

**Town of Pinetops
Board of Commissioners
Regular Monthly Meeting (Also available via Zoom)
Minutes
March 7, 2023
Pinetops Town Hall**

A. Call Regular Meeting to Order

Mayor Harrell called the Regular Meeting to Order.

B. Invocation

Commissioner Taylor led the Invocation.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Harrell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Proposed Agenda

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the proposed agenda as presented. Commissioner Sugg seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Mabry made a motion to approve the February 7, 2023 Minutes as written. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Guests

1. Rebekah Barr – Audit Presentation for FYE 06/30/2022

Rebekah Barr was present at the meeting via Zoom to present the audit report for FYE 06/30/2022. During the presentation she outlined a few of the items that were highlighted in the audit report. She informed the Board that she had reviewed the draft letter to the LGC FPIC Team that outlined the town's "Response to the Auditor's Findings, Recommendations, and Fiscal Matters." When she finished the presentation, she then opened the floor up to any questions. Commissioner Sugg asked if she noticed anything that looked to be trending negatively. She replied that even the items that were noted in her audit findings seemed to be trending in a more positive direction than those of previous years. One item that was mentioned was the transfers from the Enterprise Funds to the General Fund. She ended by letting the Board know that moving forward they could reach out to her with any questions or concerns they may have.

G. Public Comments

1. Kendrick Ransome – Golden Organic Farms

Kendrick Ransome came before the Board to introduce himself and to inquire about using the Town's Gazebo to showcase his produce. He was interested in holding the event in April.

Commissioner Mabry mentioned that we currently have a Special Event Application that needs to be filled out before events are held. He suggested Mr. Ransome get with the Town Administrator concerning the actual process.

2. Timothy Pierce – 410 5th Street

Timothy Pierce told the Board that he came to the meeting because he had heard that the town might be looking into decreasing the police force. He for one didn't want to see this happen because he's witnessed crime first-hand. He went on to say that he didn't think there were currently enough officers.

3. Sylvia Cobb – 110 Crestwood Circle

Sylvia Cobb just echoed what Mr. Pierce said. She didn't want the police force to decrease due to safety concerns. She mentioned that she knew the town was facing some financial issues and that the town had been relying on the electric fund to carry the general fund but safety shouldn't be comprised.

4. Joseph – Owner of Dead-on Tactical Gun Shop

Mr. Joseph is the business owner of Dead-on Tactical Gun Shop located across the street. He stated that the presence of the police department was one of the deciding factors in determining him moving his business here. He also didn't want to see the police force decrease.

H. Departmental Reports

1. **Police Department:** Chief Harrell read over the police report for the month of February 2023. The police department answered and/or initiated 730 official police actions. A detailed copy of the entire police report is hereby attached to the minutes. The police department currently has 5 full-time officers which doesn't include the BLET cadet that recently graduated. The Chief proceeded to give a presentation on the Two-Pronged Problem that he feels like the police department is facing. He discussed the number of officers as well as their pay. His studies showed the town needs more officers to patrol safely. The Chief mentioned the NCLM salary study for populations under 2,500 which shows Pinetops officers under the minimum average. He explained that due to these two things he couldn't keep officers. The Chief stated that for these reasons he would be proposing salary adjustments in the upcoming budget but would discuss this and the dispatchers further when he presents a power point at the budget work session outlining this information in greater detail.
2. **Public Works Department:** The water and sewer report for the month of February 2023 was presented by Cody Lancaster. The total water produced for the month was 4.0 million and total wastewater treated was 6.93 million. There were no water line breaks for February, but the town did have 3 electrical outages. He explained that the recent tree trimming helped but we still experience sporadic outages when a limb or squirrel touches the line. Tree trimming will be included in the upcoming budget to help deter such issues.
Kendrick Ransome proposed the town use some of his property on Bynum Farm Road as a potential disposal/recycle site for yard debris. The Board asked Mr. Ransome to meet with the Town Administrator to discuss this proposition further.

3. **Fire Department:** Chief Burress was not present for the meeting but had furnished a copy of the fire report for the month of February 2023. There were 6 service calls for the month. A detailed copy of the fire report is hereby attached to these minutes. A copy of the cemetery report for the month of February was also furnished. Lots sold for the month of February was 1. A detailed copy of the cemetery report is hereby attached to the minutes.

4. **Finance Department:** Ms. Keesler gave the financial report for the month of February 2023. The general fund had a loss of \$88,041.47. The electric fund had a gain of \$69,691.41 for the month while the water/sewer fund also ended the month with a gain of \$13,358.99. Ms. Keesler presented the Board with a Paid Check Report for the month along with a Budget to Actual Report. The adjusted ending balance for the month of February is \$3,663,317.34.

Ms. Keesler asked the Board for a motion to approve the Audit Report for FYE 06/30/2022 as written and presented by Rebekah Barr. Commissioner Mabry made a motion to adopt the Audit Report for FYE 06/30/2022. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Keesler asked the Board for a motion to approve the letter to the LGC FPIC Team responding to the Auditor's Findings, Recommendations, and Fiscal Matters. Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the "Responses to the Auditor's Findings, Recommendations, and Fiscal Matters" letter as presented. Commissioner Sugg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

I. Items for Discussion

1. Tractor Pull

Daniel Webb – Southwest Edgecombe Fire Department

Mr. Webb heads up the Tractor Pull that is held annually in Pinetops. This year will be the 45th. In the past the town has been providing police coverage for the event at a cost of around \$ 5, 800. Mr. Webb came before the Board to see if the town would be interested in becoming a sponsor of the event. The sponsorship would include the town name or special event being advertised on their scoreboard. They would begin covering \$4,200 for police coverage and the town would only be responsible for the balance. They do currently provide the town with a Certificate of Insurance and Pinetops is named on the policy. Commissioner Webb made a motion to include the tractor pull as a town sponsored event so they will not be required to go through the Special Event process. Commissioner Sugg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Schedule Budget Work Session

The first Budget Work Session has been scheduled for March 17th from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

3. Evaluation between in / Outsourcing Garbage & Recycle Services

The Town Administrator told the Board that he is still waiting on Patrick Luce with Waste Industries/GFI for the numbers to provide garbage/recycle service for Pinetops. The Board asked the Administrator to have these numbers by the March 17th Budget Session.

4. Status & Timelines of Wooten Assessments of Water & Sewer Infrastructure

The Administrator told the Board that the AIA for the water and wastewater are both coming along and should be ready soon. The deadline for resubmitting another sewer application is April.

5. Status of Lions Club Building Repairs

The Administrator informed the Board that the windows are being installed at the Lions Club, but he doesn't have an estimated completion date as of yet.

6. Any Other Business

The Administrator told the Board that the Fire Department has 30 old sets of turn out gear plus around 20 boots that they are asking the Board to surplus/donate to the Community College to be used for training. The utility department will have the first chance to pick up any of these items first for their use. The Administrator also asked the Board's approval to advertise the old 78 fire truck "as is" on Gov.Deal. Commissioner Webb made a motion to declare the above items as surplus and the gear will be donated to the Community College for training and the truck will be advertised "As Is" on the Gov.Deal site. Commissioner Sugg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Mabry reported that the Bridge should be back open the first week in April.

J. Action Items/New Business

1. Any Other Business

K. Adjournment

Commissioner Webb made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mabry seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Date: April 4, 2023



Mayor Brenda Harrell

ATTESTED:



Finance Officer/Town Clerk Tammy Keesler