

July 11, 2017
7:00 p.m.

The Town of Pink Hill held its monthly board meeting on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the town hall board room. Present for the meeting were Mayor Carol Sykes, Commissioners Mike Hill, James Quinn, and Penny Murphy, Town Attorney George Jenkins, Public Works Director Timmy Kennedy, Public Works Assistant Phillip Swinson, Chief Joey Thigpen, and Town Clerk Kimberly Mitchell.

Visitors present for the meeting were Mike Aldridge, Susan Myers, Joe McKemey, and Al Rachide.

Mayor Sykes called the meeting to order and requested for all cell phones to be turned off please. Mayor Sykes welcomed everyone to the meeting. Commissioner Hill then led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Sykes said she would like to have a motion or approval of the agenda and amendments if any. Kim said there were no amendments to the agenda and she then said wait a minute. George stated that they needed to have a closed session between item 4 and item 5, just a very brief closed session. Mayor Sykes said you mean don't approve the consent agenda? George said no I am talking about after the consent agenda. Mayor Sykes asked do I have a motion to approve the agenda and the consent agenda? Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the agenda and consent agenda. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Sykes asked George to tell everyone what the closed session is for. George replied contractual negotiations. Mayor Sykes asked do I have a motion that we go into closed session for contractual negotiations? Commissioner Hill made a motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mayor Sykes asked who stays in...just us? George replied yes.

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

Commissioner Hill made a motion to have a 10 minute recess. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Sykes asked for a motion to call the meeting back to order. Commissioner Hill made a motion to call the meeting back to order. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Sykes stated we are back in regular session now and she is going to let Mike have the floor and explain or talk about what we are doing. Commissioner Hill said he is just going to make a motion. Mayor Sykes asked you don't want to have a segue into? Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the modified interlocal agreement with Duplin County on the B.F. Grady Sewer Contract. Mayor Sykes asked do I have a second? Commissioner Quinn said I seconded and Mayor Sykes asked is there any discussion, then all in favor say Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Sykes said what really has concerned her about this whole thing is it has just been such a long drawn out issue and they were not to come on our property until we had a contract and we had to go out and stop somebody the other day because of them coming out here. It bothered me that there was not a signed contract before y'all started but it is what it is. Mike Aldridge said he understood and it wasn't our intent to upset the apple cart it is just timing issue with trying to get project started and get this agreement going on at the same time. Mayor Sykes said this has been a while now that we have been talking about this so this is what it is now. Mike Aldridge said yes ma'am and we appreciate the agreement. Mayor Sykes said we will get you a signed notarized one and y'all need to get one back. Mike Aldridge said we will turn it around to you. He asked will that be coordinated through you George with our attorney? George said I can do that or I think really what you need is just, well probably.... if Kim can print another one and we will get two with the mayors signature and two with your signatures, and then you keep one we'll keep one. Mayor Sykes said we will get this done tomorrow. Mike Aldridge said thank you so much. Mayor Sykes said thank y'all for coming and so as soon as we get back a signed agreement you can come on our property. She said is that fair enough and Mike said fair enough.

The next item on the agenda was McDavid Associates, Inc. with Mr. Joe McKemey. Mr. McKemey said he didn't want to take a lot of our time but he did want to talk to them tonight. He gave everyone a handout to look at. Mr. McKemey said like the Mayor said earlier we have been trying to work on this agreement for some time. The county is in a tough position in that school. The board of education wants them to start discharging sewer by the middle of August and we are in a tremendous hurry to get the plans and specs prepared and get it under construction in order to meet that deadline. He said he is here tonight to discuss meter and odor control. The last time I met the board was on February 21, 2016 and it was Richard Moore and Mike Aldridge and I sat at the back and didn't say a whole lot. There was some discussion that night about accepting the wastewater from the B.F. Grady school project and of course the agreement has not been signed but I am glad to see that we are at that stage. Again the project is expected to be operational by early August. He said he doesn't know if the contract is going to meet that deadline but if it does not, there is liquidated damages associated with it and the county will probably assess those. I appreciate Timmy coming out to our progress meetings. He started coming August 25, 2016 was the first one he attended and at the time he provided him with some more information on the air scrubber system. We did have in our original plans an odor control system that consisted of feeding a chemical called Bioxide. He said what the chemical does without going into a lot of technical information, it basically prevents the formation of hydrogen sulfide in the system. The air scrubber system what it does is it removes it by having a fan that pulls the air out of the discharge manhole and it forces it through a media that removes hydrogen sulfide and all the odor.

