

**Town of Pinetops
Board of Commissioner
Strategic Planning Meeting
Minutes
January 5, 2021
Pinetops Town Hall**

Present: Present for the meeting were Mayor Brenda Harrell, Commissioners Donald Webb, Barbara Taylor, Dennis Sugg, and Oscar Mabry.

Also in Attendance: Finance Officer Tammy Keesler, Police Chief Stacy Harrell.

Attendance via ZOOM: Bruce Naegelen, NC Dept. of Commerce and Ben Farmer, UCPCOG

A. Call to Order

Mayor Harrell called the January 5th Strategic Planning Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

B. Invocation

Invocation was given by Commissioner Sugg.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Harrell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board was given a copy of the Local Coordinator Preparation Guide prior to the meeting as well as a Pinetops Economic Development Assessment Survey Draft. Commissioner Mabry and Odyssey Brown will be the contacts for the town. Mr. Naegelen suggested we try to set up a work group of maybe between 6-10 people. We need at least 1 elected official to set on this board as well as attend the meetings but he wouldn't advise having more than 2 elected officials. This process will require 3-4 meetings about 1 hour long to discuss assets, town economic drives, strengths, weakness and what our needs are. Determine economic vision statement to come up with implementation plan. This whole process may take a span of 1 -1 ½ years to complete.

He suggested we possibly send out a survey to get citizens input. Mr. Naegelen expressed that the advisory committee members needed to have computer access as well as phone, internet, and camera access since the meetings will be held via ZOOM. They must also provide their phone number and email address. He also stated he would like the Police Chief to be a member of the committee.

Mr. Naegelen told the Board he would like to shoot for January 26 as a possible start date. Prior to that first meeting he would like to receive a list showing the citizens interested in serving on the committee as well as if they are a resident or business owner. The meetings should wrap up by the end of February and hopefully everything will be wrapped up and ready to report back to the Board by the April 6 Board Meeting. Also discussed was that surveys may be sent out prior to the meeting in order to understand the interest in town. Commissioner Mabry mentioned that later we might could partner with Gregory Hedgepeth and Mark E. Cruz. Another possible asset to the town might be the Council of Government and Economic Development.

Mr. Naegelen explained the main objective at this time is to see where we are and how do we get where we need to be. This first go around will be more about building our foundation. There will be no major projects at the beginning but maybe something small like cleaning up buildings in town.

Mayor Harrell thanked Bruce Naegelen and Ben Farmer for attending the meeting and providing so much information to the Board.

D. Adjournment

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

Date: 2/2/2021

ATTESTED:



Mayor Brenda Harrell



Finance Officer/Town Clerk Tammy Keesler