November 10, 2015

7:00 P.M.

The Town of Pink Hill held its monthly board meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the town hall board room. Present for the meeting were Mayor Carol Sykes, Commissioners Mike Hill, Donald King and Debra Grady, Town Attorney George Jenkins, Police Chief Joey Thigpen, and Town Clerk Kimberly Mitchell.

Visitors present for the meeting were Tracey Price, Richard Moore, Barbara Elmore, Del Holt, Wendy Jones, JoAnn Sirmons and John Sirmons.

Mayor Sykes called the meeting to order. Mayor Sykes welcomed everyone to the meeting. Commissioner King then led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Sykes said she would like to say on behalf of the town how much they appreciate and thank all the Veterans that is in this country and here now and the ones that have passed. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Commissioner Grady made a motion to approve the consent agenda for October 13, 2015 regular board meeting minutes. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was B.F. Grady Sewer District. Mayor Sykes stated that Timmy could not be here due to family reasons but that Richard Moore with McDavid Associates is here to make a request. Mr. Moore said this is regarding B.F. Grady School in Duplin County on NC Hwy. 11. They have an existing onsite sewer system that is conditional. When they built the new facility, they had permitted it for about 6,500 gallons per day and that was based on a student population of about 500. The student population is now 900 and they did an evaluation of the facilities in Duplin County and they have targeted that school for a capital project that will increase the capacity to about 1,155 students. They need a long term solution to their wastewater needs. He said years ago the question was brought up about the schools sewer problem. Mr. Moore stated some of the things the school has done was to put in some low flow devices in terms of plumbing fixtures or shower heads and things like that and those have been very effective in terms of reducing the flow. It has kept the school out of trouble for lack of a better word. They still need help with having the capacity to meet the student population needs based on the state rules. He said in 2013 the issue was brought up and the county tried to get some funding to pump the sewage to Pink Hill but it didn’t get funded and kind of stayed status quo. The Duplin County School’s did an assessment of their facilities and really the county wanted to see the facility plan concluded before they saw a long term solution to the problem at B.F. Grady. With the facility needs report being adopted and with them budgeting funds to expand the school, which they are basically going to add on facilities and get rid of the modular units that are around the back, they are looking for a long term solution. He stated that they are working with the county to apply to USDA Rural Development for infrastructure funding to install sewer assets to the school. USDA has agreed it is a project and the one caveat that they have added on top of it is that as part of the application every resident between the school and the town, if the town is willing to accept it, has to be offered the opportunity to have sewer service. Mr. Moore said he thinks there are about 20 homes on the route but we have to follow due diligence. In support of looking at alternatives, Pink Hill is located about 4 ½ miles so it is fairly close in proximity. It is capable of putting a pump station at the school site and discharging into our collection system at a point that we would deem appropriate if we are willing to accept it. Mr. Moore said he does point out that the current flow at the school based on their water use is about 5,000 gallons per day but as they expand the facility, the state is going to make them demonstrate they have a sewer system that can meet the 2T rules of DENR which is based on a certain flow per student. He stated based on the 1,155 students and adding on 20 residences, what he has projected is that they will have to be able to demonstrate that 25,000 gallons per day can be treated somehow. We would hope that Pink Hill is willing to accept the sewer from the school based on these guidelines. We are asking on behalf of the county for Pink Hill to consider accepting a maximum of 25,000 gallons per day flow from a pump station and sewer force main that would be constructed on the B.F. Grady campus. If agreeable to accept the sewer, what rate would the town charge for acceptance of that sewer and in support of that rate can the connection fee or capacity fee be charged to the county so to speak to buy down the rate or bring it into balance with other rates that we charge for comparable systems. He said they are trying not to seek anything that nobody else is charging but at the same time want to recognize that if we are willing to accept the flow, it is a burden somewhat because we are accepting flow from something outside of our corporate limits. Mr. Moore said they would certainly understand if we wanted to assess a connection fee or a capacity fee associated with the project. He stated the reason he needed it was to make sure that he budgets that in any funding application that they submit to USDA. He said if anything the town would be doing a great service for the county. Mr. Moore stated anything the town is willing to accept or to impose with regards to charges would be greatly appreciated. Mayor Sykes asked Mr. Moore when would this happen. He stated they statistically plan to award construction of the school facility in March of next year and certainly it will probably take a year probably to get the improvements built. Mr. Moore said sometime within that year they would like to have a plan in place to have that structure available. It is important to move along with regards to an answer. He said they certainly understand that the town will have to investigate and consult with our engineers who are familiar with our treatment plant. Mr. Moore said he had the opportunity to speak with Timmy and he was very nice. He said Timmy confirmed that our existing plant operates at about 50 percent capacity, about 120,000 gallons per day verses 240,000 gallons per day permitted capacity that we have. Mr. Moore said that the town certainly has some capacity built in our system which is good and that is an asset. Mayor Sykes asked Mr. Moore if the town does accept his proposal and if we have to get our engineers to come out and look at it, would that be on his bill and not the town’s? Mr. Moore stated if the town wants to have an estimate of the cost of their involvement to bill that in too.