Mr. McKemey said one problem that I have had is that DOT is not going to allow me to put the air scrubber system on the right of way and I have got to acquire land in order to do that. I have met earlier today with Gene Miller and he was very agreeable and I talked with him for a whole hour and enjoyed every minute of it. He is a very nice man. Mr. McKemey said Mr. Miller has agreed to sell some land to the county in order to do that. He said one thing he did not become aware of until June 27th at the progress meeting is the metering of the waste water. He said that Timmy made him aware that the town wanted to put the meter at the discharge location and I told him at the time that I didn't think that was very advisable for a lot of different reasons.

Mr. McKemey said that Timmy told him that he works for the board and I understand that and that if we wanted to make any changes that I would need to discuss it with the board. Since the 27th I have talked with a lot of engineers and talked with a lot of manufacturers about various types of meters, transit time meters, ultrasonic meters, magnetic meters, and even Parshall flume. He said and none of them recommended using their metering system at the end of the force main where it discharges to the manhole. He said because the flow coming into that manhole is going to be very slow to the point where it is going to come in at a rate that is lower than what the meters for a lot of the time can read. What I recommend is to keep the magnetic meter at the pump station. It is already bought and it is already installed and it cost the county \$28,000 to install it. I spoke with Commissioner Hill on Friday morning and I have also spoken with Timmy and I have spoken with two gentlemen with the Wooten Company, Will Larson and Gary Hartong. I have never met him in person, I just talked to him on the phone. I have talked to him about this matter. I spoke with Gary Hartong probably 15 or 20 minutes this morning about the matter and he indicated to me that he was going to try to get up with Timmy and try to get up with you, Mike. Commissioner Hill replied he did today. Mr. McKemey said again the magnetic meter and the meter vault have already been installed at the pump station.

Now the point of all of this and the reason why the flow is going to come in so slow is when the pumps at B.F. Grady School come on they are going to pump 200 gallons a minute but it is going to pump uphill and when it gets to the funeral home, that is the high point. The discharge at your manhole is 13-15 feet lower than that high point so when the pumps, and the pumps will never fill the pipe line from the high point further back, and there is various points along that from the funeral home to Pink Hill where the pipe will always be full because of dips in the pipe. For example, right there at that little creek right before you get to Pink Hill the pipe will always remain full. The pumps are pumping at 200 gallons per minute and when they are shut off the water is going to flow downhill in that pipe, and there is going to be 2,000 feet it has got to flow and it is going to slow down. He said and when it hits the water in that little creek it is going to slow down even more. It is going to trickle into the manhole, it is not going to come in at 200 gallons a minute. I would say probably, it is really hard to predict, but I would say when the first flow starts coming in it is probably going to come in no more than 25 gallons a minute and then over time it will slow down to the point where it is probably well less than a gallon a minute. Flow meters greatly lose their accuracy when they get down to less than one foot per second and at flows of 2 ½ gallons a minute or even less than that, you are looking at a factor ten times less than one foot per second. So ultimately it would be at a disadvantage to the town to have the meter there because they will not meter a lot of the water coming into the manhole because it is coming in so slow. Mr. McKemey said what he is here tonight to do is ask for your consideration to allow the county to keep the meter at the pump station as designed. Everyone I have talked to recommends that's what I do and it would give the best measurement of the flow coming out of the school. I have brought another handout so I can provide more technical information and charts and all that. I will only want to do that if you want to hear it.

