

September 17, 2019

7:00pm

The Town of Pink Hill held its monthly board meeting on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 7:00pm in the Town Hall board room. Present for the meeting was Mayor Carol Sykes, Commissioners Mike Hill, James Quinn, and Penny Murphy, Public Works Director Timmy Kennedy, Public Works Assistant Phillip Swinson, Town Attorney George Jenkins, Pink Hill Police Chief Joey Thigpen, and Town Clerk Crystal Heath.

Visitors present for the meeting were Jessi Thigpen, Thurman Stroud, and Mrs. Stroud.

Mayor Sykes said I want to welcome everyone out to our board meeting tonight and I thank you all for coming. Please remember to turn off your cell phones. I want to ask Commissioner Quinn to lead us in saying the pledge of allegiance. All now stood and said the pledge of allegiance. Thank You James, Mayor Sykes says. Okay you all we have three amendments to our agenda so George is that right. George says yes. We got something from the library about some mold on the walls in the library. We are amending that to 5a. We also have something from CDS and Crystal you can talk to them about this, it's something we have talked about before, upgrading the computers for safety. That will move to 7a. Also, the fire department needs to talk about buying a fire truck in place of the totaled out suburban that will be 8a. So I need someone to make a motion for the changes in the agenda. Commissioner James Quinn said I make a motion to amend the agenda for 5a, 7a, and 8a. Commissioner Penny Murphy said I second his motion. Mayor Carol Sykes said is there any discussion on this? If not all in favor say "aye". The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Sykes says now you are up Sheree'. The first thing we wanted to ask is a town trunk or treat sponsored by the library. We would block part of Pine St and Broadway St, have it to a confined area. We would like to try to keep our kids safe during Halloween. That way it's confined to one area, the kids want be out on Hwy 11, to me it's a safety issue. They will all be in a better area and closer to the fire departments haunted house. Mayor Sykes says that is true tell them to

bring their monies. It will be from 5:30pm-8pm. We already have some businesses on board. We are also sending letters out to the businesses asking them to decorate a trunk of a vehicle or help out with some games we have planned. We want to kind of make it like a Halloween carnival. Now what streets are you talking about Mayor Sykes asked? Broadway just the intersection? Sheree says the intersection of Broadway and Pine, going up the sideway of the church. Mayor Sykes says Joey do you think there will be any issues with this? Chief Joey says I mean are you going to have anyone there or cones? What's the plan for that? Sheree says we will have cones. Mayor Sykes says I am sure ya'll will have cones. Sheree says we will even have some fire trucks block off the areas with some flashy lights. Chief Joey says only thing is the big trucks coming thru need to have enough room to get through our town. Mayor Sykes says what about the Presbyterian Church or Methodist church? See if you can have it that area, it can still be sponsored by the Library. I don't see a problem with the Presbyterian Church Mayor Sykes says because we want necessarily be in the street and not on a main street. Commissioner James Quinn says I will bring it up in church on Sunday and see how they feel about having it there and that can be an option too. Okay just decide and let us know where it will be at. Sheree says okay so now I'm supposed to bring up the mold issue? Mayor Sykes says yes. She says everybody, holding a picture of the mold on the wall of the children's room in the library, I was moving a display and when I took down a picture discovered mold behind the pictures. I took them down late in the evening so the next day I went in with a bleach solution and cleaned the walls where any black mold was at. I don't know if I got it all off, I don't know if it's a stint from the hurricane Dorian or if was there before, I don't know if it's an isolated thing at this point but I just know it's an issue and it's in the children's room and its black mold. I talked to Melanie she has asked my supervisor if we need a mold specialist to come in and it does smell like bleach in there right now where I cleaned. I cleaned it as well as I could and it is a lot better than what it was I just don't know if it's all gone. We have looked on the roof to see if there is a leak or issues up there. Phillip spoke up and said I didn't see anything wrong with the roof. Mayor Sykes said how the county does, I know they don't but do they ever offer anything to fix anything? We only have so much to use with us being a small town. Not that this may cost a lot. But we do have already something to fix in the back of the library. We have had to go to the county before to fix things because we have done what we can do. On the budget

