

February 21, 2017  
7:00 P.M.

The Town of Pink Hill held its monthly board meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. (rescheduled from February 14, 2017) in the town hall board room. Present for the meeting were Mayor Carol Sykes, Commissioners Mike Hill and James Quinn, Town Attorney George Jenkins, Public Works Director Timmy Kennedy, Public Works Assistant Alex Gardner, Chief Joey Thigpen, and Town Clerk Kimberly Mitchell.

Visitors present at the meeting were Richard Moore (P.E. with McDavid Associates, Inc.), Mike Aldridge (Duplin County Manager), Joe McKenney with McDavid Associates, Inc., the Honorable Judge Les Turner, Penny Murphy, Tony Heath, Butch Howard, Kent Winrich, Alan Fitzpatrick, Al Rachide, and Susan Myers.

Mayor Sykes called the meeting to order and requested for all cell phones to be turned off please. Mayor Sykes then welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Commissioner Hill to lead everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the agenda with amendment (7a) Letter of Intent to Fund Water Asset Inventory & Assessment Grant. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the consent agenda with special meeting minutes and regular board meeting minutes from January 10, 2017. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was appointing a new Commissioner for vacant seat. Mayor Sykes stated that we have a special thing to do tonight. She said the regulars know that we have been missing a town commissioner for a right good while. We have waited for somebody to come forward and nobody has until now. Mayor Sykes said she is glad that they have someone who lives in Pink Hill, knows Pink Hill, a taxpayer in Pink Hill, and so if Penny Murphy is elected then we will swear her in. Commissioner Hill made a motion to elect Penny Murphy to fill Debra Grady's vacant seat on the town board. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mayor Sykes said all in favor say "Aye" and all opposed say "Nay". Everyone responded by saying "Aye".

The next item on the agenda was the swearing in the new Commissioner. Mayor Sykes asked Penny Murphy to come forward. The Honorable Judge Les Turner administered the Oath of Commissioner to Penny Murphy. Congratulations was given to Penny Murphy after the swearing in. Mayor Sykes thanked Judge Turner for coming and doing this.

The next item on the agenda was letter of intent to fund Water Asset Inventory & Assessment Grant. Kim told the board that everyone should have a copy of the letter. She stated that we applied for this grant a while back and David Tuten and Mr. Stroud came to one of our meetings and informed us that we did not get approved for it to begin with but now we have been approved. Kim said that David called this afternoon and said that the board needs to make a motion if you are going to accept the funding for the water asset inventory & assessment grant. Commissioner Hill asked if we had to match the 6.5 percent. Kim said if you remember when they came back in August of last year, he said that the matching part would go toward the

administration part of us doing the application and getting the information. She said she and Timmy will have to get the information together so she doesn't think they will have to pay. Mayor Sykes asked Commissioner Hill to explain to Penny and the others what this consisted of. Commissioner Hill made a motion to accept the grant. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was Kent Winrich and Alan Fitzpatrick to discuss renting space on water tank for Broadband in Pink Hill. Mayor Sykes said she can tell you right now and we can discuss it but she wants Kent to talk to our person who has the contract on the tank and make sure that we can do that if we decide to. She said because she can't read any clause in the contract that says that we can't but she wants to be sure and he wants to talk to his boss about it. Mayor Sykes said that Kim is going to email him y'all's telephone number and Al's telephone number and email address. She said that she talked to Scotty today and he is going to email you all what we talked about today. Mayor Sykes said that is the bottom line tonight. She said we can't approve or disapprove anything because we still want to make sure that we are both okay with doing it. Mayor Sykes stated she thinks we are but she just wants him to be aware of it and to be sure that we can do it.