Commissioner Hill said our biggest concern Joe is, and I know you have talked about it slowing down, is other people going to hook onto this system. Mr. McKemey said the Friendly Mart may, I would say probably 90 percent chance they will. Commissioner Hill said and there may be in time other people and I know there is people on this system from here to there that are not on county water. He said so if they hook on how do we read theirs? The other thing is

infiltration. I know you said the other day it is a force main. I don't care how good a system is built there's infiltration. Commissioner Hill said he has been in the business for over 30 years now and I see it everywhere I go. These are our concerns and that is why we have got to have some kind of measurement at our station to know what kind of water is coming to us. We don't want to be treating water that is not being paid for. Mr. McKemey said I understand. Commissioner Hill said and that is our concerns.

Mr. McKemey asked if he could address those. He said first of all there is a possibility that the pipe could be damaged, it happens but even if the pipe is damaged the amount of water that is going to come in going through that meter is going to be so slow that you won't be able to detect it hardly. If you do detect it will be so inaccurate that it would not be measurable. Duplin County will require anybody who has any type of sewer connection, will require them to have a water connection as well. That is the only way that you can bill for sewer, you have got to know how much water they use. He said infiltration can be a real problem with gravity sewer but you have got service laterals, manholes, and a lot of infiltration comes in through manholes, but the force main your barely below the water table if at all, the pipe is buried 3 ½ to 4 feet deep and so that diminishes the chance of infiltration. Commissioner Quinn asked what about your creek crossing. Mr. McKemey said creek crossing was done by directional drilling. Commissioner Quinn said so it is down there. Mr. McKemey said it is pretty deep and it is made out plastic pipe and it is fused together by heat fusing so the chances of it leaking would be very, very slim.

Commissioner Hill said ok you say the funeral home is the high point, is there an air release valve there? Mr. McKemey said yes sir there is, so as it flows downhill it will suck in air to prevent a cycling effect and water will just flow by gravity. He said there will be several dips especially at the creek and when the water hits those dips it is going to slow it all down and so the water really will come into your manhole at a trickle most of the time. Commissioner Hill asked what was the flow going to be at the air release valve, what kind of flow is going to be there, a full pipe? Mr. McKemey said yes sir it would be. Commissioner Hill asked well why couldn't the meter be put there? Mr. McKemey said well it could be but if your concern is infiltration and the pipe is going to always be full, infiltration is not going to come into the pipe. He asked Commissioner Hill if he understood what he was saying. If the pipe were empty, water could get into the pipe. Commissioner Hill said when the pump is cut off that is when the water can come into the pipe. Mr. McKemey said it can come into the pipe from the high point back but that line is going to remain empty all the time anyway. He said from the high point back to B.F. Grady School the pipe will always remain full. Commissioner Hill replied not all the time. Mr. McKemey said well for the most part it will. Commissioner Hill said and another thing if that pipe is going to be full all the time, if there is a crack in that pipe unless the pressure on the outside is greater, it is going to go out so you will have a spill so you have got to work with us a little bit here. Mr. McKemey said I understand Mr. Hill but at the same time if you have a spill and that is something that the county has to contend with and it is really no different than any other force main. He said but if you have a crack in a full pipe the problem is not going to be infiltration. The problem is going to be a spill or exfiltration and that is more of an environmental concern than you receiving more flow than what you anticipated. Commissioner Hill said that pipe is not going to be full all the time. When that pump shuts off, it is not going to be full all the time. Mr. McKemey said well it pushes up to the high point so there is nowhere else. There is a check valve to prevent water from flowing back to the pump station. The only thing that is

