

January 8, 2019
7:00 p.m.

The Town of Pink Hill held its monthly board meeting on Tuesday, January 8, 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, Police Chief Joey Thigpen, and Town Clerk Kimberly Mitchell.

Visitors present for the meeting were Carl Scharfe with the Wooten Company and Daniel White.

Mayor Sykes said I would like to call this meeting to order and I welcome everyone here tonight for our January 8, 2019 meeting. 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 December 11, 2018. Commissioner Hill said I make a motion to approve the agenda, any amendments, and the consent agenda. 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 Engineering Services Contract The Wooten Company – Wastewater Treatment Plant NOV Letter Response – Carl Scharfe. Mayor Sykes asked for Carl to come and speak. Carl said what I will do is I will just kind of talk from this map and maybe this is all known to you and old hat or whatever, but I just thought I'd put it out here. So what we have here is you know your wastewater plant is up here. Your wastewater comes into this pond and it is treated and Timmy operates that. And then from there it goes to these spray fields which are kind of these green areas right here with the trees and such. So he will periodically spray these and he rotates that around. He said and then these wells which are these pins, those are the wells he monitors. These have been in since the 90's you know mid 90's whatever. Commissioner Hill spoke up and said 1995. Carl said 1995 and so going forward then recently you got the NOV, Notice of Violation on your permit, and it was for wells MW6 which is over here by the pond and W7. And what these were is there was ammonia and nitrate. So ammonia is in the wastewater and it comes in to this pond as part of wastewater and then when you aerate it, you treat it and it turns into nitrate so NO₃. So it goes from NH₃ to NO₃. Carl said so it is ammonia and then it gets converted to nitrate. Sometimes in the winter time this conversion to ammonia depends on temperature and aeration and what is going on with the pond. So what's happened is, is that you know you've...Most of the time when you apply this most of the nitrogen that is in there will get taken up either by the soil or taken up by the trees or by the vegetation that is there.

He said so that is the idea on this is you treat it to a certain amount here and then the trees and the soil treat the rest of it. The monitoring wells are in the ground water you know so the wastewater that is put under the trees and the land irrigation trickles into the ground water and then they want you to monitor the ground water. So what they have given you in an NOV is, is that there is a 10 mg per liter nitrate limit in the wells and there is a 1 ½ ammonia limit in the wells. He said so they found a spike in these two different wells and that is what the NOV is about. I called...there is a guy I don't know named Robert Tankard, you probably know him and I talked to him and he is the one who issued to Pink Hill the NOV. I talked to him and he said

the first step in this thing is to determine and then I talked to Timmy about what kind of background information on the well, but the question is okay if you have high nitrates here and here which way is the groundwater flowing. I think Timmy I don't know where on the map you mentioned the chicken...was it the chicken place. Timmy said let me figure out where I am at. Carl said it is right up here? Timmy said it is on that piece of property. Carl said it is on that piece of property right there? Timmy replied yes. Carl said so question is okay well if you have got hits on these wells is it coming from Pink Hill or is it coming from someone off site not on Pink Hill. And so the first question is the guy at DENR DEQ he is saying which way is the groundwater flowing and that's what this work order is all about really.

Carl said and so I am an engineer not a hydrogeologist. We hire a hydrogeologist to look at this and the idea is to look at these different wells, look at the water levels here, and look at the water levels over time and that is what Timmy measures. He measures from the top of the wells down but what they want is they want it in terms of elevations. You know it is 100 feet above sea level or whatever and that way you can look at stuff even around here that's not, let's just say measurements here and try to see where is this groundwater flowing in the scheme of things. So the idea is...is the groundwater flowing from here that way or is it coming from the irrigation fields and going out and the same thing here is it flowing from the pond out or is there a chance that it is flowing in. Maybe there is groundwater here on this chicken site that is flowing to that is the idea but where is this contamination coming from. What is the source? So the first thing here is to try to figure out if let's say we do this hydrogeologic and the groundwater is like flowing that way right. Then you would say okay well it can't be coming from here because it is flowing that way. So they would say this is the upgradient stuff is what is polluting the wells. It is not Pink Hill ideally but the best situation for you would be that you found this well is upgradient. That well is what you would call upgradient meaning that the groundwater flows that way towards your irrigation fields which is...now is that logical well we would have to see. In that situation your NOV response would be DENR this is not our problem. It is coming from an offsite source. You go back and figure out where it is coming from. It is not us. Now in reality that could be the case for MW7, I don't know yet. I'm going to guess that MW6 is probably down gradient and that's what Timmy's information is on his wells, but we want to verify that with you know data and information. So that is what this work order is really about and it includes surveying the top of these wells so that we can have a survey. When you look at groundwater you want to look at what they call an accuracy within .1 feet which is roughly an inch or so roughly. And so we will have a surveyor go out there and survey the top of all these wells and survey some other points in here that we wanted to survey, and then we will know what it takes from these measurements that he has done over time as part of the permit. We can get that elevation measured down and get the groundwater elevation and then when you have them on an elevation datum, then you can tell which way the groundwater is flowing. Also if you survey these things, you can kind of look at other data that is around the area because it is on a common datum net. You know it is all like NC double datum, you know whatever the datum is and then you can kind of look and see what happens. Carl said and then we can look over time what happens in different seasons. If it switches directions or whatever. So that's kind of in a nutshell what this is and we do have the data. I did get DENR to give me the data on the wells including the ammonia and whatever else data he has to take and we will be taking a look at that at the same time.

