Town Board Meeting

November 10, 2020

The Town of Pink Hill Board meeting was held on November 10, 2020 in the town hall board room. Present for this meeting were Mayor Carol Sykes, Commissioner Mike Hill, Commissioner James Quinn, Commissioner Penny Murphy, Public Works Director Timmy Kennedy, Public Works Assistant Phillip Swinson, Police Chief Michael Hoffman, and Town Clerk Crystal Heath.

Mayor Sykes said I would like to call this meeting to order and I welcome everyone to the November 10, 2020 meeting. I would like to ask everyone to please turn your cell phones off. Mayor Sykes asked Commissioner Mike Hill to lead everyone in saying the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Everyone stood and said the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Sykes said I need approval of the agenda, amendments, and consent agenda. Commissioner Hill said I make a motion to approve the agenda, amendments, and the consent agenda, Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes said is there any discussion, all in favor say "aye", motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Sykes called for Phillip Swinson to provide the fire report. Mr. Swinson said call report for the Pink Hill Fire Department since the last meeting on October 13, 2020 to today. There was 1 EMS assignment, 4 vehicle accidents, 5 structure fires, 1 electrical fire, 1 fire alarm, and 1 service assignment for a total of 13 calls. At our November business meeting the membership nominated to have Tony Heath remain as Chief and Randy Byrd remain as Deputy Chief for another two year term. We are asking the Mayor and the town board's approval to proceed with the nominations as selected by the membership. Mayor Sykes said ok I need a motion to accept. Commissioner Hill said I make a motion to accept the membership of the Fire Department nominations of Tony Heath as Chief and Randy Byrd as Deputy Chief for another two year term. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes said is there any discussion, all in favor say "aye", motion carried unanimously. Mayor Sykes said I think it is a good choice. Phillip Swinson said I do too and just a reminder everyone is invited to the Fire Department Christmas party December 5th it will be in the cafeteria and if you don't have any tickets get up with me and I'll get you some.

Mayor Sykes asked for Chief Hoffman from Pink Hill Police Department to provide his report. Chief Hoffman said we are routinely patrolling businesses and all and our shoplifting has decreased good Lord willing it will continue that way. Other than that we haven't had a whole lot of change we picked up on our patrol and drug zones and also monitored our traffic. Mayor Sykes thanked him.

Mayor Sykes asked for Timmy Kennedy to provide the water report. Timmy said the only thing I wanted to bring up tonight was the Central Avenue culvert and the finishing up the pavement. Whenever I—because we had a little bit of surplus money left in what FEMA was allowing us to spend on that job. I was trying to get a little bit better paving job done instead of just the patch so it could look nicer and last longer. There lots of roads in town that look worse but we all know how our budget runs. Whenever I asked the contractor to do a change order a

little more pavement there whenever we got back the bid it was extremely high. Between me and the engineers we decided to get a second paver to come in and take a look at it. You have a copy of this bid no other bid—the original bid was set at $12,000 just for the patch and when I asked for just a little bit it came back as a change order $23,000 was added to that so 23 plus 12 somewhere around 45 and some change. We got a bid here to do the same job for $16,000 and between us and the engineers we are going to go with Garris pavement. Mayor Sykes do we need a motion for that? Timmy said I don't know, Commissioner Hill said we do not. Timmy said you decide whether we do or not because it is a FEMA project we haven't received any monies yet, we have to turn in all our receipts, and we are going to have wait for our money to come back we have to front the money. We have already made arrangements on the budget to pay up front for the whole project. Mayor Sykes said let's make a motion it's not a big deal but let's make a motion. Timmy Kennedy said we will be hiring them straight it won't be through the Wooten Company or anybody else. Commissioner Hill said I make a motion to let Garris Pavement do pavement on Central Avenue through the FEMA project. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes said any discussion, all in favor say "aye", motion carried unanimously. Mr. Kennedy said I hope everyone was satisfied with the project on Lynwood Avenue they are finished; paid everything except for contingency which you always hold back. I know that road looks just as bad, but we got a set amount for that one to start and we were right at the threshold so I didn't have any more money to put on extra pavement, but I think the whole job turned out very well. I hope everybody is satisfied with it I haven't heard any complaints. Mayor Sykes said when you are going on 241 those two sinkholes on the highway. Timmy Kennedy said on 241? Mayor Sykes said yeah. Mr. Kennedy said that would be DOT; Mayor Sykes said have you called them? Timmy said they are aware of it we had several sinkholes right next to the curb edge of the road. They are aware of them and even sent out a crew was it last year or year before it's been quite a while back they were looking at the job. I am sure it's on some kind of lengthy list for DOT. It is a storm sewer it is all owned by DOT it's on DOT road I can make a call. Mayor Sykes said let me call Chris Smith that's who I called before. Timmy said you can get more done then me because they are going to come out here with a bucket and shovel throw a little bit of asphalt and say it's fixed. Commissioner Murphy said I have a question on the project we are working on because I have a couple of people that live on that street wondering how much longer it is going to be. Mr. Kennedy said well this was the hold up because the prices came jacked up so I told them to wait until we can get another bid. I just got this bid in yesterday, Garris did promise me that if he got the job he would get it on the schedule. Just as soon as I can sign this because tomorrow is a holiday, hopefully by next week there will be someone working on it. I will say that the original contractor is supposed to come back and get rid of that big pile of dirt and grate it and do some curving work that they tore up whenever they were constructing. That should not cost us anything because it was their machine. Mr. Kennedy said did that answer you? Commissioner Murphy said yes it did thank you. Town Clerk Crystal Heath said we go ahead and send it tonight through email. Mr. Kennedy said all we have to do is sign it.