going to flow is from the high point back toward Pink Hill. Now it may not be full but it may back up a little bit, maybe bubbles created from the sewer having air in it but that is going to be pretty much under pressure as well. The point I am trying to make is that, if you put the meter at the discharge right before the manhole, the flows will be coming in so slow that you will not be able to measure. For example if the Friendly Mart opts to have sewer service, of course they have a water meter and whatever comes in is what is going to come out, when those pumps come on at the Friendly Mart they are only going to pump, depending on what pressure it sees, roughly 12 gallons a minute. So you imagine squirting 12 gallons a minute. When it gets to the high point when the pump shuts off, it is only going to run a minute. When the pump shuts off all that water at 12 gallons a minute when it comes flowing downhill is going to diminish to nothing. The flow will be very, very little. So my whole point is if you put the meter at the discharge, the flow will be so low that the meters will not be able to measure accurately if at all. There is these magnetic type meters, there is ultrasonic to strap on to the outside of them, they have low flow cutoffs such that if a flow reaches a point of where it is so slow, they no longer have the ability to measure the flow. That is the main reason why I don't think it should be at the discharge.

Commissioner Hill asked Timmy who did you talk to with Carolina Meter. Timmy said I passed all that information on and did not actually talk to anyone personally. Timmy said Brown and Morrison was the company. Commissioner Hill said why don't we try to get a representative down here with the company this coming week. He said he can't Wednesday or Thursday. I can come Tuesday afternoon or Monday afternoon or next Friday to meet with somebody with the meter company and we can go out here and discuss it. Mr. McKemey stated he would be glad to do that. Commissioner Hill said all he is doing is trying to look after the town's interest. Mr. McKemey said yes sir, I understand that 100 percent. Commissioner Hill said and the rest of the board is doing. Mr. McKemey said yes sir, I understand. Commissioner Hill said we want some way to know what is coming into us. We don't want to treat water that we are not getting paid for. Mr. McKemey said I understand. Commissioner Hill said and I know Mike is the same way about the customers he has got. He said that might be the best thing to get somebody down here to talk about it, talk about what we got, and see where if there can be a meter put there. It says in this agreement that it can be put there. He said it depends on what they say and I would like for anybody, the mayor, James, or anybody else to be there you know. Mr. McKemey said well I read the agreement and as I was presented with the amendments from the county attorney and all, I would read through the agreement and I did not see where it required any specific type of meter or a specific location. So that is why it was a surprise to me on June 27th when Timmy was at the progress meeting and that is when he told me that the meter had to be at the discharge. I knew right of way that that was not. Mayor Sykes said in the beginning I thought that was discussed or was it? Commissioner Hill said it wasn't to start with it came up later. Mayor Sykes said okay. Commissioner Hill said that is kind of what I am saying we have looked at this thing so long that we keep finding things. That is why I think that we should have worked this thing out eight months ago and been done with it before any pipe was put in the ground. Mr. McKemey said well Rich Moore with our office and I know that he has been working with the town for some time. Mayor Sykes asked how many times has Rich been down here, one time? Commissioner Hill replied one time. Mayor Sykes stated one time and that has been months and months ago. George replied that was at the beginning. Mayor Sykes said yes right at the very beginning, the first time it was ever mentioned it was when he was here and that is the last. She said I think most of the time when it was mentioned we probably would initiate the conversation

I am thinking, so I don't feel like we have not done our job. Mr. McKemey said from his prospective the moment that the county came to us, and we are good at getting funded, and said we have been trying to get funding for this school since 2006 a long time and finally they said we want to pursue USDA funding, we will pay loan and grant. We started that process and then the county changed their mind and they went after some grant funding in a different route. It delayed the project another four months. At that point and time I was under a tremendous deadline to get the plans and specs prepared and get it out for bids. The Board of Education is pushing us to try to get this thing complete. Commissioner Hill said in that time also y'all should have come to us to have the agreement done. Mayor Sykes said I am just wondering, I don't understand the length of time it is taking to get this far. Commissioner Hill said what I am talking about is if we can get somebody from the meter company to be here one day next week like I say I can meet Monday afternoon, Tuesday afternoon, or Friday. Mr. McKemey said he would be at our disposal. He said Timmy told him specifically what type of meter he wanted to use and he gave me a telephone number and that is when I made my first call and he told me that y'all wanted to use a Badger Transit time meter made by Badger. Well Badger really is made by Dynasonics and Dynasonics was bought by Badger so I talked to the guy first and then he put me on with the guy from Dynasonics and I probably spent an hour on the phone with him. Mayor Sykes said she thinks it has been long drawn out. If we had gotten a grant I would think they would have been more anxious to go get it signed, sealed, and delivered, the agreements but that is okay. We are going to do what we can do. What day did say, how about the 18th? Kim said well you have got to find out from the meter place. Mayor Sykes said okay. Mr. McKemey said I also want the board to understand and I know it may not sway your decision but the county has already purchased and installed the meter at the pump station. Mayor Sykes said well that is another thing, I mean it should have been, I think should have been plain as to what you were going to do or were not going to do before now. Mr. McKemey said the reason why it was done that way Mayor was because we knew that if you put the meter at the discharge, you wouldn't be able to measure the flows accurately. Mayor Sykes said well I think we should have been more open with the town in the beginning.

