

**BOARD
MINUTES**

May 28, 2025

PINETOPS TOWN HALL

101 E Hamlet Street; Pinetops, NC 27864

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:21pm by Chair, Suzanne Coker Craig.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll was taken by Secretary, Stacey L. Staton.

The following members were in attendance:

Ms. Suzanne Coker Craig, Chair

Ms. Stacey L. Staton, Secretary

Ms. Jennifer Brown, Board Member

Mr. Ron Pate, Board Member (Virtual)

The following members were not in attendance:

Ms. Hattie Harris, Vice-Chair

Ms. JoAnn Smith, Board Member

Others present at the meeting were:

Mayor Brenda Harrell, Town of Pinetops

Mr. Bruce Naegelen, Presenter (NC Department of Commerce)

Mr. Chip Galusha, ECU Miller School of Entrepreneurship

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Coker Craig asked for a motion to approve the April 23, 2025 Minutes.

A motion was made by Ms. Brown.

Seconded by Mr. Pate.

All voted in favor.

IV. ECU MILLER SCHOOL OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. Chip Galusha gave an overview of the school. Established in 2015, it's the first named school of entrepreneurship in North Carolina made possible by a generous commitment of \$5 million by a Raleigh area entrepreneur, J. Fielding Miller, and his wife, Kim Grice Miller. It offers a "Pirate Loan Fund" for businesses that are unbankable. It offers the students the opportunity to gain first hand knowledge and experience through the creation of an actual business but without the risks commonly associated with start-ups. The school, through various initiatives and incentives, cash or in-kind services, forms partnerships with agencies, businesses, municipalities, and organizations throughout 29+ eastern NC counties. He shared some ideas on how the school could partner with the Town of Pinetops. He suggested the Town think ecosystem – building a network system conducive for entrepreneurship. The school could help by conducting an asset survey, helping with research, assist with forming an entrepreneurship through acquisition plan, and allowing students to set up temporary businesses for around 90 days in Pinetops to test the feasibility of various markets.

V. NEWS FROM PINETOPS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mayor Brenda stated the Commissioners were in full support of the Family Movie Night. She shared that a candidate stepped forward to serve of on the Advisory Board and they will likely be approved at the next Board of Commissioners meeting. She talked about the Town's newspaper that will help keep the townsfolk informed about what is going on in Pinetops. She was hopeful the paper would be ready for distribution/pickup on July 1, 2025. Tarboro Printing is the company doing the printing but the news/articles will be generated through the Town. The paper will be financially funded primarily through the purchase of ads.

VI. WORK COMMITTEE REPORTS

Jennifer Brown confirmed the Movie Night Event will take place on June 5, 2025.

VII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Coker Craig announced that the next meeting will be June 25, 2025.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Coker Craig asked for a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Mr. Pate.

Seconded by Ms. Staton.

All voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Minutes Approved on _____

Signature of Chair, Suzanne Coker Craig

Signature of Secretary, Stacey L. Staton