Carl said so the first step and really that is what most of this is. He said is to say are these wells upgradient or not and where is the source. Commissioner Hill said one question that I have got is on #6. He said under that lagoon there is a toe drain all the way around that lagoon. Carl said there is a tile drain? Commissioner Hill said and so that should be pulling that water on down the path to that flow where it flows out of the drain. Carl said yes to wherever it is discharging. Commissioner Hill replied yes. Carl said yes wherever the drain discharges. He said well that is good that you have mentioned it. That is good for me to hear right from you and we will take a look at that. Mayor Sykes said should it end up that it is not our problem, is DENR going to reimburse us for the cost. Carl said no they don't reimburse you for anything. Commissioner Hill stated they don't reimburse. Mayor Sykes said okay.

George asked how far down the surface of the side of the well would the incursion be? Is it at ground level? Carl said no it would be...You mean the water? George replied the subsurface water that it is incurring. Carl said yes it is below the ground. It is usually below the ground. George replied about how deep? Carl said I don't know, but you (Timmy) might have a feel better. Right now I don't have a feel for it. Carl asked Timmy how far are you measuring down to the water. Timmy said that well I wouldn't think is 25 feet deep. George said but I think the ammonia or wastewater that comes in. Timmy said I am pulling from the bottom. George said it is going down into subsurface. Carl said into the soil and then it hits the groundwater. George said not to the aquifer but to the subsurface water. Carl said yes to the surficial aquifer or whatever y'all want to call it. I would have to look at the well logs. I talked to Timmy about trying to find the well logs. I am having our company...we're looking back in our warehouses and boxes to try to find those well logs because Timmy couldn't find them. DEQ doesn't have the well logs and that is the problem with well construction logs. I don't know if Mr. Loftin is even around anymore and if they will have the well logs. Commissioner Hill said I think he has passed away, that is what me and Carol were told. Carl said okay. So that is one of the major stumbling blocks in this is we don't have...The well logs would tell us you know where is it. He has got some information on this we just want to verify it with the well construction regs and that tells you how deep the water is. Carl said they did a hydrologic investigation. Before you are getting this approved DEQ requires you to do a hydrologic. They assign a scientist to go out there and dig in the soil and look at the soil in terms of what kinds of soil it is and how much water you can put on it. And they are supposed to go down and find what the groundwater level is. So I am looking for that myself. I think there is one in this...hopefully there is one in this thing that Timmy found. It is this old spec but I am looking more in our records because our company was involved in this a long time ago, but you know the people involved with it you know retire. Commissioner Hill asked if Ralph Mobley was still there. Carl replied yes Ralph and so is Don Gant.

George said is the ammonia identifiable chemically as human waste or animal waste. Carl said it is not really. George said or they just so close together that ammonia is ammonia. Carl said yes ammonia is ammonia. There is no way to really say okay it is from animal waste or it's from human waste. You know when you bring it to the lab they don't distinguish in that. So the first step is to see if there is a...Timmy I wasn't aware that there was a chicken site or is it chicken or turkey. Timmy said well the part that you are talking about the chicken site. This was over last year. I know that this piece of property there is a road that goes probably up here because it is not on the map, but right beside the road there was several piles of chicken manure that was piled there to be spread on that farm and that property. Carl asked did you take pictures of that.

