September 10, 2013

7:08 P.M.

The Town of Pink Hill held its monthly board meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at 7:08 p.m. after the public hearing in the town hall board room. Present for the meeting were Mayor Carol Sykes, Commissioners Mike Hill, Donald King and Marion Mitchell, Town Attorney George Jenkins, Public Works Director Timmy Kennedy, Chief Joey Thigpen, and Town Clerk Kimberly Mitchell.

Visitors present at the meeting were Lillie Baker, Sheri Williams, Dora Evans, Debra Grady, Susan Meyers, Jose Resendiz, and Sandra Resendiz.

Mayor Sykes called the meeting to order. Mayor Sykes welcomed everyone to the meeting. Commissioner King then led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner King made a motion to approve the regular board minutes from August 13, 2013. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the agenda and amendments if needed as presented. Commissioner King seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was Big Sweep of Lenoir County. Sheri Williams gave the board members some information and pictures of some clean ups they have been done in the past. Ms. Williams introduced herself and stated she was the County Coordinator for NC Big Sweep of Lenoir County. She said NC Big Sweep is a nonprofit organization that was founded in 1987 and its mission is to provide a litter free environment. During Big Sweep’s 26 year history almost 335,000 volunteers have retrieved more than 11 million pounds of debris which is the visual equivalent of almost 27,000 football fields 5 feet high in debris. She stated all 100 counties are expected to participate in this much needed cleanup on Saturday, October 5, 2013. The central meeting site will be at the Neuse Nature Center in Kinston from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. She stated this is a county wide event and that is why she is here tonight to ask for our help. She said she would like for someone from Pink Hill to volunteer to become a zone captain. Ms. Williams said the zone captain would be the leader of the volunteers here in Pink Hill. She stated the zone captain would be in charge of trying to get people to sign up to volunteer, staying in contact with her before, during, and after the event, planning with her for distribution of supplies, and coordinating pickup of supplies. She said the supplies are donated and they include safety vests, gloves, and orange trash bags. She said she brought a zone captain handbook so that everyone could look at it. Ms. Williams stated it has a lot of helpful information and she is always happy to assist in any way. She said she would love to see Big Sweep roll all over Lenoir County. She said after the cleanup everyone is invited to the picnic shelter at the Nature Center to enjoy lunch and fellowship. She stated if the Town of Pink Hill is interested in participating, she would be happy to speak with a representative of OCS and see if they would donate their services on the Monday following the event to pick up the orange bags they see at the roads. Ms. Williams said she works for Kinston Public Services and that is what they do for the cleanup in Kinston. She said they do it as a donation. Ms. Williams asked if anyone had any questions. Ms. Williams thanked the board for their time. Mayor Sykes thanked Ms. Williams for coming.

The next item on the agenda was La Estrellita and they wanted to discuss their water bill. Mr. Jose Resendiz stated he received a $500 water bill last year in July and before that one he had a water bill for over $300. He stated his bills used to be around $65 to $80 a month and even when he had a toilet leak they ran around $150 to $180. He stated he would like to get his money back because he thinks the meter was bad. He said as soon as Timmy changed the meter the bill came down without him having to fix anything in the store. Mayor Sykes read Timmy’s documented notes when he replaced La Estrellita’s meter last July. Timmy documented that when he installed the new meter that it turned just like the old meter. He also added a cutoff and a box so the owner could cut water off and on when he wanted to so the bill wouldn’t be higher and that is when the reading came down. Timmy said the meter he took out was old but was still reading correctly. Mayor Sykes stated this has been a year ago and Timmy went out of his way to put the cut off box for the owner. Commissioner Hill said he has never seen a water meter speed up, he has seen them get slower. Commissioner Hill told the owner that Timmy put the cut off box there for him to use at no cost to him. Commissioner Hill said if he could prove that the water did not go into the sewer, then they could help him, by giving him credit on the sewer, but since he has not proven anything there is nothing they can do. Mayor Sykes thanked Mr. Resendiz for coming.