Mayor Sykes asked if Butch Howard could be allowed to speak on behalf of the broadband and she wants him to say what he said tonight at Susan's house. Butch Howard said basically his comment was in the county we are in a rural area and it is terribly poor as far as internet service and a lot of other services but that being one. He said it is terribly important to him. Mr. Howard said his daughter is grown and has graduated but she is back home to work with him on the farm but we are lacking in internet in every way. He said it was brought up in the meeting tonight that the schools are providing internet at school and they are providing iPad's and different stuff to use but there is no service as soon as they leave school in a lot of the areas. Mr. Howard said he thinks it is a tremendous opportunity for the Town of Pink Hill to be involved even though you have got good internet inside the town but when you get outside the city limits it evaporates. He said he thinks it is a good opportunity to help the county and we are bordering here with Duplin County and it is just 5 miles to the Jones County line on Watering Pond Road, so he thinks it would be a great opportunity for Pink Hill to participate to the fullest to help the outlying areas with internet and other things as they come along. He said from the farm side they have got all the equipment to do the work with but just no service, it is a snail's pace. Mr. Howard said they have got a network set up with the John Deere Company that he is a part of and we have got 30 towers scattered through the area that we do guidance and all off of. He said they can do the guidance but when they get down to any of the field work and you are recording information from the field, it is so much information that they cannot do anything with it here. Mr. Howard said they are actually hiring people out of state to do the data and all because we can't do anything with our internet. We are putting it on flash drives and stuff and it is just terrible.

Kent Winrich showed the board a diagram showing water tanks with antennas. He said as you can really see it doesn't stick out. It is pretty innocuous really. Mr. Winrich showed on the diagram how the antennas are mounted. He said there is a railing on your water tower and it is angle iron on your water tower and other towers are tubular. So the angle iron we would actually bolt a U bolt through the angle iron for this pipe to hole the antennas onto that. He said there is

no wind load to speak of and there is no weight load because these are very light antennas. Mr. Winrich said they would put them around the circumference of the tower so that we could get coverage out to certain areas. We would also add a little dish to reach out to other water towers to expand coverage out into other areas. He said they just thought they would give the board some examples of what it looks like on the water tower so that you can see that it really isn't going to make it ugly or anything like that, it is just really going to fit in. You have seen this everywhere around the nation anyways. This is happening all over the nation right now.

Commissioner Hill asked how many were they going to put on the tank and were they just going to utilize the tower uptown or use the one out of town too. Mr. Winrich said presently they are looking at is doing a proof of concept which would be putting one antenna up and then trying a couple of people to see how well it works to kind of prove what our concept is to the town. Susan said we would not need the other water towers, they are not really tall enough. We would only need the Pink Hill water tower and then we would rent off of other water towers and grain bins around and we are looking at the 18 mile radius around Pink Hill. Mr. Winrich said which would involve other water towers. He said one other thing that they will be looking for is at the base of the water tower an area to put a small metal box for networking equipment and then we would need to work with the power supply that is already there. He said it is a 2 x 3 box and it would be secure in metal. There are other boxes at the base of the water tower already. He said if you go look they are all stainless steel and we would be looking at something like that just to hold our networking equipment. Timmy asked if that would need to have any heat or anything like that. Mr. Winrich replied any power? Mr. Winrich said power up to the antennae on top of the tower. Timmy replied and that is all? Mr. Winrich said they would run a CAT5 cable/networking cable from that box up one of the tower legs into the antennas. He said power is provided and it is low voltage power like 24 volts through the Ethernet cable up to the antennas. Mayor Sykes asked what would be the cost of that. He stated there wouldn't be any cost but we would look to be able to find a spot that we could put our equipment in. Mayor Sykes said she thinks the boards main concern is as well as well as yours is that we have every "I" dotted and every "T" crossed, liability, or whatever and that is the main thing. She said they want Scotty and them to look at what he said because he is in the water tank business and she would feel better and she thinks they would too. Mayor Sykes said they would email to them what Scotty said and he will get back with them. She told them that they appreciated what they are doing. Mayor Sykes told Susan and Al that they have worked hard on this and she thinks it is going to be a go. Susan said they didn't start out trying to do this, we started out trying to build a tech community and we found out from Butch, John, other farmers, and parents how much the need was. Mayor Sykes said she didn't think about the children having their iPad's at school and coming home and not having internet. She said it is going to happen whether we do it or not, it is going to happen she thinks. Mayor Sykes said the only thing the board is doing is allowing them to use our water tank to do it and that is our only dog in this fight. Mr. Winrich said we have a fantastic think tank here in town that every other city should model after, so we are very fortunate to have people that are being very proactive because that is not happening everywhere. Mayor Sykes stated that they appreciated them too. George said that he would draft a contract up for the board to consider and we will talk before that. Mayor Sykes said she wants them to talk with Scotty and the guys here before any contracts are drawn up. She said we need to know what we are talking about because we can either do it or not do it and if we don't do it, then somebody will and that is her opinion. Mayor Sykes thanked them all for coming.