Mayor Sykes then asked Kim to read the notes that Timmy had prepared for her. Kim said this is Timmy giving his opinion of which manhole he thinks we would need to use and questions or concerns he may have.

1. West Broadway Street manhole at city limit sign South side of North Hwy. 11 and South side of Broadway Street (Tap should be made here which is corner of Gene Miller’s yard). Contractor putting in the pipe should make tap in the manhole.
2. Do you need a flow chart to show that we can accept this much wastewater per day? Mr. Moore said he would like some kind of correspondence or letter that says here is documentation of our capability of accepting the flow.
3. Needs to be a grease trap present at the school and maintained per Pink Hill’s Ordinance. Timmy is assuming that the school already has a grease trap but they would need to follow the town’s grease trap ordinance. Mr. Moore said any interconnection needs to comply with the towns 201 Plan and Sewer Use Ordinance.
4. Timmy said there was going to be a concern with a smell at discharge manhole on Broadway Street because it is having to go 4 ½ miles and during the summer they would need something to buff that smell. Mr. Moore said they do make odor control methods in two versions. One of them is a chemical feed that you can put in that will disinfect it and then there is a filter media where the wastewater passes through a sand filter and takes out some of the smell before it comes.
5. Who will be the ORC of the Lift Station at the school and all the force main to incoming manhole? Mr. Moore stated the county is capable of operating the pump station and the force main. If the town wanted any provisions with regard to rights to the force main or any of that, that would not be a problem. He said the town would just need to stipulate that we want the rights to have control over connecting anything into that force main. Kim said that Timmy stated he would prefer to know what we are accepting, in other words he would like to see, talking about the grease. Mr. Moore said they could have like a duel key facility where the town will have full rights to access and that is not a problem.

George asked Mr. Moore if Duplin County was interested in a joint ownership of that system from where the school pumps into it to the manhole on Broadway Street. Mr. Moore stated they would not have a problem with that. Commissioner Hill stated that we already have three schools on our Deep Run Sewer District. He said he was looking at it the other day and does not think that it would be fair to them to charge less to Duplin County than what we charge them. Mr. Moore said he wanted them to be equivalent to the other schools even if they have to pay a connection fee or something so they will be on the same level. Commissioner King wanted to confirm that Duplin County was going to be responsible for the maintenance and the operation from this collecting point in Pink Hill to their facility at the school. Mr. Moore stated yes. Mr. Moore said the town might want to reserve the ability to tie on any customers of the town onto the assets that would be put into place and they would be town customers rather than county customers. He said that is to kind of protect our service area so to speak. The goal of that force main is not to put Duplin County in the sewer business but to get sewer to the school. Commissioner Hill thinks we can accept 25,000 gallons a day. Kim suggested to have a special meeting to discuss this issue. Commissioner Hill told Mr. Moore that our next board meeting is on December 8, 2015 and they would have an answer for him at that time. Commissioner Grady made a motion to table this issue until the next board meeting. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mayor Sykes thanked Mr. Moore for coming.

