will be her last night with the town board but she has been so good to come back down here evenings, Saturday's, Sunday's, and she will continue to do so as long as she can and as long as she is needed but I don't know that we could have picked a better one to take her place. Well you can't ever be replaced but you can you know and Crystal Heath is our new town clerk and I'm getting ready to swear her in if you will come forward. Mayor Sykes asked Crystal to put her left hand on the Bible and raise her right hand. Mayor Sykes then swore Crystal Heath in as the Town Clerk of Pink Hill. She said her official first day with be March 25th. Mayor Sykes said so I want all of you to welcome her and support her because she is going to do a good job.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.