

October 1, 2018 6pm

Present Were:

* Commissioner West
* Commissioner Carpenter
* Commissioner Gardner
* Commissioner Herring
* Commissioner Hooks
* Mayor Hooks
* Town Attorney, Harry Lorello
* Town Administrator, Lisa Jones
* Police Chief, Craig Edwins
* WWTP ORC, Jennifer Bray
* Deputy Town Clerk, Katie Johnson
* 4 residents and guests

Mayor Hooks called the regularly schedule Commissioners’ Meeting for October 2018 to order at 6pm followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion to approve September’s minutes was made by Commissioner Hooks and seconded by Commissioner Herring. The vote was unanimous.

There were five additions to the agenda as follows:

* McDavid and Associates
* John Bell; list of what we need to recover from Hurricane Florence
* Ditch in Collingwood
* Golf-cart stickers
* Flat-fee mowing

OLD BUSINESS

A hearing letter for 201 W. Ham Street, 813/815 Pikeville-Princeton Road, and 107/109 W. Main Street was sent to the interested party of these properties stating that they are allowed a hearing on October 29th, 2018. The Commissioners must be at this hearing meeting as property owners are allowed to bring legal council to petition having their properties torn down and seized by the Town of Pikeville. Ms. Jones spoke with the owner of 201 W. Ham earlier on the 1st of October with him saying that the construction crew he hired to tear down the house and that it would be torn down by next Friday (October 12th.)

Last month Utilities/Streets Supervisor Bobby Hunt requested that the Town purchase a mini excavator. Mayor Hooks tabled this until he received the poundage needed for the kind of work that it would be used for. Mr. Hunt found the poundage out he would need and produced the information for the Board of Commissioners. Mayor Hooks thought that the excavator that was shown was too small and the Town was still waiting on one more quote. Commissioner Herring asked if it would be feasible to lease an excavator for a year to see if the machine would be used as much as it is thought they would. Discussion of the excavator was tabled until they got the last quote.

Rate of accumulation was also tabled last month until Commissioners had a chance to look over the information Police Chief Edwins presented. Chief Edwins reiterated information from last month and Commissioner Hooks stated that as a town we need to keep up with what other municipalities are doing for their employees and made a motion to accept the new rates of accumulation. Commissioner West seconded. The vote pasted unanimously. Mayor Hooks asked for clarification about the vacation hours rolling over into sick time. Chief Edwins explained that an employee would have to work about 4 years straight without taking any time off whatsoever to be able to gain 240 hours of vacation and that anything over 240 would rollover to sick time so the employee would start the calendar year with 240 hours of vacation.

Ms. Jones spoke to the Board about the Pikeville Insurance bill and explained that certain things had been added to the bill that was not asked for. In order to get the bill comparable to what it was last year, three things were taken off. An old town vehicle was taken off, the title of the Town Hall was changed just to the Town Hall, and an extra 1 million dollars of coverage was taken off. Another company has reached out to possibly give a quote for next year.

Ms. Jones informed the Board of Commissioners and the Mayor that the letters for rezoning the Edwards’ property had been sent out this past week alerting residents beside this land that they could have their voices known at the public hearing on October 22nd, 2018 at the Town Hall about how they felt about the rezoning. The Edwards’ are requesting that their property be rezoned to an industrial commercial zone. Ms. Jones also let the Board know that the signs that were required to be put up were put up this week as well. Commissioners requested that they be sent a reminder about this meeting.

NEW BUISNESS

Ken Jones, owner of the Jones Mobile Home Park, sent an email to Town Administrator Lisa Jones and Tyndall from McDavid and Associates wondering if the bidding advertisement was for his property. Ms. Jones asked Tyndall to please reply and let Mr. Jones know that the bidding for the work affecting his property had not gone out to bid. Mr. Jones asked to be kept in the loop about the work affecting his property because he stands to occur some cost due to the project.

Trey from McDavid and Associates explained that the reason that Mr. Jones stands to incur some cost due to this project is from the fact that the mobile homes would have to turn to run a tap out into the street instead of under the homes as they are now. In a timely manner, they would have to abandon old water/sewer lines and switch to the new ones. Trey said that it is usually a “50/50” split whether the municipalities eat the cost of this or the landowner does.

Switching from the Jones Mobile Home Park, Trey explained that the Town had not exceeded the amount of money they could get from the grant they applied for. Back in September 2017 the Town applied for the remainder of the money to redo water lines on Edmundson, Britt, Goodnight, and Lane. The monetary amount of the grant is $228k. Closing fees associated with this grant is about $3400. Town attorney, Harry Lorello is checking to make sure these were not negotiated, and we are supposed to pay them. Tre asked to Board to approve the resolution that is required to receive the funds. Motion was made by Commissioner Hooks and seconded by Commissioner West. Vote went through unanimously.