The next item on the agenda was Sidewalk/Curbing on Broadway Street. Wendy Jones said she would like to talk about the sidewalk and parking area in front of her store. She stated to her knowledge the town has never done anything but patch. Wendy said there used to be a tree right in front on one area and there is concrete kind of poured around an odd shape. Because at that time there were people in town that would not allow anybody to cut down a tree, so you had to wait until the tree fell down which this one eventually did. Wendy said over time right where that tree was, it has been patched in the last 20 years about three or four times. The last time it was patched they brought out two bags of asphalt, poured it in a hole, and she said she could get out there and ruin it in five minutes if you would just let her. It could be ruined if some little kid came out there playing in it. The sidewalk itself is broken and it has been broken especially right in front of her main entrance. She said the tall end of the store is over 100 years old and the concrete in front of it is about that old too but she is okay with it. The long section that her daddy built in 1988 and he poured concrete in front of it and it kind of matches what is on the tall end. The two sections in between are what is the problem. The part right in front of her entrance to her knowledge has never been fixed. It has been there probably 50 years and it looks bad and it is dangerous. It is cracking and she has little pieces of it. Wendy said the issue is that it is town property and somebody is going to fall and get hurt and she has stumbled over it herself many times. She said she tries to park in that spot so it covers part of it. Wendy stated the parking area is bad and the rest of it is bad too. Commissioner Hill said he went and talked to Wendy the other day and looked at the problem himself. He said right where that tree was and where Timmy and the guys patched, it is real soft there and really in the summer time if a woman got out in a pair of spiked heels, she would go through it. He said if it is soft in the winter time then it would really be soft in the summer time. Commissioner Hill said he needs to get up with Timmy and go up there to see exactly what needs to be done but he does agree with Wendy. He stated it needs to be taken care of. Mayor Sykes said you say it is the town’s property but that is a state street and she does not know whether that would cover the sidewalk too. Commissioner Hill stated it is the town’s property. Mayor Sykes said she did not have any problem with it, she just wanted to make sure. Commissioner Hill agreed with Wendy that she has a problem and if we can help her, then we need to help her. Wendy said the two buildings are 40 feet and she wants it done to be as even as possible. She said she thinks all the concrete on the first two original buildings was poured when the buildings were built. Wendy said that is the way it looks and it is all straight with the street, so it is on a grade and you don’t want to go up there to it anyway. Commissioner Hill said some of this can be done in house because Phillip can do cement work and may be able to do that. Wendy said it is basically three parking spaces and the concrete will be 40 feet long and 8 feet wide.

Mayor Sykes asked Kim to read the notes that Timmy had provided. Kim read his notes which stated: Sidewalk and curbing in front of Jones Furniture has been patched a few times over the years due to trees that used to be there. My opinion if we decide to redo it, the parking area would need to be cut out, filled in, then be repaved. Cement gutter in front of this building has broken in a spot about 6 foot long that I am planning to cut out and patch.

Wendy said there was one more thing and it has to do with the gutter but it is not in front of her building. It is further down in front of the other building and it has dropped. Commissioner Hill stated that would be something they would need to call the state about. Wendy said that is something that needs to be looked at because it is getting worse and worse and it is in the drain line.

Mayor Sykes informed Wendy that they are fixing to tear down the old H. J. Building. She will make sure that the guy who is doing it sees Wendy before he starts so she can tell him where not to go. Mayor Sykes stated she is hoping there is room so he will not have to go on Wendy’s property. Wendy said that is okay whatever he needs to do just as long as he cleans everything up. She said there is a barbeque pit/fireplace which has been back there forever and it is on her dad’s land and does not want it taken down. Wendy said she would love for that to be saved. Kim told Wendy that Chris Taylor called this afternoon before Timmy left and he has already been to look at the H.J. Building. The cost is going to be $15,000 to tear it down. Timmy talked with Chris and the fire place at the H. J. Building will be left per Chris Taylor. He said power needs to be disconnected and wires taken down and he can start any time all is ready. Chris said he could have it done before the Christmas Parade. Kim said that Timmy stated part of the building wall might have to be left up due to being connected to the fire place. Mayor Sykes thanked Wendy for coming. Commissioner Grady made a motion to fix Wendy’s problem in front of store. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mayor Sykes asked for all in agreement to say “Aye”. Commissioner Hill and Commissioner Grady said “Aye”. Commissioner King stated he guessed he would have to go along but Mayor Sykes told him he did not have to go along if he did not want to because he was out voted. He stated he had some ill feelings from the last time. Mayor Sykes stated that we were not doing that in the meeting and we need to do what is right and that is her opinion. We need to do what is right.