Mayor Sykes said Jessica Lyles is here and she has a question so I am going let her have the floor. Ms. Lyles said my name is Jessica Lyles and I do own a home have property in Pink Hill I pay taxes here. I live at 400 Old Beulaville Highway I am working from time to time on

the house that I have. I need the water on when I have contractors coming doing work and so when I cut it on I normally leave it on until the winter when it gets cold, because I don't have any heat in the house and I don't want patch to freeze. My main concern is periodically I need water on I was asking could the water—I don't really need the trash and garbage, I know that comes together I just really need the water I was asking could it be prorated. I wanted it on for instance yesterday and it was nine days into the time that the water will be read until next month. I didn't want to pay a full bill for nine days and then at the end of that month have another full bill. My reason for being here tonight is to ask the board if there is some way you can find a way to prorate at some points for people that need water when they are working on a building, but it is mighty expensive to cut it on for nine days and have to pay the same. The amount that I am paying the Town Hall Clerk was trying to tell me that you only pay for the water but I never paid less than 48 dollars. Mayor Sykes said you pay for water, sewer, and garbage that is all included in the 48 dollars, you can't have sewer if you don't have water. Commissioner Hill said we have people that have rental properties and they do the same thing and they pay a full bill full month just like everybody else. Commissioner Hill said our ordinances state that if your water is off you will be charged for a full month; we can't do you that way and not do everybody else because if we did everybody else we would be losing money. Our ordinances are fixed if you have water on your property you have to pay the bill or be disconnected. Mayor Sykes said what number of the bill? Town clerk Crystal Heath said 49-50. Mayor Sykes said that is the ordinance and that is what it says. Ms. Lyles said well my property is not a rental property. The board said it does not matter. Commissioner Hill said we have a guy I think on Lynwood Avenue been working on his house for years has paid his bill every month like he is supposed to, hasn't lived in the house for the first two years but paid on time every month that is what the ordinance says. Mayor Sykes said I did say to Crystal today and yes a I did pay a bill for $37.00 for a power bill that I had cut on that stayed two days for an inspection it's just a minimum fee that you pay I do have it to show you. Ms. Lyles said if it is in your ordinance to be that way so you say it's written and cannot be changed. Commissioner Hill said no ma'am not unless I have a public hearing. Ms. Lyles that is why I am saying can't you have a public hearing? Commissioner Hill said ma'am not everybody will be treated the same the whole town. Ms. Lyles said I understand that, but in order to change that you would have to have a public hearing so what is wrong with having a public hearing? Mayor Sykes said because we are not going to have one because we already had one for this ordinance. Commissioner Hill said it costs us money every time we have one if we had a public hearing every time everybody wanted one it would eat up our budget, we have a set budget. A public hearing costs us money the attorney has to draw up special things for it and we have to advertise it. Mayor Sykes said and you wouldn't want to pay for that because it is more than 48 dollars. Ms. Lyles said I probably do pay for that. Mayor Sykes said we are not going to change the ordinance it has been that way and we have to treat everybody the same way. Ms. Lyles said I can understand that, but let me say this if you know ahead of time why did you ask me to come in front of the board? Commissioner Hill said because when she asked you to come in front of the board she wanted us to hear and provide the rest of us our opinion. Mayor Sykes did not Crystal tell you I would come in front of the board for you if you didn't want to be here I would have done it and said the same thing now. Ms. Lyles yeah but I wanted to advocate for myself. Mayor Sykes we are not going to change the ordinance we can't do it for everybody. If I had a house like that where I had to work on it I would pay the water bill. That is just the law and

the way it is. I thank you for coming if you use one gallon per thousand. The flat rate for water is $21.50, sewer $16.00, and garbage is $12.00 add that together minimum bill of $49.50. Mayor Sykes said thank you so much for coming.

Mayor Sykes said Town Attorney George Jenkins is not here. Do you all have any comments? Commissioner Murphy said I have one more issue like I said I have been real popular this week in my neighborhood. I would probably need to ask law enforcement here. In our little part of the town here and for some reason folks are just flying through Park Circle and couple of neighbors have said something to me. Our demographics has changed and we have lots of older people now. On the end closest to town there is not a speed limit sign there, they were wondering if we could get a speed limit sign and children at play. Chief Hoffman said I would absolutely will get a speed limit sign and children at play sign out there. Mayor Sykes there are children there and I saw five cars go down my street like crazy. Chief Hoffman said the first thing we can do is put our officers out there as humanely possible. Commissioner Murphy said we see you folks out there. Chief Hoffman said the biggest thing I am running into now it is so hard for one person to be everywhere in order to secure the safety of our community we all got to work together. If y'all see a time when it is picking up or when it is happening call us. Mayor Sykes it just happens all the time and when you call they are gone. Chief Hoffman said the best thing to do snoop and give me the tag of the car. Commissioner Murphy I just think we need something to jog their minds with the sign. Chief Hoffman that would be a wonderful idea to put the signs there. Mayor Sykes said we don't have a hearing we just need a motion to have the sign up. Commissioner Hill said no if it's already been there—Mayor Sykes I think they have already been there. Mayor Sykes asked if there was any more discussion. Mayor Sykes adjourned this meeting.

Typed by Assistant Town Clerk Diana Rodriguez

Approved by Town Clerk

Crystal Heath