Tyndall from McDavid and Associates gave an update on the three contracts that are in place for Pikeville. Contracts 16 and 17 have been advertised for bids. Respectively, 16 is the contract for the sprayfield and the waste water treatment plant. Contract 17 is for the sewer line replacement/repairs. Contract 20, which has not been advertised for bids, overlaps on 17 and includes the Jones Mobile Home Park, HWY 117, and Railroad Street. There will be a pre-bid conference on October 3rd, 2018 at Pikeville Town Hall at 10am. This is a benefit to anyone who is considering bidding for the work.

The next item of business was the Collingwood Ditch and monetary reimbursement for cutting grass and other work the town employees complete for residents. Commissioner West explained that a resident in Collingwood was burning leaves in the ditch because a neighbor had been raking them into the ditch. He had been told that there was a no burn ordinance in the town limits. Commissioner West asked the Town to consider clearing out this ditch for monetary reimbursement. Bringing up this ditch, the major ditch that runs through Pikeville was talked about and how it needs to be cleaned out as well. Commissioner Herring said that he knew someone that had a machine that would straddle the ditch and pull out and mill the ditch. It was asked that he get a quote from this person for cleaning the ditch out for the next meeting. Speaking about the Collingwood ditch, it was determined that the owner must clean it properly and if not they must pay the town for cleaning it. Ms. Jones requested a flat-rate for mowing. Commissioner Herring asked that it be a flat fee and then the cost/hour.

Ms. Jones asked for an amendment be made to the ordinance so they could start charging this fee: $200 flat rate for grass mowing. The grass letter that is sent to residents would be rewritten to include this warning. Town employees cannot add this to the utility bill and Mr. Lorello is checking to see if we could send the bill into debt set-off if the resident does not pay the bill. Commissioner West made a motion to accept this and it was seconded by Commissioner Herring. Vote was unanimous.

Ms. Jones showed the Board the tax bill sent from previous land owner. She explained that the Town is not responsible for all of this because we did not have ownership of the land for all the time the tax bill covered. She would call the tax department to find out the Town’s share.

The next item of business was a call/alarm system for the lift stations/plant. This alarm system would reduce the amount of overtime that employees are receiving tending to the plant during the weekends. It also frees up Ms. Bray and Mr. Hunt to do more work than focus on the plant and stations. It is hooked up per unit. Ms. Bray presented three different quotes and stated that her preferred system would be the Clearwater System. This system is able to be set at different levels and sends daily reports directly to the computer which can be exported into excel files for the monthly report that must be sent to the state. A motion was made by Commission Herring to purchase the Clearwater System and a second by Commissioner Gardner. Vote past unanimously.

Two short items included have the pay stubs for the commissioners and mayor emailed to them unless they would prefer a paper copy or did not want one at all. The next item was all employees, commissioners, and mayor taking a group photo to use on the letterhead and the bills so the residents would know who the employees and commissioners are. Both of these things were approved without a vote.

The next item of new business was about a sidewalk from the Quick-Mart to the Post-Office. Town Clerk, Joanne Honn contacted her contact at DOT and they could not find a record where they were supposed to put a sidewalk there. Commissioner Gardner requested that we contact DOT and have a sidewalk put there to prevent residents and guests from walking on Big Daddy’s Road to get to the post office.

Ms. Johnson spoke about a resident on Booker Street who had a previous payment arrangement with a former town administrator and how much her bill had grown to. The payment arrangement was made due to a medical condition that prevented her from being with electricity to complete her treatments. The arrangement was made that the resident would pay $200 every month that her bill was under $200. If her bill was over $200, she would have to pay the full amount. This arrangement was told verbally to Ms. Johnson from a previous employee and there is no paper copy on file. It was discussed that the town require some proof that the resident absolutely could not be without electricity and to come up with a pay-off plan for her.

Ms. Jones present the FEMA Reimbursement Booklet that town clerk Joanne Honn put together to show all expenses during Hurricane Florence. Total amount of expenses was about $15k which included all gas, meals, and a pump that utilities uses that blew up during the storm. This report was given to Mr. Craig Brown.

POLICE

Chief Edwins spoke about the golf cart stickers and relayed to the Board that in order to even break even on the stickers the price increase would be drastic. The stickers and inspection would be around $25/year to break even. Commissioner Herring suggested punch out stickers that could be reused and may be cheaper. He also mentioned that he had someone in mind to hire part-time to cut down on overtime for the two other full-time employees.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Hooks reminded everyone that midterm elections were 36 days away and that the town’s beer/wine vote was on the ballot again. It was talked about that the revenue beer/wine would bring into Pikeville would be good for the town and its residents.

Mr. Bailey asked about the Verizon Wireless tower we had on top of one of our tanks and how much money it brings in annually for the town. Ms. Jones told Mr. Bailey that it brings in about $34k each year. Mr. Bailey asked if the Edwards’ tower would take away that money and he was given confirmation that it would. Mr. Bailey said he would be at the public hearing on October 22nd and said that the town could not afford to lose that money.

Darryl Johnson gave some advice about the golf cart stickers and suggested that they check on automotive websites for inspection punch out stickers. They are about 50 cent/sticker and would be a cheaper more economical version of the stickers than the $25/year.

ADJOURNEMENT

Motion: Commissioner West

2nd: Commissioner Herring

Vote: Unanimous.