The next item on the agenda is Susan Myers – Rose Festival. Susan said they are going to try something different this year and we are not going to close off Broadway at all. She said they are going to close from Central Avenue where R-Mart is and we are going to have to talk about how many more barrier things they are going to need. She said they are going to have a dance stage for floor dancing that we would normally have on Broadway. Susan said the rest of it will be just like it has been before. She said she thinks that will tighten it and hopefully they will have enough room. We won't encroach on the fire department. It will all be up and down there and hopefully that will alleviate any problems or concerns that people have that their business is closed. The only business that's going to be affected is Pink Hill Pharmacy and we are the lead sponsor. She said she thinks that will make it simpler. Susan said hopefully we want have problems with the crowds. She said they will have one stage down here at the media center as the main stage. Mayor Sykes asked was that going to be on this side or the other side. Susan replied that it will be the same as last year but we are not going on Broadway at all and that will alleviate that problem. Susan said she needs the board's approval for the street closing for Central Avenue and then for half of Walnut and College to the tennis courts on May 20, 2017. Susan said they are having Bryan Mayer and Chris Cavanaugh back this year. We are have two lead singers. We are going to have the magicians back. She said they are going to have a brand new kid's zone thing, jumpy thing, and this will be free and I have got to get some more people to sponsor. The Ruritan Club is sponsoring one. Susan said that Dean Rouse is paying for Bryan Mayer. We are going to have a guy walking around with balloons and she is not sure who is going to sponsor that but he will walk around and make balloon animals for the kids and that will be free. Susan said hopefully it is going to be smoother and better and not going to rain. Commissioner Hill made a motion to close Central Avenue, College Street to end of tennis courts, Walnut Street up to Hwy. 241 and if needed close part of Walnut Street to Pine Street. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The B.F. Grady School Sewer District Interlocal Agreement with Richard B. Moore, P.E. with McDavid Associates, Inc. and Mike Aldridge, Duplin County Manager was next on the agenda. George stated that he had provided everyone with the interlocal agreement changes that McDavid Associates suggested and with the two 4" valves at the scrubber site. He said he hasn't marked the changes that the county had made. George asked Mike Aldridge if he would read the paragraphs that start "Whereas" and it is the first one that says "set expansion update and restoration" from there through paragraph that ends "division of water infrastructure". He stated those on the ones that have the changes. George asked Mike if that looked okay to him and Mike replied yes. George said paragraph #1 which is on the third page includes the scrubber and the ventilation system. Mike asked just out of curiosity what are those two 4" check valves proposed to be installed on. Timmy said the existing lines that are real close to the manhole. He said that was an issue that was brought before us at the last board meeting. Timmy said the property owners concern is right at where that manhole is where they would be dumping into that it would overflow into his yard. He said this is the only thing that he could come up with to help prevent that from happening if there was a problem. Timmy said he knows that typically is the law amount with new installation to put a check valve on every service line and that line has been there for a long time. Mike asked if it was a sewer service and Timmy replied yes sir. He said it is only a 4" check valve and it is a pretty simple deal. Mike asked George if he clarified in the agreement that the two 4" check valves are on existing sewer service lines. George said