The next item on the agenda was the Pink Hill Flower Fund. Susan Meyers said she was here to give an update. She stated they have planted 681 roses this year. Ms. Meyers said their goal for next year is to put down 500 roses. She said next year they are going to do something a little different. They are going to do both knockouts and drifts. She said at the intersection of Central and Broadway she is going to dig up those knockouts because they are going to grow too big. Ms. Meyers said she is going to replace them with drift roses that shouldn’t grow too tall. Ms. Meyers said she wanted to ask the board to be thinking about any places that they would like to see roses at and let her know. She said they really need more newspapers and cardboard. She said she has a box outside of the Pink Hill Pharmacy to put the newspapers in. She stated the best cardboard is the cardboard at the bottom of palates. Ms. Meyers said they also need more wood chips. Ms. Meyers asked if anyone had any questions or comments. Mayor Sykes stated she and the board appreciates what Ms. Meyers has done for the town with the flowers and everything.

The next item on the agenda was Amend Town Charter for absentee and one stop voting. Commissioner Hill made a motion to amend Town Charter to allow absentee voting and one stop voting. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes asked for all in favor to say “Aye” and all not in favor to say “Nay”. It was voted 2 to 1. Commissioner King voted “Nay”. Commissioner Hill made a motion to send the Town Charter to the county and legislatures and to authorize and instruct the Town Attorney to transmit the resolution to the county commissioners and the board of elections. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion carried 2 to 1. Commissioner King voted “Nay”.

The next item on the agenda was Police Updates. Joey stated since the last meeting on August 13, 2013 they have had a total of 2 reported incidents, 4 accidents, issued 12 citations with a total of 14 charges, and issued 16 warning citations. Joey said everything is good and no problems with the cars. There have been no break-ins in a couple of months. Mayor Sykes thanked Joey.

The next item on the agenda was Fire Department Report. Timmy stated he did not have a fire report at this time. He wanted to let the board know that the matching grant they had put in for last year, which was for a Cascade System that would allow them to fill their air pack bottles on site off of a truck. He stated that is getting installed on the truck as we speak in Rocky Mount. Mayor Sykes thanked Timmy and the others for the work that they do.

The next item on the agenda was Water/Sewer Updates. Timmy said he really does not have anything to update the board on other than he has been busy. He stated he wished the town could have a full time inspector but he understands the water project budget. Timmy said as far as the project goes they seem to be pretty much on schedule in talking with Trey. Timmy said he has had very few complaints as far as yards or driveways go. He said he thinks E.R. Lewis is doing a decent job. Timmy stated he is finding out that the blueprints and maps that he already had in place to where the lines are and what he thought he knew is not the same. He said they are finding it when they are digging in the ground. Commissioner Hill asked Timmy how many directional boars E. R. Lewis is going to have to do. Timmy said they are going to have to do three directional boars. Timmy stated Broadway and Hwy. 11 are two of them but he could not remember the other street. Timmy said they have had minimal problems with the project. Mayor Sykes thanked Timmy for his work.

The next item on the agenda was Budget Amendments if needed. Kim stated there were no budget amendments at this time only line item transfers due to accounts payables that came in after June 30th.

The next item on the agenda was Remarks by Town Attorney. George stated he appreciated the ability to be with the board and that he appreciated their confidence in him.

The next item on the agenda was Comments by the Board. Mayor Sykes thanked Kim for all her hard work in the office. Timmy also thanked Kim for her help. Commissioner Hill said he wanted to tell Timmy, Joey, and Kim that he appreciates what they are doing and thanked them for doing a good job. Commissioner King also wanted to thank them as well. Commissioner Mitchell thanked Timmy for doing a great job. Commissioner Mitchell asked if he could get a copy of the resolution for Old Craft. Kim stated she would get Commissioner Mitchell a copy of the resolution for Old Craft.

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

The next item on the agenda was Closed Session. There was no need for a closed session at this time.

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