

Town of
Pikeville
The Gem of Wayne County

Regularly scheduled Commissioners' Meeting for September 4, 2018 at 6 p.m.

Present:

Mayor Hooks Commissioner Herring Commissioner West
Commissioner Carpenter Commissioner Hooks Town Administrator Lisa Jones
Town Attorney Harry Lorello Deputy Town Clerk Katie Johnson
Utility Team Leaders Jennifer Bray and Robert Hunt

The regularly scheduled Commissioners' Meeting was called to order by Mayor Hooks at 6 p.m. After, he led staff, residents, and guests (7) in the Pledge of Allegiance.

To start the meeting, John Bell, member of the NC House of Representatives presented a \$50,000 check to the Mayor and Board of Commissioners and explained that an email would be sent shortly on how to gain access to this fund that he arranged for the Town of Pikeville to receive. The Board thanked Mr. Bell for this momentous amount of money and a picture was taken with the Mayor, the Town Administrator, and Mr. Bell before he exited.

Approval of past minutes from the July 9th and August 6th meeting passed with Commissioner Hooks making the motion, a second by Commissioner Carpenter and a unanimous vote. There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Starting on old business, Ms. Jones showed the Board the bill for Waters' Electric. Town Hall had a new row of lights put in along with a switch for said lights and a new electrical

outlet put in as well near the Mayor's desk. Ms. Jones explained that this project had been approved for a very long time and had just been completed on August 31st due to Mr. Waters being extremely short-handed. Mayor Hooks asked if the bill had been paid yet and since it had not been, said to cut a check this week.

Ms. Jones introduced information that she had received from Mr. Scott Littleton regarding his property on Ham Street that has been condemned. He is now on his fourth and final week of having said that his old property was under contract to be torn down and hauled away. If this deadline is not met, the town will proceed with previous arranged plans to tear down said residence on Ham Street and acquire the property as payment.

The last item on old business was the purchasing of a mini excavator. There were three quotes given to the board. Musgrave Small Mini Excavator New \$47,130; Musgrave Regular Mini Excavator New \$59,780; HE Mini Excavator Used 2014 Year Model \$45,876. Ms. Jones said that she would like Bobby Hunt's input on which would be the best for the town and he suggested that they go with the never-used Musgrave. This model has everything the utility department would need in regards to attachments without having to buy anything else. Mayor Hooks said he would like a spec sheet from Musgrave to determine what weight, etc. they would need and so they can compare the two before purchasing. Mr. Hunt also asked the Board to consider a truck with a flat bed and the attachment needed for a trailer. He was asked and agreed to get a price on one for the Board.

Before switching to new business a question of what state the old library is in was asked. Ms. Jones asked Mr. Hunt to explain further since he is the one who was sent

out to examine it. He said that it poses no immediate threat to residence safety and that the track the glass is on is bent even though the glue is loose. The bent track will keep the glass from falling onto the sidewalk and breaking. The Board also asked for an update on the condemned houses and Ms. Jones informed them that Town Attorney Harry Lorello had a skip trace on the last owners of the houses and they had been located. A certified letter was sent to them and they have 30 days to contest it before the houses will be torn down and the town will acquire the land.

New business was introduced with an update on the Powell bill money that is used for paving. There is about \$87 thousand that the town can use in the fund to pave streets. A new map was drawn up because the previous involved too many streets that ate up more money than was available. Mayor Hooks explained that the new paving map would cover W. School-W. David, RR St-the tracks-Church St. and RR St to Dr. Pate's old residence – Whistle Stop Auction. This would roughly be \$16/square yard and totals about \$1,000 under what we can spend. Mayor asked for three sealed bids and that the bids be locked in the safe until Harry Lorello could be present for the unsealing of the bids. Three letters of interest for the project were sent to Ms. Jones and the companies interested were: ST Wooten, Allen Grady, and Bridgepoint Civil.

The next item discussed in new business is the rate of accumulating vacation and sick time as an employee of Town of Pikeville. Chief Craig Edwins presented this information and informed the Board that the current policy being used has not been updated in at least 20 years. The employees are asked for an increase in the way we accumulate said vacation and sick time. He gave each Commissioner and the Mayor a chart with our current sick and vacation time accumulation rate compared to what is being

proposed. Broken down, this would allow employees an average of 2 extra days a year. Commissioners' West and Hooks said that they did not see an issue with fixing the rate of accumulation, but Commissioner Herring asked that it be tabled so they could have more time to look into what other municipalities are doing. The discussion was tabled.