yes if they tell him to. Commissioner Hill said he has looked this thing over the first, the second, the third, and now the fourth time and most of it is still the same except for last month about the scrubbers and that is the only difference in it now. He said it looks fine to him with the changes. George said that the town commission needs to propose a motion that we offer this contract to Duplin County and if that passes, then he will clean up that part of it and mail it to Mike's office and then they take it to their County Commissioner's Office. Commissioner Hill made a motion to propose a contract to Duplin County for the wastewater for B.F. Grady School. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. George explained to Commissioner Murphy what this agreement was about. Commissioner Hill also explained to Commissioner Murphy why the town is accepting the B.F. Grady Sewer District and that we already have the Deep Run Sewer District. George said he would make that one change and email it tomorrow afternoon to them and a copy to Kim. Mayor Sykes asked for all in favor to say "Aye" and everyone replied "Aye". Mayor Sykes thanked them for coming.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss further action to be taken at 101 E. Broadway Street. Mayor Sykes said that we did what we said we were going to do and haven't heard anything so she needs a motion for us to proceed further with foreclosure. Mayor Sykes asked George if that was what they needed to do and was that the next step. George replied that or a lawsuit against him, either one, it is foreclosing on the lien. Mayor Sykes said when we do this since the county collects our taxes, do we not need to let them do this for us. George said you can let them do it or he can do it. He said he could talk with Darryl about it. Mayor Sykes said what she is saying since we pay them to collect our taxes and she is thinking this might be included in that payment. She said but if you do it, we are going to have to pay you extra so then she would suggest that we go with the county. Mayor Sykes explained to Commissioner Murphy that we have been trying to buy the old H.J. Chevrolet Building property from Alejandro who owns it. We made him offer at the last meeting and he didn't comply. Mayor Sykes said we will have to foreclose on it. She said that he owes the town around \$30,000. Mayor Sykes said she is adamant that we go forward with it just as soon as possible and either get it off the agenda or keep it on there to make sure that we get the property. George said we won't get the building or the property, it will be sold at the court house steps and we can bid on it. Mayor Sykes said she wants somebody to buy it and fix the place up. Commissioner Hill made a motion to foreclose on 101 E. Broadway Street and have the county to handle it. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mayor Sykes asked for all in favor to say "Aye" and everyone replied "Aye".

The next item on the agenda was 2016 unpaid real estate taxes report from Lenoir County. Mayor Sykes said we used to do our own tax collecting here and for some years now we have let the county do it and they charge us to do it. She said so that is why she said if they are going to charge us to collect taxes, then they should do it and that is her opinion. Kim said everyone should have a copy from the county and they have to give it to us every February. She said this is the 2016 unpaid liens on real property \$15,852.62 and the county is going to advertise the tax liens in the newspaper on March 29, 2017.

Police Updates was next on the agenda. Chief Thigpen said it has been a while because he has missed a couple of meetings. He said his report is from October 11, 2016 through February 20, 2017 and they have had a total of 22 documented incidents, 4 arrests, 6 accidents, issued 16 citations with a total of 18 charges, and issued 20 warning citations. Chief Thigpen said as you

know we had a murder back in November so some of our citations are a little low because he went to Alabama twice. He said he had to go one time when they arrested the two that committed the murder and then he had to go back to get the truck that was used in the murder. Mayor Sykes asked if anything had happened with the truck. Chief Thigpen said no ma'am, it is in the bay and it could be a couple of years before that case ever goes to trial. He said they are still working on the DA's file and still have a bunch of stuff. Chief Thigpen said that is what he has been working on trying to get it all sorted out and we have got search warrants to put in it, video, and just a bunch of stuff. He said the county helped them and provided the bus for lights and was a real big help to us.

Chief Thigpen stated they had a break-in right before Christmas at Ms. Susan's pharmacy. He said they have been working on that and have actually had another one like that a few days after that in Jones County at the Realo with the same MO, same thing. He said so they think it is a group that was specifically targeting pharmacies because you could tell in the video that they came prepared. It is like they knew the outline of that pharmacy and what to do. They were in and out in like 50 seconds. They were covered up. He said they shared the video with Greene County and Jones County but have not developed any leads. Chief Thigpen said he has put the vehicle on Facebook on his page and has gotten a few hits off of it and the ones he got hits off of were local, but did not have this type sunroof that this one had. He said he contacted Jeep to help determine ones with sunroof. Chief Thigpen said they have had a couple of other pretty major things that he would rather just not bring up that they are still working on. He said they have made a couple of arrest in that.

