



# TOWN OF PRINCEVILLE

## Minutes

### Board of Commissioners

### June 27, 2016

**Commissioners Present:** Mayor Bobbie Jones, Mayor Pro Tem Linda Joyner, Commissioners Milton Bullock, JoeRoam Myrick, Pamela Ransome

**Staff Present:** Town Clerk Lakisha Archer, Recreation and Parks Director Calvin Adkins, Town Manager Daniel Gerald, Attorney William Solomon, Jr.

**Board of Commissioners Call to Order: Mayor Jones 7 p.m.**

**Invocation:** Mayor Pro Tem Linda Joyner

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited by all

**Public Comments:**

**Delia Perkins, 121 Neville St:** Mr. Mayor and Board of Commissioners, I was sitting out a few weeks ago, I heard about 10 rounds of shots, and I had to hurry up, get my stuff and get in the house. The week before that there was a shooting and then last week at 2 o'clock in the morning on Second Street, there was a shooting at a house. In addition, yesterday, I guess the Lord just did not want me to not hear anything else; there was a shooting off Neville Street and a shooting off Second, now I feel that the Council has to take into consideration that citizen lives are at stake. I know that some people think that the water system is important; it is not, because it's not ever coming back to Princeville. I think the Council needs to look at their budget and put some police officers in Princeville. Now if you can't sit on your porch and enjoy just sitting out in the evening, that's bad, and I think yesterday somebody was shot. The next time somebody is going to be killed. I am tired of asking the council, because I know you can find the money, I can help you find the money and help you cut that budget. You got over \$200,000 in salaries being paid out, but you can't afford a police department. Therefore, I am asking you to please look for some money, look for some help; you can get two police officers and the Sheriff to back you up. If you have to call, the Sheriff department and they have to ask

you who you are and you already told them what the problem is, then you don't see nobody for twenty minutes or thirty minutes, that's not fair to the citizens. So I ask you to please, you can always amend your budget, you can always go into those line items and pull out some things, you can always cut back on those salaries. Over \$200,000 in salaries for this Town, No. So please look, I don't want to be the one sitting on my porch and they have my funeral at Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church. I don't want my children, my husband or anybody that lives in that area, Neville Street, Mullins Street, Second Street, it's been a lot of shootings and you all cannot afford to keep ignoring those shootings.

**Calvin Sherrod, 909 King Ave:** I am concerned about the wrong statement us not being able to get our water back. The last time I went to the meeting, the Town Manager did a resolution to go forward with getting our water back. The Town's resources can come from Water and Sewer, I hope he stay right on it and I hope he gets some help from the attorney. The board need to get things moving, and I don't know how the contract was written up, but there is always a loophole of all contracts, so dig into it and see what will happen. Some folks are concerned with Public Works, it seems like Public Works are not doing what they are supposed to be doing anymore, since the last Town Manager left. Now, it seems like they are just riding and not doing what they are supposed to be doing. They half cutting grass and half weed eating, that's something they need to look at. On Fridays' it looks like the only thing they do is drive back and forth down the road. I don't know who is supposed to be the boss, but it seems like nobody, I don't know who took Mr. Brown place but it seems like he is running the show. That should not happen if he is supposed to be in charge. It would be a good thing to look at if the Town Manager would get out to see if they doing their job. Mayor we going to do the Budget after the Public Comments, ok

**James "Ed" Bridgers, 402 Otis Avenue:** I am here for the sixth time asking the Board to prioritize and assist the Town Manager in getting a Police Force. I'm still talking about, any town need a Police Department, or someone you can call. Most of the people who live in Princeville are widowers and they are afraid. Its pertinent to say that there are shooting all around and all those things going on and gangs are created, sometimes the streets are blocked up and can't get by and that's all. I came down to talk with the Town Manager, he seems to very nice and I enjoy talking to him. I kind of like Mr. Gerald. He can be a help in some things and be of any assistance and that's warm to hear. People been calling me because I been a mayor before and I been pointing them to the Town Hall to see your commissioners as your

commission. I'm sure you don't have one in the Public Hearing and I'll talk about that in a minute when we get to the Public Hearing. I don't see not one cent for a present police officer. Mr. Mayor, they tell me, What Bobby doing about a Police Department. I said well, he's trying to help, I said you got a good board there now and I'm content, so I happen to listen to him and have a petition with over 200 names asking that you get a police department. So I hope the board would consider that, if you don't do it tonight, consider, prioritize and get a vote for at least two police officers. Alright, it can easily show how you can get one and I can assist them in. If I could be of any help to the Mayor or Commissioners, I would be glad to do that, I know many people. The state of North Carolina Highway Patrol, have many surplus cars. Go there and buy surplus cars, you don't have to get a new car, buy a surplus car. Talk to police officers that would do the MR full report that we receive, field reports, all of that and you must consider comp time. I understand that Sharpsburg got 800 radios that they are trying to get rid of and that are some of the things that go in police cars. I understand that every city normally in their budget consider public safety, but Tarboro just put in their budget 9 new cars, they didn't approve the 9, they approved it down to 5 cars this year. The sheriff Department right here in Edgecombe County, that we got to talk about during the public hearing, they have surplus cars, you can put a brand new motor in them for \$4,000. You get two and that's little money for the police department. So, I just wanted to bring that out, to assist people in helping themselves. That's all I'm trying to do, Thank you and I hope the town can compromise.