Commissioner Hill asked Mr. McKemey are you going to get up with him or do you want Timmy to get up with him. Mr. McKemey said if you want to. I will give him a call and I have his email. Timmy said it was Doug with Brown and Morrison Company. Mr. McKemey said or I can do a conference call. Kim told Mr. McKemey if he wanted to he could email her and that way she can let them know the date and time. Would y'all want to do that? Everyone agreed.

Mr. McKemey said he brought another presentation to show the figures as to how the meters are not accurate at those flows. Mayor Sykes said it is her opinion that we need to decide about this meter right here and talk to the manufacturer or whatever before we go into another show, am I right about that. The board agreed. Commissioner Hill said if he tells me it won't work, then we will go a different route. Kim said if you will just email and let me know, then I can get up with all of them and let them know. Mr. McKemey said okay. Mayor Sykes said thank you all for coming and Mr. McKemey said thank you very much and I appreciate the opportunity to come and speak with you.

Mayor Sykes said lets go to the next item on the agenda was to Amend Ordinance to allow sale of alcohol at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays. Kim informed the board it was number 7. Mayor Sykes said it is number 7, if you're so inclined to do so and I hope you are because I might open a restaurant and want to serve alcohol at 10:00 a.m. She asked the board if they have heard about this new ordinance and the other counties who have adopted this. She said if you all would like to do so, then she would like a motion to approve it. Mayor Sykes said it is to approve an ordinance to amend the code of ordinances of the Town of Pink Hill to allow the sale of malt beverages, unfortified wine and fortified wine on Sunday's beginning at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Hill stated it is mostly talking about in the grocery stores because most of your restaurants don't open until 11:00. Commissioner Quinn said that's what I was about to say because most of your restaurants don't open until 11:00. Mayor Sykes said well but if they do they may start now. George said the law was passed by the legislature for places that serve brunch and want to serve Mimosa's and Bloody Mary's with their brunch. Mayor Sykes said and it may bring more business in, I don't know. Kim said and also just keep in mind on our ballot this year is going to be the liquor by the drink. Mayor Sykes said that was passed a while back. Commissioner Quinn asked if this would be for convenience stores and grocery stores. Mayor Sykes said they already sell this. Commissioner Quinn said they do it at 12 o'clock. Mayor Sykes said it is mainly for the restaurants and places like that. Kim said I think it is anything and anywhere, it will be the grocery stores and everything.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to amend the ordinance to let alcoholic beverages begin sell at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. George said and I think what we are going to need to do, I can't find anywhere in the ordinances as a good place to put it but there is a title in the ordinance called General Regulations and that has abandoned and junk vehicles, animals, cemeteries, noise, nuisances, streets and sidewalks. We could put another chapter in that for alcoholic beverages and this would be the first sanction in that. Mayor Sykes stated that would be fine. Mayor Sykes stated that it is effective immediately. She then asked George how do we send this or do we have to send this into the state? George stated this is amending an ordinance isn't. George said so don't we have to have a public hearing. Mayor Sykes stated no, George said ok. Mayor Sykes said, but I'm saying but it is effective immediately. George replied yes. Commissioner Quinn said so we are basically just accepting what the state has already done. Mayor Sykes said yes that's what we are doing.