Chief Thigpen said the cars are doing fine and has not had any major issues with them. He asked the board if they have had any complaints that need to be addressed. Mayor Sykes and the board replied no. Chief Thigpen said they try to do the best they can and he encourages anybody if they have anything to call us or call it in so we can check on it and be aware of it. Mayor Sykes and the board thanked Chief Thigpen.

The next item on the agenda was Fire Department Report. Fire Chief Heath said as of January they have had 10 EMS assignments, 7 structure fires, 2 explosions, 1 service call, 2 fire alarms, 3 vehicle accidents, and 1 vehicle fire for a total of 25 calls just for January. He said as of today which is the 21<sup>st</sup> of February they have had 11 EMS assignments, 3 brush fires, 5 structure fires, and 1 traffic accident. Fire Chief Heath said in a month and 3 weeks they have had 45 calls. He said they have been busy but the guys have been real good with working.

Fire Chief Heath said that they are applying for the 50/50 grant again this year. Mayor Sykes asked if they had submitted it yet and he replied no. Mayor Sykes told Fire Chief Heath that they appreciate the work that the fire department does.

The next item on the agenda was Water/Sewer Report. Timmy said he really doesn't have that much to bring up. He said they have some large patches in the asphalt and he has talked with Kim and there is some money that is allotted for some paving but he hasn't made any phone calls. Timmy said if there is a street or anything that the board knows about that he needs to get done also, then he is just going to do patches. Mayor Sykes said she has noticed one on Central Avenue that she has already mentioned before. Timmy said that is one of the large patches that

he is going to get done. Mayor Sykes asked Timmy if the DOT, and she knows that we would have to pay them, would come in and pave our roads. She said we would pay them out of our Powell Fund or it would come out of our Powell Fund because wouldn't they be cheaper. Timmy said that would be a question he would have to ask DOT because that would be like them doing retail work and don't know if they would do that or not. Mayor Sykes told Timmy to just ask anyway and see. Kim asked Timmy if the RB Group has come yet. Timmy replied no. He said he has made contact with them and made contact with the Core of Engineers and met with Mr. Gary Beacher. Timmy said he has to fill out a little paperwork and send it in to him just for their okay. Kim said she was just wondering and asked would some of that be Powell Fund. Timmy said he would think all of it would be because it is all drainage pipe and the highway would have to be cut into. Kim asked how much was that bid. Timmy replied more than \$40,000. Kim said they would have to do a budget amendment.

Timmy said he has one question. He said the little cut through driveway that goes in between the old post office, Las Estrellitas, and the BP Station has tile across the driveway there. Timmy said they have always patched it and there is a catch basin in the middle of it. He asked if that was ours to repair because there is a sink hole there now. Commissioner Hill said as far as the ditch and the tile it is ours but the other part of the road is not ours. Timmy said so I don't have to worry about the road but probably the ditch and the tile I need to go ahead and repair. Commissioner Hill replied yes.

The next item on the agenda was Budget Amendments if needed. Kim said there were no budget amendments but just transfers and there is a list of them. She said these are the ones she has done since the last meeting.

Remarks by Town Attorney was next on the agenda. There were no comments at this time.

The next item on the agenda was Comments by the Board. Commissioner Hill said that Alex had talked to him the other day about people blowing their grass and leaves out into the street. He said he gave Alex an ordinance today that he got for him and Timmy to look at and we may bring it to the board later. Commissioner Hill said it not only looks ugly but it also stops up our storm drains, so we may look at stopping it somehow.

Mayor Sykes said there was a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Lenoir County Emergency Services Office for the purpose of talking about Hurricane Matthew Resilient Redevelopment Planning for Lenoir County to include the municipalities. She said they have attached a brochure. Mayor Sykes said if anybody can go that would be great. She stated she might try to go just to see what it is all about. Kim said the community meeting is Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting at 9:00 a.m. is for the board members.

Kim said the other handout was where Will Brooks is wanting the board members to contact our Representative John Bell and Senator Pate and make them aware of this. She said she had received that today.

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. There was no need for a closed session at this time.

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