Next item of new business included a discussion of amending the ordinance to allow the Town to enforce papering windows of buildings downtown being used for storage.

Commissioners have received comments saying how bad downtown looks, even the back areas behind businesses. Ms. Jones said that they are on the search to see if the property named "Thigpen Lane" is actually the town's property before they clean it. Mr. Hunt said that he could search through the deed box to see if they have a deed for "Thigpen Lane." It was decided that they will amend the ordinance. Town Clerk Joanne Honn must write an amendment and send it to Town Attorney Harry Lorello for a look over. Motion made by Commissioner West, second by Commissioner Hooks and passed with a unanimous vote.

Another item of new business that would require an amendment includes sending late notices via email instead of printing them and having Utilities department deliver them. It was proposed that while we email them, we still need to give residents a paper notice two days before cut-off. The installation of this process would be given months. It was asked that Ms. Joanne Honn draft an amendment and give it to Mr. Lorello before they vote on it next month.

Getting a card machine and online payments was next on the list for new business. Ms. Jones and Ms. Johnson presented Bankcard Associates information along and mentioned two other companies that had had meetings with Town Hall staff about their

company. Bankcard Associates is already integrated with Logics and we presented quotes from them to the Board. The monthly fee that comes with having the card machine could either be covered by us or by the resident. The Board was asked to consider approving this company since they are already integrated with Logics and it would not cause any disruption in servicing customers and billing. Motion made by Commissioner West, second by Commissioner Hooks and passed unanimously.

The second to last item of new business was Pikeville Insurance's bill. In 2016 the bill totaled \$25k, in 2017 \$27k, in 2018 \$33k. Town Clerk Joanne Honn called Amy from Pikeville Insurance to ask why there was such a large increase. Amy said that there is a mandatory 4% increase each year regardless of the property/vehicles. It was suggested that we ask Mr. Jay Howell to come to the next meeting to discuss this and to get some more clarification on the 4% increase and in the meantime get extra quotes on insurance.

Mr. and Mrs. Linwood Edwards gave a letter to the Board requesting the rezoning of some of their property for commercial use for a Verizon cell tower. Procedure for this type of rezoning is as follows: letter to the Board requesting a rezoning, signs are to be put up on the property, a public forum must be held so residents can express their opinions, a Planning Board meeting must be held, and then a Commissioners' Meeting. Mr. Lorello is checking on the Planning Board meeting time frame, the Town is to be putting signs up.

In the process of talking about the rezoning, the ditch that drains the majority of Pikeville during hurricanes and other acts of nature was brought into discussion. Ms. Jones told the Board that we have contacted the Sheriffs' Office to see if we could use prisoners to

clean out said ditch as they had done about ten years ago. We have not heard back.

Ms. Jones then said that she received a message from an individual who performs that kind of work and asked if he would come give an estimate on cleaning it out.

Commissioner West asked that we look into an ordinance or an amendment to an ordinance to keep residents from blowing grass and leaves into the ditch as that makes it worse and prevents it from draining the town further.

Moving from new business to the police department, Chief Edwins told the Board that he did not have anything new to tell them. He updated the Board with the prospect of hiring a 4th person but said that people who were interested did not have the experience necessary. They were making due with having officers already hired earning overtime and part-time employees.

The public form began with Mr. Ward Kellum of Goldsboro Street. He complimented the town hall office and said that it looked very nice and that he was hoping it served the purpose needed. He just wanted to compliment staff and the Board on a job well done.

Mrs. Edwards than spoke about the Verizon tower. She said that Verizon called her and asked her about the land they are hoping to rezone for the tower. She hopes that the letter given to the Board is enough.

Open Session

In the matter of Jennifer Bray and Bobby Hunt as team leaders and the raises of three crewmembers the motion was made by Commissioner Hooks, second by Herring, vote: unanimous.

In the matter of Donald Hill as full time, motion by Commissioner Herring, second by Commissioner Hooks, vote unanimous.

In the matter of paying half reimbursement for items lost in fire, the motion was made by Commissioner Hooks, second by Commissioner Herring and vote was unanimous.

Adjournment motion made by Commissioner Hooks, second by Commissioner Carpenter and vote was unanimous.

Lisa L. Jones, Town Administrator

Charles Hooks, Town Mayor