The next item on the agenda was Resolution to accept State Reserve Grant \$120,000 to perform asset inventory and assessment work. Commissioner Hill asked if this is what Stroud has been working on. Kim replied yes and Commissioner Hill said okay, David Tuten. Kim said and this is the resolution that you guys have got to do for us to proceed and receive the grant monies. We have to adopt this resolution and that way we can sign the paperwork and get the check sent in for the \$1,800 that we have to pay for the grant fees. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the resolution for the Water Infrastructure Grant. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Kim stated it is a state reserve grant.

The next item on the agenda was CDBG Grant. Mayor Sykes said we need to if we can make a decision tonight whether we want to accept it or not because she talked to George Sherrill today and it is kind of past due. We can get the grant to do the work on the media center but the only thing is how the bill is going to be paid until we can get it up and running. Mayor Sykes asked

Kim to explain what it is about putting the broadband stuff in there. Kim said I have read over it but I mean. Mayor Sykes said you know Penny they want to put stations in there and LCC probably will be using some of it and we may get colleges to be using some of the computers. Commissioner Murphy asked if we had gotten any commitments from any of those folks. Mayor Sykes replied LCC. Commissioner Hill asked you have gotten commitments from them. Mayor Sykes replied yes. She said Rusty Hunt is going to be talking to hospital but she doesn't know if he has or not. Mayor Sykes said we can get the grant if we qualify, I mean that is a given because she talked with George Sherrill again today. Commissioner Hill said this is to update the media center. Mayor Sykes said right. She said David Harris and Mike knows him and he has done grants for us before and he does a really good job and he is good with George Sherrill. Mayor Sykes said if we accept this or adopt this and start on this, David will walk us through it. Kim said you have got to have somebody with CDBG grants to do these. Mayor Sykes said we have got to meet a lot of requirements like low to middle income households. We have to have so many of those in town. That's kind of what it is all about and the computers in there the school children could use them. Mayor Sykes said she really thinks it is a good thing, I mean I would hate to see us throw this away because we have got the grant money that we got years ago. She said if we need to, we can use some of that to keep it sustained until we can get businesses in there. It will take a couple of years.

Commissioner Quinn asked so LCC is like for continuing education or GED's or whatever or however they do that now. I don't know if they offer the GED program anymore. Mayor Sykes said yes they do. Commissioner Murphy said there were just a couple of things that worried her on Page 5. She said No. 9 where it is talking about use of an experienced CDBG administrator about having the capacity to administer the proposed project on either our own or with the assistance of an experienced whatever. Kim said that is David Harris. Mayor Sykes said that is David Harris and the grant will pay for that. She said he is the person and he is really good. Kim said like the scattered house grant that we had where Ms. Wanda Stroud got her new house and the Dunn's got their new house, David Harris is the one who administered that CDBG. Commissioner Murphy said just trying to make sure we have a game plan where if something happened that we would have to pay this back. Mayor Sykes said no, we have got the money and we can use it, the CDI money if we have to and it may be that we won't but we can use that if we have to use it to sustain it for a year or so. Kim said Commissioner Murphy is saying about paying this grant money back if we are not able to do what we are hoping to do. Mayor Sykes said that is what David Harris is going to tell us. He will tell us what we need to do, he will have a plan, and then we will know. Kim said am I correct Mayor if they make the motion to go forward with this and we get to talking to David Harris and we see that we are not, can the town back out before the monies are given. Mayor Sykes said yes. Commissioner Murphy said she just didn't want to ever see us in a position where we might have to come up with a way to pay this money back if things do not go as hoped. Mayor Sykes said well we are going to make it happen, we are going to make it work. Commissioner Hill said that David also worked with Cordset. Mayor Sykes said yes and he is the one who helped me go through and George Sherrill used to work with him. He is good and he does a good job. Commissioner Hill made a motion to go after the CDBG grant for the media center. Mayor Sykes asked if she had a second on that. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Commissioner Hill made a motion to have David Harris to be the administrator. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mayor Sykes said that she would call tomorrow to get the

ball rolling and it may be after we go through all these things, it might be we don't qualify so that is what we need to find out to start with.