The next item on the agenda was Ditch Issues – Park Circle. Commissioner Hill explained that he and Timmy were looking at adding a piece of tile to John’s but when they got to really looking at everything back there, that tile is big enough through there. He said the residents are getting excess water off this end of town and what it is doing when it comes into Park Circle there right across Potter Hills Road where there used to be another ditch that went on down to a pond that belonged to Jack Smith. That ditch got stopped up or closed up. Commissioner Hill stated what they are proposing to do is going to the end of that ditch of Park Circle, tile it from there up to the “V” in circle and go across the road there into the circle and then go on down. There is a catch basin down between Mr. Swinson’s house and Harold Stroud’s house and tile that to that ditch. He said that will take half the water coming in there that way instead of going around behind the resident’s houses. Commissioner Hill said the other thing they looked at was the water coming down the street is a lot of what is washing the back of the resident’s yards off. When water comes down the street your yards slant to the ditch behind the house. He said they are looking at going up there by the Colony House and they have two different ideas. The first one is to take cement and roll it all the way down the street on that side so it will take that water off the street and carry it to the end of the street where the catch basin is. The second thing they are looking at is to see how much it would cost to curb and gutter there. It depends on the money to which one they can do to fix the issue. Commissioner Hill said he would like to do the curbing of the gutter. He said that Timmy is going to go talk to Mr. John Worthington. There is a catch basin there beside that ditch in his yard and Timmy is going to see if Mr. John will let him open it back up. Commissioner Hill said they have got to check to see if there is an easement because if there is one, then the problem is the Town’s, but if there is not an easement then the town cannot go on private property. He said they are going to get George to check on all that. If the easement is on the deed, then we can clean the ditch out. Commissioner King said he thinks by what they have already done by digging out the ditch by the Russo house and when they run that tile under the street into the center of Park Circle, his estimation of it will be over 50 percent of the water that has been going behind his house will be going the other way and that will relieve other resident’s flooding hopefully. Ms. Del said she told her insurance man that she did not have flood insurance and he asked if the town had ever applied for it. Mayor Sykes stated yes they applied for it 4 or 5 years ago and now the town is eligible for flood insurance. Commissioner King said that Kim has a website for the extension office about ditch erosions in the neighborhood. Kim said the estimate that Timmy got from Chris Taylor was for $32,000 to put in tile in Park Circle. Commissioner Hill made a motion to table this issue until the next board meeting. Commissioner King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda the WASA Water Issue. Commissioner Hill explained that we are not getting good water from WASA. He said that Timmy met with Harold Herring, Kyle Smith with WASA, and Jamie Cannon from Deep Run Water. Commissioner Hill said as long as Jamie is running his wells in Deep Run, we are getting good water. There is nowhere to flush on the corner across from Food Lion. There is a fire hydrant there but it is bad about trying to flush it. They didn’t make no flush point up there where the vault is and there should have been something put there because we are getting bad water from there. He said all we are doing is flushing and flushing. We have dumped 2 million gallons of water on the ground this year at least. Commissioner Hill said he agrees with Timmy about a boost station put at that vault or somewhere near that vault to boost the chloramines coming into our system. You have got to have a certain residual to properly disinfect your lines. He stated that we are not getting good quality water but if they were to put a booster station down here like they did in Grifton and Ayden for those big systems then we would.

Kim read Timmy’s comments to the board. On October 29th the town switched from using WASA water to using well water in an attempt to prove that nothing is in our tank or that our new lines is causing the low residual problem we are having in our system. Though because of the water project, the town water system has larger lines in the ground (which is water storage plus our two water tanks). This water needs to turn over each day to keep fresh water with good disinfection residuals to provide to our customers. We have cut off from our system the Pinewood tank to help with this turn over. We have taken Bac-T samples from Broadway tank, our well, and one in a low residual area. All coming back good. HPC were also taken showing good VOC’s and In-organics have been taken from our well and Broadway tank (these results take 2 weeks and are not back yet). My point that was made in a meeting with Harold Herring, Kyle Smith with WASA, and Jamie Cannon with Deep Run Water was that we are not getting consistent numbers from our vault; which is at the Food Lion. We are buying water from WASA not Deep Run Water. The allotted amount of water that we get per day from WASA is 67,500 gallons and it costs us $8,000 per month for that water. It isn’t Deep Run Water Corporation’s responsibility to run his wells and boost up residuals before the water gets to our system. My proposal is that WASA put in a booster station somewhere to keep and make consistent the residuals on the water we buy from WASA. This will cost in excess of $100,000 estimated. Furthermore since we have been on well water and we have done a lot of flushing, we seem to be holding consistent with residuals. The Town will still have to flush our 12” lines and some lines that are dead ended this I would say is normal. Also we will be waiting to see all the results of the samples taken. Over the last two to three months we have put a 1/3 of water bought plus well water on the ground through flushing. One month (August) that number flushed way close to 1 million gallons – we sold close to 2 million gallons that month. September flushing amount was 850,000 gallons and sold amount was just shy of 2 million gallons. The Town cannot continue this – My opinion only. Commissioner King asked what would be our recourse. Kim said we do not have one because we are in a 40 year contract with WASA. Commissioner Grady said if they can’t put that booster system in to help us, then something has to be broke. Commissioner Hill said that is why he is going to talk to Harold Herring and ask him to come to the next meeting. Commissioner Hill made a motion to invite Harold Herring to the next board meeting. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was Debris Recovery Agreement. Mayor Sykes explained what a Debris Recovery Agreement is. She said we have to have it in order for us to receive money from the Federal Government (FEMA) if we have a disaster. Commissioner Hill made a motion to accept the Debris Recovery Agreement. Commissioner King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was Police Updates. Chief Thigpen stated since the last meeting on October 13, 2015 they have had a total of 10 reported incidents, 1 arrest, 2 accidents, issued 16 citations for a total of 19 charges, and issued 8 warning citations. He informed the board about the attempted robbery at the Dollar General. Chief Thigpen said the car is still doing good. Mayor Sykes thanked Chief Thigpen for his work.