Timmy replied no sir I didn't but I know, I mean my memory is not that bad. Carl said no I'm not saying it's bad. Timmy said I know it was this past season. Carl said so we found you know that there was actually some groundwater coming this way and that might be here. It could also be determining whether these are upgradient or downgradient. And while we are at it we will be looking you know if you are looking at all the wells you will be able to tell the whole well feel of what is going on. So you will get not only these two wells but we will be looking at the whole well feel.

Commissioner Quinn said if you talk to the department and find out when it was all spread out there, would that help. Carl replied maybe I don't know. I mean the first step is to kind of see what the groundwater data is telling us. Which way is it flowing? Are these upgradient or not? So that is the first step. I wouldn't want you going and looking at all that and then find out well you just wasted your time doing that because we misunderstood. I don't want you to waste your time. Carl and then so typically like I said there is ammonia in here and there is nitrate in here. When this is...you know summertime especially you get a lot of ammonia removal because it is warmer temperatures and it depends on how much air you have in there too. So for a long time you haven't had any problems right, I mean there hasn't been problems that we are aware of. Timmy said as far as I know we have never had an ammonia hit at all, but nitrate I have on monitor well #7. Carl said one thing we want to do is kind of check you know and I'm not saying this is...sometimes it could be if the integrity of the wells was compromised like if someone backed into it or a truck or somehow somebody cracked the surface and then something could leak down the sides. Those are the kind of things that can kind of happen to do stuff like this as well. Commissioner Hill asked what kind of crop did he have in that field by #7? Timmy said soybeans. Commissioner Hill said soybeans make nitrogen.

Carl said so we are looking in the next month or so doing this because I know it's time consuming. Kim asked is there a time frame Timmy that we have got to have this response back. Carl said they really haven't set a time frame. They wanted to have a letter back. I don't know if you sent a letter back to them yet. Timmy said I sent an email which he was satisfied with. Carl asked he was satisfied with the email? Timmy replied yes. Carl said maybe you want to forward that email to me when you get a chance, if you haven't already. Yes you might want to forward that to me just so I have it. Timmy said just a simple email letting them know that I have contacted you. Kim said just forward it to him. Carl said yes and did he respond to the email. Timmy replied yes he said it was good. Carl said back he said that was good, okay. Kim said is that the one I helped you send or did you do that off your computer. Timmy said I think I did it on my own...I don't remember.

Carl said so once you know we get that signed and then the contracts done, then we will get started with Timmy and we will be getting the survey done, go up to the site and look at the wells too and look at the area. He said and then we will get a survey out there. Mayor Sykes said is everybody satisfied with what he said. We need a motion for the agreement that we all have looked at. We had an email on it. Kim said it is what I emailed everybody last week and this week. Commissioner Hill said I make a motion that we accept the agreement with The Wooten Company to work on our wastewater violation. Mayor Sykes said do I have a second. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes said is there any discussion, if not, all in favor say "Aye" and the motion carried unanimously. Mayor Sykes said thank you so much.

The next item on the agenda was Wellhead Protection Area. Commissioner Hill said we are going to go ahead and table this because I have got a call in to Ray Williams who is at the Washington Regional Office and he is the head of Waste Management over there. I want to talk to him and answers before we pursue this any further. Mayor Sykes said okay, do we need a motion to table it. George replied yes. Commissioner Hill said I make a motion to table this until the next meeting. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes said okay all in favor of the motion say "Aye" and the motion carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was Christmas Parade Discussion. Mayor Sykes said it is not as big a deal as I was thinking it was last time. I mean maybe it is a big deal but I don't think it is. I did talk to Mary Margaret. Preston Hunter was not in the office so I talked to her and she is the one that mainly does it. Mayor Sykes said what it is, we have to have an ordinance saying where our detour signs are going to be and we just have to have detour signs wherever we are going to detour the property and we can borrow the signs from them and that way we don't have to buy anything. It is not going to cost us anything, so we can do that. But and I mean we are not the only ones that has never done it she said. I think Trenton was one of them that had never done it and they just picked up on it. Commissioner Quinn said so the only problem is we just didn't have the detour signs up. Mayor Sykes replied right. Commissioner Hill said so we have got to get an ordinance then. Mayor Sykes said well but not yet. We have got to do it before. Kim said I think it is one we will have to do every year. They have sent me a sample of one, Mary Margaret did. She sent a sample. Commissioner Hill said they will have to do it every year. Mayor Sykes said well it is the same one. It will be the same one probably every year. Kim said it will be the same thing. George said just change the date. Mayor Sykes and Kim replied yes just change the date. Mayor Sykes said so it is no big deal. We will do that.