The update on 101 E. Broadway Street was next on the agenda. George said that he has already filed and he is giving Kim for the minutes a copy of the notice of voluntary dismissal of our lawsuit against Alejandro and Mary Cruz, and the county of Lenoir, and the Department of Revenue, and the IRS, and the United States of America. We are no longer suing them because Alejandro paid the cost of demolition that the town had incurred and in addition we required that he pay a past due water bill and the total we got from him came up to \$15,724.40. Mayor Sykes said that went back into the grant money. George said he also paid the court cost and attorney fees but he did not pay the IRS lien, he did not pay the North Carolina Department of Revenue lien, and he did not pay the Lenoir County ad valorem taxes. Once he paid us off that became his problem, not ours. George said bottom line is the ball is now in the county's court and I have been trying to find Darryl Parrish to tell him what you had told me to tell him about encouraging him to foreclose on the county taxes. Mayor Sykes said I will call him tomorrow. George said if he forecloses on county property taxes, the property will be sold at auction to the ultimate highest bidder unless Alejandro pays it off like he did us. George said either before, at the same time, or after if the Internal Revenue Service decides to levy on their lien against them, the property would be sold at auction to the highest bidder. Before, at the same time, or after if the North Carolina Department of Revenue decides to foreclose on their lien, the same thing. He said there is a possibility that the property will be available for auction at some point in the future. It is just that we have got the money that we had in it, we have gotten that back. Timmy stated that the property is looking very bad and I know we have an ordinance in place for having weeds and stuff that get too high on a property. He said he is recommending that a letter be sent. Mayor Sykes said she wished somebody would do something about getting the property because it looks terrible and it needs something done. She said she would be glad to call him tomorrow and tell him that if he doesn't clean it up, we are going to and we are going to bill him for it. Kim said she just asked George if she could call him. George said but we do need to notify him in writing that if you don't, we are going to do it and bill you for the time and equipment used and so on. Mayor Sykes said and give him a certain length of time like three days. George said he would say seven days. Timmy said I thought our ordinance says 30 days. George said it might be but whatever the ordinance says is what we have to do. Kim said but what she was saying is can she do a courtesy call first. George replied yes, there is nothing to prevent you from doing that. He said he thinks the ordinance says 18 inches. George asked if the growth was up to 18 inches. Mayor Sykes said it is more than that, I mean it is almost head high. Kim stated she would call him tomorrow. Mayor Sykes said tell him if he doesn't do it, then Joey is going to go see him. We have done that before and it worked. George said unless anyone has any questions, 101 E. Broadway Street is put to bed for what we were doing at this point.

The next item on the agenda was new state holiday – First Responders Day September 11. Mayor Sykes said the state has proclaimed a new holiday and it is First Responders Day of September 11th and I would hope that we would proclaim that day as a holiday also and if so I need a motion to that effect. Commissioner Hill made a motion to declare September 11th as a holiday for our employees. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Police Updates was next on the agenda. Chief Thigpen stated since the last meeting on June 14, 2017 we have had a total of 33 calls and he said I am going to start giving y'all a better detail list of our calls that we get. We have had 4 alarm calls, 2 domestic calls, 2 911 unknown calls, 2 welfare checks, 1 call for a suicidal patient, 2 collisions, assisted 1 motorist, 4 calls to assist other departments, 2 citizen complaints, assisted Lenoir County Sheriff's office 5 times, 1 suspicious person, and 7 miscellaneous calls. He said out of those calls they only had 2 incidents where we had to take an incident report that was documented. Most of our calls we do not have to document or report on it. Chief Thigpen said they issued 15 citations with a total of 17 charges and we issued 12 warning citations. Mayor Sykes thanked Chief Thigpen. She said very, very nice. He said and that is pretty much it, and we have not had any problems with the cars. Everything is going pretty good. Commissioner Hill thanked him.

