

PINEHURST
VILLAGE COUNCIL
WORK SESSION AGENDA

APRIL 14, 2009

4:30 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM

VILLAGE HALL

PINEHURST, NORTH CAROLINA

*(Note: The Council will meet in closed session
With the Village Attorney beginning at 4:30 pm.
The open session will begin at 5:30 pm)*

1. Call to Order.
2. Motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3) to discuss with the Village Attorney litigation between Lydia Boesch, *et al*, v. Village of Pinehurst and regarding Pinewild Project Limited Partnership, *et al*, v. Village of Pinehurst.
3. Motion to adjourn Closed Session and reconvene in Open Work Session at 5:30 pm.
4. Call to Order of Work Session (5:30 pm).

Reports –
 - Manager
 - Council
5. Motion authorizing Mayor to execute the contract to audit accounts.
6. Preview of Regular Meeting Agenda and Public Hearing items.
7. Motion to recess the regular work session and enter into a Public Hearing regarding operations of the Village Post Office. (Assembly Hall)
8. Motion to adjourn the Public Hearing and re-enter the regular work session.
9. Other business.
10. Comments from attendees.
11. Adjournment.

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**395 MAGNOLIA ROAD
CONFERENCE ROOM
PINEHURST, NORTH CAROLINA
4:30 P.M.**

The Pinehurst Village Council held a Work Session at 4:30 Tuesday, April 14, 2009 in the Conference Room of the Pinehurst Village Hall, 395 Magnolia Road, Pinehurst, North Carolina. The following were in attendance:

Dr. George P. Lane, Mayor
Ms. Lorraine A. Tweed, Mayor Pro-Tem
Mr. Jeffrey P. Dawson, Councilmember
Ms. Virginia F. Fallon, Councilmember
Ms. Joan M. Thurman, Councilmember
Ms. Natalie E. Dean, Assistant Village Manager
Ms. Linda S. Brown, Village Clerk
And approximately 5 attendees, including 2 staff and 1 press.

Absent- Mr. Andrew M. Wilkison, Village Manager

1. Call to Order (4:30 p.m.).

Mayor George P. Lane called the meeting to order.

2. Motion to go into Closed Session.

Councilmember Fallon moved to recess the Work Session and enter a Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3): To discuss with the Village Attorney litigation between Lydia Boesch, *et al*, v. Village of Pinehurst and regarding Pinewild Limited Partnership, *et al* v. Village of Pinehurst. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Thurman and carried unanimously.

GENERAL ACCOUNT

The Council, the Assistant Village Manager of Finance and Administration, and the Village Attorney discussed the status of the litigation between Lydia Boesch, *et al*, v. Village of Pinehurst and regarding Pinewild Limited Partnership, *et al* v. Village of Pinehurst.

3. Motion to adjourn the Closed Session and Reconvene in Open Session at 5:30 p.m.

Councilmember Dawson moved to adjourn the Closed Session and re-enter the Work Session. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tweed and carried unanimously.

4. Call to Order of Work Session (5:30 p.m.)

Mayor George P. Lane called the meeting to order.

5. Reports:

– Assistant Manager Natalie Dean

- **Public Hearing at 6 pm today.**

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Assistant Manager Natalie Dean reminded Council that there will be a Public Hearing today at 6:00 pm in the Assembly Hall to receive citizen comment regarding operations and services of the downtown Pinehurst Post Office.

- Council

- **Councilmember Tweed**

-asked if staff would again contact the railroad to clean up the area near the railroad tracks.

-asked staff to recommend some options for a way to permanently recognize Village volunteers who are not appointed by the Council.

6. Motion authorizing Mayor to execute the contract to audit accounts.

Councilmember Dawson moved to approve the contract to audit accounts for the Village of Pinehurst to Dixon Hughes, PLLC in the amount of \$27,100. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fallon and carried unanimously. (Copy of the contract is in the Minute File.)

7. Preview of Regular Meeting Agenda.

The Council previewed the Regular Meeting Agenda for April 28, 2009 and made no changes.