Police Chief Thigpen said are we going to have to have somebody at each detour sign. Mayor Sykes replied no. Police Chief Thigpen said okay. Mayor Sykes stated but we will be expecting police officers to help us with the traffic. Police Chief Thigpen replied we always do. Mayor Sykes said well I know but I mean I think we discussed last time. Police Chief Thigpen said no I was just saying if we have to put a detour sign at each intersection to get traffic around, then you're talking about 20, I mean you would need at least 10 or 15 more officers. Commissioner Hill replied yes. Police Chief Thigpen said that was what I just was saying that we don't have enough. If we are going to have to do that, then we are going to have to... Mayor Sykes interrupted and said it doesn't have to be officers, so if we have to have somebody I mean it doesn't have to be. Police Chief Thigpen said okay I was just making sure y'all are aware because you've got to put signs up and people drive around them. It does require you to have an officer is the way I read it at each detour location. Mayor Sykes said no not according to her but we have got time to get the finals on it but no. Commissioner Quinn asked how do we route them around now. Mayor Sykes said huh. Commissioner Quinn said I said how are we routing them around now. Police Chief Thigpen said we go right here to Macon Street, go down to Old Beulaville, go around to Potters Hill down to Earl Howard, and Ash Davis. Commissioner Quinn said oh okay I got you. Police Chief Thigpen said and then the problem is coming from that way. You have to turn down Old Pink Hill, go down HC Turner, go across Bill Sutton irrigation pond, and back out to Hwy 11. Then if you've got somebody wanting to come back into town, see if they are trying to get to Beulaville on 241 then you have got to come back and hit Turner Street, go back down Tapp Farm, New Street, and out that way. Then if you have got big trucks, that's the problem because they can't get through there. Commissioner Quinn said

okay I got you. Police Chief Thigpen said because it is so tight you know. If they are requiring you to do that. Mayor Sykes said well each town has that same but I mean she said there really had been no problems with it. Police Chief Thigpen said I was thinking that we just keeping doing it like we've been doing it and if they come down here and say hey you can't do it no more, then we will have to go from there. Mayor Sykes said well we will have an ordinance on it and we will take it to them and they will either approve or disapprove it and we will get it straightened out in plenty of time but she said that DOT would loan us the signs. Police Chief Thigpen said well we don't have signs. Mayor Sykes said well they are going to loan them to us. She said they would loan them to us. Kim said the detour signs? Mayor Sykes said that is what she said. Commissioner Quinn said the DOT? Mayor Sykes replied yes. We will know in plenty of time but yes she indicated that they would loan them to us.

The next item on the agenda was FEMA Update. Timmy said I am in the process of getting some bids on some jobs, the bigger jobs and I've only received one bid back. I have got two but I would like to get at least one more contractor to come, but I haven't had another one to show yet. Kim said and that is for what project, which one? Timmy replied the culverts and the dirt on the property on Carol Drive. Kim said we are just, I mean it is weekly every Wednesday me and Timmy are having to sit down either she is coming here or we are having to talk with her on the phone or through email. So it is a bunch of paperwork we are having to do but we just wanted to keep you updated. Kim said but we did receive two checks from the insurance company and those will be two items that FEMA will not handle because the insurance is handling it. Timmy said and I have got only one bid and the insurance is paying for it and that is the sewer line at the intersection of Old Beulaville and Hunter Street. That sewer line has got a break in it and it is causing a sinkhole right in the intersection. I have got one bid but I would like to get at least two. Commissioner Hill said who are you sending bids to? Timmy replied I have called R&B and he hasn't showed. Actually I was going to go ahead and do the other ones too as far as bidding but he hasn't never showed and I can't remember who else I called for this one down here. Timmy said but we haven't had anyone else to show. Commissioner Hill asked Timmy if he had called Donnie. Timmy replied yes, Donnie is the only one that came.

Kim said and the culvert, that's the ones that we will have to hire the Wooten Company to come in and help us with correct, the culverts. Timmy said as far as procurement and things like that. Kim said the bidding and all. Timmy said yes, the bidding and all that kind of stuff. Gary is going to send me some more information tomorrow and hopefully that is going to work its magic. Mayor Sykes said thank y'all for doing it. I know it is aggravating work but we appreciate you doing it. Even though I know it's your job but we appreciate it.