The Fire Department Report was next on the agenda. Kim read the report for Timmy in his absence. Since the last meeting they have had 11 EMS calls, 2 vehicle accidents, 1 structure fire, and 1 fire alarm. He reports that the gun raffle went well. They sold almost every ticket, attempting to sell 1,000 tickets. Gross before expenses a little more than $19,000. Expenses usually running around $7,000.

Fire Department Christmas Banquet will be held at the cafeteria on December 5, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Christmas Parade will be Sunday, December 6, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. Please all board members be in your spot at 1:00 p.m.

The next item on the agenda was Water/Sewer Report. Kim said that the information she gave on the WASA Water Issue was all that Timmy had given her to report in his absence.

The next item on the agenda was Mixed Drinks on Ballot. Mayor Sykes stated she has had several people ask her why we can’t or don’t have liquor by the drink. She told them it is because we do not have an ordinance for it and it has to be approved and be voted on. Mayor Sykes asked George what the board would need to do if they decide to put it on the ballot next time. George said he did not know right off hand. He said they would need to make a motion to put it on the ballot. Commissioner King made a motion to put mixed drinks on the 2017 ballot. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Update on H.J. Building was next on the agenda. Commissioner Hill made a motion for the town to pay for the demolition of the building and the disposal of the damage and also that the town will go into the building and remove any personal property, fixtures, or pertinences in or attached to the building, sell it and credit the sale if any against the town’s expense for the demolition with the remaining balance to be charged to the property owners. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Kim asked Mayor Sykes when she wanted her to call Chris Taylor about taking down the building. Mayor Sykes told Kim to call him tomorrow. Kim said Timmy had written down in his notes that Chris could start anytime and all is ready. Kim stated her question is what about the power lines being disconnected because the town is not the owner and the power is in the owner’s name. George said the town has an order to take down the building so to call and let the power company know this. Kim reminded the board again that the price for Chris Taylor to tear down the H.J. Building and clean up the damage would be $15,000.

The next item on the agenda was the Write-In Ballot. Commissioner Hill said he would like to know why we have to put write-in ballots on a ballot. George said he thinks the Legislative says that and it is a state law. Commissioner Hill asked how can they do a write-in campaign and not go pay the filing fee and not concur with any rules but they do this and why is this legal? George said he would look it up and get Commissioner Hill a response by the next board meeting.

Budget Amendments if needed was next on the agenda. There were no budget amendments at this time.

The next item on the agenda was Remarks by Town Attorney. George stated that they needed to have a closed session to talk briefly about the B.F. Grady School. Other than that he just wanted to say how glad he is to be here.

The next item on the agenda was Comments by the Board. Commissioner Hill wanted to let everyone know that the flags by the flowerbed were in honor of Veterans. He said most of them were done by the Ruritan Club. They did over 40 flags. Commissioner King said the Chevrolet people bought a bunch of them and they are the ones that furnished the flags and the American Legion helped put them up.

Mayor Sykes told the board that Kinston is having their Christmas Parade on December 12, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. She said yesterday morning Commissioner Hill, Kim, and herself went to a breakfast in Kinston for the Chamber. Mayor B.J. Murphy and Craig Hill are trying to have all the Lenoir County Mayor’s and all the board members to ride on a float that morning. Mayor Sykes just wanted to let the board know that they are invited to ride in the Kinston parade.

The next item on the agenda was Public Comments. There were no public comments at this time

The next item on the agenda was Closed Session. Commissioner Hill made a motion to go into closed session to discuss the B.F. Grady Sewer District. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

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