the memorandum that she sent in the water/sewer bill, insurance bill was not figured in if that's what was sent in. It's always usually there. We do a lot it may not seem like we do but with water, sewer, and power bills it's a lot. I think someone needs to talk to the county and see if they can be of any help with any of this. And possible the back part if we can't take care of all of that. I think it's doable but we will see. Commissioner James Quinn said we had an issue in one of the rooms at church with mold getting on the books, what we did was put a dehumidifier in the room and that has seemed to work. Maybe you can get someone to get the library one for that room. If you get the moisture out of the air it will get the mold out. Sheree says I know she has already applied for grants, I don't know what's going to come of that but at the very least that room will need painting. Mayor Sykes says it's not that we don't want to help she says we just have a limited budget to use. Sheree says oh I know, I understand it's an old building and that is tendency to have issues. It is Mayor Sykes says, and we did do the roof for \$10,000, that was a biggie. Sheree says yes ma'am. How about the leak the other day Mayor Sykes says? We never found anything did we? She asked Phillip, he says nothing was seen. James Quinn says I can find out where the church got their humidifier at. Okay Carol says we have to talk about the back steps too. I know we will help with something but will you talk to Melanie? I know the county can give us something. I don't know what she plans to do but if she wants to talk to me she's welcome to contact me. Sheree says okay. Mayor Sykes says be prepared they are going to give you a hard time asking for money. If any of them want to speak to me just tell them to call me. Mayor Sykes says I don't mind helping in anyway. The last thing on the library is the steps. I happened to be at the library one day and I happened to be at the back and saw that the seal of the building was rotted it and steps were pulled from building. Scared me because I don't want anyone to get hurt, sheree had said they had been using it this morning to carry books out the back door. I think it's better to not use it until it gets fixed. Sheree says we have now put caution tape up so no one will use that access. Mayor Sykes says we have two bids for fixing the back steps and that rotten wood. One is Kennedy Brothers and the other is Kelly Howard. I know the Kennedy Brothers have the insurance that the town requires and they did the ramp outside the library, did a good job too says James Quinn. There again it depends on if the county helps out or if we will take care of it. Mayor Sykes says I don't know if Melanie wants to go bring this up talk to county about it or if she

wants me to call but whichever she wants I will be more than happy to help her out. I will call or go with her just let me know. Commissioner James Quinn says Okay I make a motion to table the bids and the decision on the back steps of the library. Commissioner Penny Murphy says I second that. Mayor Sykes said okay is there any discussion on this? If not all in favor say "aye" and the motion was carried unanimously. Mayor Sykes told Sheree we will get on this just as soon as we can and if we hear any decision on this we will get up with you before the next town board meeting. We certainly hope that maybe the county will want the same contractor that we do. We certainly appreciate ever thing you do. The Pink Hill Public Library is definitely an asset to our town. Commissioner James Quinn said it does stay looking like it is full all the time.

Okay next on the agenda is WASA update. As of right now Mike is the town's representative for WASA and its time to revote him to be our member unless one of yall want to be? Commissioner James Quinn says I make a motion to keep Commissioner Mike Hill our representative for WASA and Commissioner Penny Murphy said she second that. Mayor Sykes said any discussion on this? If not all in favor say "aye". Motion was carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda is the CDS issue with our computers. Crystal I am going to need you to talk to them about this, Mayor Sykes says. Crystal says so basically I spoke to representative from CDS and inquired on the security with our computers with all this talk and the news of company's files being held for ransom. I wanted to know if our system was strong enough to keep the cyber stalkers out of our files. He said basically what we have is a firewall that is set to protect a home computer not strong enough for a company. He said that also by January 2020 all computers will have to have windows10 installed to be a working compatible computer. For them to put the sonic fire wall and the windows10 in here on our computers they quoted me for \$1663.60. Mayor Carol said and that backs up everything? I said I usually back up once a month. James Quinn said he did hear about it happening in Onslow County. Crystal said yes, I did get a odd email about, when did I tell you Carol? Two weeks ago? That from our Powell fund an email came in on my computer that had to have a password to continue I didn't open it, so about an hour later I received another email from same Powell address that stated his email account had been hacked to not open anything from him or your computer would be compromised too. So that's when I gave CDS a

call to see how strong our stuff is. Our computer will be backed up here and they can back it up on the cloud. James Quinn said did the county use CDS or I am just asking how you got in contact with them. I said they are who the town was using when I came here. Mayor Sykes said we've been using them for years.

Commissioner Penny Murphy made a motion to except the bid for installing the firewall and windows10 on the computers. Commissioner James Quinn second that motion. Mayor Sykes said any discussion on this. All in favor say "aye" motion was carried unanimously.

Next up is the fire report Mayor Sykes says. Phillip Swinson said I will be giving the report and standing in for Chief Tony Heath he is out of town tonight. Since our last meeting we had 7 EMS assignments, 2 vehicle accidents, 6 structure fire, 1 electrical fire, 1 fire alarm and 4 service assignments for a total of 21 calls. And they also want me to bring up about replacing the squad truck that was totaled out in June. We found a vehicle we just need approval to purchase the truck. Mayor Sykes says how much is the truck? Phillip says it's like \$10,000 plus the money we got back for the suburban will be enough to buy truck and outfit it for what we need. Mayor Sykes says okay I think it's in the budget right? Yes ma'am it is Phillip replied. Okay Commissioner James Quinn says I make a motion to go ahead and purchase the truck for the fire department. Commissioner Penny Murphy second. Mayor Sykes said any discussion on same. If not all in favor say "aye" the motion carried unanimously.