8. Motion to recess the Work Session and enter into a Public Hearing regarding operations of the Village Post Office. (Assembly Hall)

Councilmember Tweed moved to recess the Work Session and enter into a Public Hearing regarding operations of the Village Post Office. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Thurman and carried unanimously.

9. Public Hearing: To Receive Citizen Comments Concerning the Operations of the Downtown Pinehurst Post Office.

Comments:

Mayor Lane announced that the purpose of today's Public Hearing is to receive citizen comment concerning the service level and operations of the downtown Pinehurst Post Office.

On March 24th Richard Shearer addressed the Village Council on behalf of the Pinehurst Business Guild concerning changes to the hours of operation of the downtown Pinehurst Post Office which had gone into effect on March 16, 2009. He requested that we conduct a Public Hearing to receive citizen input.

Due to the intervention of U.S. Representative Howard Coble, the Pinehurst Post Office hours were changed back to the original hours. At today's Public Hearing, we will receive citizen comments concerning the downtown Pinehurst Post Office.

Cliff Aikens, Pinehurst citizen, stated that he moved from Vermont to a house in Old Town so that he could walk to the Post Office. Now he is no longer able to drive, so walking is his primary method for going to the Post Office. He stated that the reduced window hours for the Post Office will naturally reduce the mail volume. Reduced mail volume is a primary consideration for the U. S. Post Office to

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close a facility. Even though the Pinehurst Postmaster says there are currently no plans to close the facility, that may change.

He emphasized that the Pinehurst Post Office is a special case. Citizens visit the Post Office and then stay to go to the bank, shop or get something to eat. Fewer people coming downtown will affect downtown business.

Patrick Barry, President of the Pinehurst Business Guild, spoke for that group. He stated that the Guild is thankful for the recent return to the 10:00 am to 2:30 pm Post Office hours, but there are a few more topics regarding the Pinehurst Post Office that should be addressed: 1) the myth regarding the no delivery in Pinehurst policy, 2) branch staffing, 3) longer hours, and 4) physical condition of the facility.

- 1) What is the source of the no delivery in Pinehurst myth? Is there an actual Post Office policy? There is no rule from the Village government.
- 2) Requested increase in staffing during peak business hours and busier times of the year. Suggested an employee "float" from the Blake Blvd. location.
- 3) Requested longer hours such as other post offices have. Pinehurst citizens are paying the same price for post office boxes, for stamps and other USPS services but are not receiving the same services.
- 4) Noted that the building needs some attention- paint, repair of hole in the wall, termite damage on the front of the building.

He stated that questioning some of the post office policies may help in making some much needed changes occur.

Richard Shearer, Pinehurst businessman, noted that he has spoken to USPS officials but has not spoken to the Pinehurst Postmaster. He stated that the Post Office will not deliver or pick up Express Mail to downtown businesses; post office box rental rates and postage rates have increased. We seem to be paying for services we are not getting- something needs to be done. The building needs better lighting and a little paint. Mail is up now by 11:00 am. It used to be up before businesses opened; now business owners must go to work then return to the Post Office.

He presented a petition with many signatures that requested assistance from Congressmen Howard Coble to increase service, staffing and hours of operation. (Copy of the petition is in the Minute File.)

Tom Stewart, Pinehurst businessman, noted that the Post Office hours were 8:00 am to 5:00 pm when he arrived in Pinehurst fifteen years ago. Things have really changed since then making it necessary to close his business in order to go stand in line at the Post Office. He emphasized that going to the Blake Blvd. location would take over an hour.

He noted the 1,000 or so people who come downtown to pick up their mail daily. Compressed hours have created a parking problem where none existed before. The Village is growing- Razooks, NewCore, Traditions. The Post Office situation will not help growth.

He stated the 9:00 am to 4:00 pm would be great hours; 9:00 am to 3:00 pm would be acceptable.

10. Adjourn Public Hearing and re-enter Work Session.

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There being no further discussion, Councilmember Tweed moved to adjourn the Public Hearing and re-enter the Work Session. Councilmember Fallon seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

11. Other Business.

There was none.

12. Comments from Attendees.

There were none.

13. Adjournment.

Councilmember Tweed moved to adjourn the Work Session. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fallon and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Linda S. Brown, CMC
Village Clerk