The next item on the agenda was Fire Department Report. Chief Heath apologized for missing last month's meeting due to a prior engagement a Chief's meeting down in Duplin County. He said this report is for the end of the month of May where they had 19 EMS assignments, 2 traffic accidents, 1 structure fire, and 1 automatic fire alarm. Chief Heath said for the month of June they had 14 EMS assignments, 2 brush fires, 2 structure fires, and 11 vehicle accidents for a total of 29 calls for June. He said tomorrow night they will be hosting the Duplin County Association meeting and it starts at 7:30 p.m. Chief Heath said the mayor and the members of the board are welcome to come. He said they are going to go over some association business with the fire departments that are in Duplin County but you are welcome to come.

Chief Heath said as everyone knows we upgraded our level of response for EMS back around the fall of last year. As of now I have not updated our SOG's for that response to D-level calls but primarily it is C-level calls. He said he is in the progress of updating our SOG's to stat D-level calls. Mayor Sykes asked Chief Heath to explain the level of calls. Chief Heath said basically a C-level call is anything that is unresponsive, basically CPR, or cardiac arrest. He said D-level calls are a little bit more involved. It is when they are having difficulty breathing and primarily it is difficulty breathing. There is some other effects that go into what determines a D-level call. As they are giving information to the dispatcher and she or he enters it in. The criteria that they meet determines whether it is a D-level call or a C-level call. So anything before a D-level call we are not dispatched to. Since we have started responding to the D-level calls, it has increased our call volume tremendously. We hope it will help us out on our future grants. Once I get those SOG's updated, I will bring it to you for board approval.

Chief Heath said the grant that they applied for with the state, hopefully by the middle of next week all of the equipment and gear will be in place. I spoke with the manufacturer who supplied our air system and it is scheduled to be installed the beginning of next week. Mayor Sykes and the board thanked Chief Heath and his men.

The next item on the agenda was Water/Sewer Report. Timmy said it is pretty much just general work like cutting grass and keeping things going unless you have any things or issues you need to address with me. He reported that everything seems to be going well. Mayor Sykes said she wanted to thank them for cutting that limb off that tree in Debra Grady's yard because it was in the way. Timmy said Phillip has built something that is safe for us to put on the backhoe to lift somebody up to do some trimming and we have been doing that around town over the last couple

of days until the pole saw quit and Horne's Outdoor Equipment has that now. He said hopefully they will be getting back on that. Timmy said so if you see a limb that is hanging a little bit low, you let us know and I feel like we can take care of a lot of them but maybe not every one of them but some. Mayor Sykes asked about that Crepe Myrtle tree that needs trimming up. Timmy said if it is not in the right of way, we are probably not going to touch it. Mayor Sykes laughed and said it is in my right of way. Mayor Sykes thanked Timmy and told Phillip thank you too.

The next item on the agenda was Budget Amendments if needed. Mayor Sykes said we don't have any budget amendments. Kim replied yes and Mayor Sykes said we do have budget amendments, Kim replied one. Mayor Sykes said okay I'm sorry. Kim said it should be number 15. Commissioner Hill asked if it was the Powell Fund and Kim replied yes. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the amendment. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Remarks by Town Attorney was next on the agenda. George said in 36 years practicing law when I have done litigation or drafting documents I have had to deal with experts and usually the client has told me not to deal with them too much because they bill by the hour. He said but in this B.F. Grady thing I have dealt with an expert and every time I have called and asked something, I have gotten an explanation that I could understand. I have gotten all the help that I could ask for and I have gotten it quickly and gotten it well and I appreciate it. A lot of times when I call paid for experts they talk their own language which ain't my language. George said I appreciate all of you but tonight I really appreciate Mike. Commissioner Hill said thank you.

The next item on the agenda was Comments by the Board. Mayor Sykes asked the board if they have any comments. Everyone replied glad to be here.

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 closed session needed at this time.

Mayor Sykes said well if that is it, I adjourn this meeting as of this minute. Mayor Sykes thanked everyone for coming and said she will see you next month if she don't before.