Next is Chief Joey. Since the last meeting we have had 140 calls Joey says do you want me to go over all of them? Mayor Sykes says no we have a copy of all of the calls. If anyone has any question please ask? Anything out of the norm Mayor Sykes asked. No the normal calls Chief Joey stated. One other thing I talked with James about last week and I mentioned it to you too Carol. I have Thurman here tonight and I got all of his back ground back and approval from Raleigh and I wanted to bring it up tonight to see if I can get approval of hiring him part time. Mainly he works for Lenoir County Sheriff's Department. Mayor Sykes said how many hours will he get? Chief Joey says what my intentions are is to split the 20 hours up between Thurman and Weaver. So if Weaver can only work 6 hours one week, Thurman will work 14 hours, but I am not going over the allotted 20 hours. I have everything of his right here in this file if you all want to see any of it. Training standards approved it, which I have to have that before I can even hire.

Mayor Sykes asked what his hourly wage is. Chief Joey says He will be \$13.00 a hour the part time wage. Okay Mayor Sykes says I need a motion. Commissioner James Quinn said I make a motion to hire Thurman Stroud part time with the Town Of Pink Hill Police department for up to 20 hours at hourly wage of \$13.00. Commissioner Penny Murphy second the motion. All in favor say "aye". Chief Joey says I want to ask one other thing too. If your available to swear him in tonight that would be good because he starts back to work in the morning with Lenoir. Mayor Sykes said I will gladly swear him in. Welcome Thurman to Pink Hill.

Next is Timmy Kennedy with the water report. Timmy says a couple of months ago David Tuten with Stroud engineer did our asset management project. He put in for another grant to finish this project. One for \$70,000 for sewer and \$110,000 for water. Hopefully if we get this grant it will finish this project that will include Deep Run Sewer. Mayor Sykes asked is this a 100% grant? Timmy says yes it is, other than I believe \$1,800. It's a small amount. All I need is approval of the resolution for the \$110, 000 for water and \$70,000 for the sewer. Commissioner James Quinn said he makes a motion to accept both resolutions for the water and sewer resolution. Commissioner Penny Murphy second that motion. All in favor say "aye" Mayor Sykes said. Motion was carried unanimously. Timmy said last meeting I talked to you about and gave you packets on my lift station in Deep Run hydrogen sulfide eating away my station, the cement man holes. These chemical quotes I have need to be talked about. Mayor Sykes said I would like for Commissioner Mike to be here for this. I know nothing about it, she said if we can table it until next meeting let's do that. Commissioner James Quinn said I make a motion to table this discussion until next meeting. Timmy says we will have to have this eventually. If not we will have some major issues. Over the 10 years we've had sewer with DRSD we have had to change out the station twice because of this.

Mayor Sykes said okay I have preached on this I don't know how long that door at the old police station is gone. The door needs to be covered there is junk in there it's got to be fixed. It worries me because there are children walking around and I worry they may get hurt. They can get in there if they do it is our fault. I know in a way it's the fire departments but ultimately the town is liable. I want something there to keep out the public, dogs, and cats. Phillip said I will take

care of it. Thank You Mayor Sykes says. Does there need to be a motion she asked? George said no. Mayor Sykes laughed and said okay if he says he's going to take care of it he will because he knows I will worry him to death over it. Thank you everyone that did all they did during the storm. We helped each other Mayor Sykes said. We are mighty lucky Timmy Kennedy says. Chief Joey says there is a spot in my bay that is leaking and I think it needs to be looked at. Mayor Sykes says hasn't there been a leak there before? Phillip says I don't remember, but I will put it on my list. Mayor Sykes says thank you.

Mayor Sykes says is there anything you need to say George? No I have nothing she says. Mayor Sykes says I want to apologize for missing the meetings I have. I am very thankful for all that the first responder/ fire department did for me that night. It was very scary and they saved my life it was mighty close. I appreciate all the thoughts and prayers all have had on my behalf. I have one more procedure to check out my pacemaker but I am very blessed. So anyways, hopefully this will be the end of that for me. Thank you all for taking care of anything for me during my absence and taking me to doctor's appointment. Commissioner James Quinn says glad to have you back.

If no one has anything else I call this meeting adjourned