Timmy said the other check that we got was for the well house repair. We actually did the work and they paid us back, insurance paid us for it. Mayor Sykes and the board said okay.

The Fire Department Report was next on the agenda. Mayor Sykes asked Kim to give the report due to Fire Chief Heath not able to be present at the meeting. Kim said calls since last meeting: EMS assignments they have had 12, vehicle accidents 4, structure fires 0, vehicle fire 0, fire alarms 2, brush fires 0, service assignment 0, and total calls 18 and that is since December 11, 2018 through today. Mayor Sykes said so it's not too bad. Kim replied no. Mayor Sykes said thank you.

The next item on the agenda was Police Department Report. Police Chief Thigpen asked Mayor Sykes do you want me to read through all of it. Mayor Sykes replied yes so we know what is

going on. Police Chief Thigpen said since the last meeting on December 11, 2018 we have had 2 accidents, 2 alarm calls, 1 animal complaint, 1 assault, 1 assist Duplin County Sheriff's Office, 1 assist Highway Patrol, 5 assist Lenoir County EMS, 9 assist Lenoir County Sheriff's Office, 1 assist motorist, 2 assist Pink Hill Fire Department, 1 breaking and entering into a building, 6 disturbance, 5 domestics, 3 forgery and uttering, 1 funeral escort, 5 injury to real property, 2 intoxicated people, 1 larceny, 1 noise complaint, 1 recovery of stolen property, 2 suspicious persons, 7 suspicious vehicles, and 2 unlock vehicles for a total of 62 calls. Commissioner Hill said it looks like you have been busy. Commissioner Murphy said was the noise complaint on New Years Eve? Police Chief Thigpen replied yes ma'am at the trailer park. Commissioner Murphy said okay. Mayor Sykes said thank you Joey. He replied yes ma'am.

The next item on the agenda was Water/Sewer Report. Timmy said everything has been going well for us. I don't really have a report with anything special. Mayor Sykes said okay. Timmy said we have had some sewer stop-ups and we're working on getting a manhole or two repaired. Mayor Sykes said okay, thank you. Timmy said other than getting the stuff I already talked about, that is the extra stuff. Everything else is going good.

The next item on the agenda was Budget Amendments If Needed. Mayor Sykes said Kim do we have any budget amendments. Kim replied yes. The one for the contract, of course, y'all already knew the amount of it. It is for the Water Fund land surveying and engineering \$14,500 and so we will be taking that from our fund balance appropriation. It is to amend the budget for engineering fees for the wastewater treatment plant NOV letter response. So I need a motion on that. Commissioner Hill said I make a motion to transfer from our fund balance appropriation to the Water Fund for \$14,500. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes said okay is there any discussion, if not all in favor signify by saying "Aye" and the motion carried unanimously.

Timmy said the bid that I have on and actually we have already been paid by insurance. I wanted to see at least two more bids before I award it. Do I need to wait until next month's meeting to award somebody since we have already been paid by insurance? If I can get two more bids? Commissioner Hill said just bring it back. Kim said you're talking about for Old Beulaville and Hunter. Timmy said insurance is paying to have that repair done. I only have had one bid though. Timmy said it is more than...Kim said the bid is more than what the insurance paid. Timmy said the bid is more than what the insurance paid which we had a deductible also. Commissioner Hill said just get another bid. Timmy said I would like to see at least two. Commissioner Hill said okay. Timmy said and go with the lower one. Do I need to bring it back to the next meeting? Mayor Sykes and the board replied yes. Kim said I will put a note to remind you for the next meeting. Mayor Sykes said okay, thank you.

The next item on the agenda was Remarks by Town Attorney. Mayor Sykes asked George if he had any remarks to make. George replied no thank you.

The next item on the agenda was Comments by the Board. Commissioner Hill said proud to be here. Mayor Sykes said she is sorry she forgot to ask everybody to turn their phones off, she didn't mean to. She said I usually do that but I just forgot it, but I appreciate you turning it off.

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. Commissioner Hill made a motion to go into closed session to discuss property. Mayor Sykes said do I have a second? Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes said okay I have a motion and a second, is there any discussion. All in favor say "Aye" and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to come out of closed session. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.