**Dorestine Wiggins, 206 Neville Street:** Right beside the house they do all the shooting at. My husband had to fall on the floor yesterday to keep from getting shot, I don't know if two bullets came in my yard and busted two tires or not, but two of his tires were busted. Thursday night was the same thing. I had to hit the floor and it messed my back up. I'm tired. Y'all don't know how it feel because it haven't been close to your house. If it hit your house or close to your house, then you would understand how I feel. I have two of my grandkids with me this summer, and they can't even enjoy my yard. I can't even sit on my front porch, and it just don't make no since, they keep saying we don't need police, we don't need police, we need police better than we need some water. If they bring the water back over here and all of us over here is dead, what good is the water gon do. You know, I'm tired. I wish I could cut my lot out and carry it out in the county, because nobody up here is trying to help. Mr. Ed has been talking about this police thang for 6 months. If you can pay Edgecombe County

\$250,000, then we can pay for two polices. Edgcombe still got to help, they double dipping already. But y'all don't understand that, we paying taxes to Edgcombe and we turn around give out another \$250,000. Ain't going to say I ain't mad, I'm pissed, because I can't live in my house. I've been coming to the meeting every month, I ain't never said nothing, but I am fed up and something got to be done. Yeah, I called the police yesterday, they came but they were on a high speed chase, but they came. Yesterday was the first time the police ever came to the shooting over there to that house. Monday night it was a shooting, Wednesday night it was a shooting, Thursday night was a shooting, and yesterday it was a shooting. I got to go through this, I can't keep taking it, somebody is gonna have to do something.

**Ann Howell, Mullins Street:** We really need our officers over here. I had to crawl off my front porch into my house. They fired shots right across my driveway. I mean you would have thought it was a part of one of those TV scenes. I meet you at the corner and shots come out bang bang bang. The officers picked up shells all across my driveway clear past that church next door. I mean we really need our officers back over here. And then when I called 911, they gave me the run around, I mean I broke down and cried because that's how bad they scared me out there. My mother thought she was gonna have to take me to the doctor. I mean it's awful over here with these shootings. About an hour earlier, it had just started around the corner, I mean it's sad. Mrs. Wiggins responded, They recovered 14 bullets from over Neville Street. They were shooting over there on Neville Street like they do on the western movies. I cried, I crawled in my house, I was sitting in the corner on my porch. There were four officers that picked up shells from the length of my yard all the way across that church over there. It scared me so bad, I'm not ashamed. I cried, I stayed awake all night last night, it just doesn't make any sense what we are going through over here.

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** Just so you know, they are already apprehended three, the County has already apprehended three of them, I don't want to say, because it's an ongoing investigation.

**Delia Perkins:** They called me today.

**Ann Howell:** That's not going to help our situation, we need some officers over here to control our land, our neighborhoods. You had some good officers over here and I would like to see some more come back. It was really serious yesterday; those boys were on the edge of my drive way. Bang, Bang, Bang, I mean I turned around out the window, I said Oh My God, was he shutting at me or what? I mean I fell down on the floor and I crawled in the house.

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** I hope that you testify because, the Sheriff says he had three or only two people willing to testify so, if you were out and you know anything about the crime you definitely need to contact the Sheriff Office and put your name down as a witness.

**Ann Howell:** I am not willing to testify; do you think I want to see what those boys look like?

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** See that's the problem,

**Several other side conversations**

**Ann Howell:** I thought I was having a heart attack last night. One more question can I ask, Can they do something about that house. Is there anything anybody could do to condemn that house.

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** : That's what the attorney and I are working on, with the code enforcement section and there should be something we could do with renters, I don't want to say because I don't want to quote it wrong, but that's what he and I are working on. So, we'll go after people who are renting homes and vacant.

**Delia Perkins:** Mr Mayor, y'all need to understand that when you call 911 at the Sheriff Department, I used to do it all the time. In front of my house, they came in and busted my windows, my whole window out, because the drugs are over on Neville Street. So people are afraid to tell, and when you call the Sheriff's department and give your name. Your name walks.

**Mayor Bobby Jones:** But it's not required to give your name is it.

**Ann Howell:** Yes, and I had to give my birthdate yesterday.

**Mayor Bobby Jones** There is a requirement but you don't have to give your name, is that correct.

**Delia Perkins:** You don't have to give your name,

**Attorney William Solomon:** You have to have a name in order to prosecute a case without witnesses being favorable so, if you don't give your name, if a very very good chance that the consequences against that individual will be minimal to none.

**Mayor Bobby Jones:** When they call, they don't have to give their name, but when they go there and tell, they don't have to give out their information.

**Attorney William Solomon:** It's all public.

**Commissioner Bullock:** I would like to add something, last week I suggested some things that can be done, I don't know if any children are in that house. Are there any children living in that house.

**Ann Howell:** I don't know who doing it, all I know its young guys

**Commissioner Bullock:** It's a solution that doesn't cost all that much to do this, so you won't have to jeopardize yourselves, by calling and giving your name. If we install the cameras and they do what they need to do. If you don't have any in the house, take up a concealed weapons course that's how you handle that stuff.

**Delia Perkins:** we had cameras on that same corner, they shot them out every time we put them in. The lights, the cameras and everything right there on that same corner. You all, until you are sitting on your porch and you got to get down and get in your house and twenty rounds of bullets coming and you don't know where they coming, it sounds like a BB gun and they coming around the corner leaning out the car with those long guns and shooting, when the Sheriff Department gets there, I timed it. By the time the call went in, it was 2 o'clock in the morning, by the time the Sheriff Department get there, everybody gone. But until you all understand, somebody innocent is going to get killed because of all of this shooting.

Community watch, we had that, you can't curfew grown folk. I ain't going down town and they come and mess up my car like they did and knock out my windows, but we need something over here that you can see. If you see Princeville Police Department ride by, we weren't perfect, but I tell you what.

**Mayor Bobby Jones:** You said it was 2 o'clock in the morning. We didn't have a police department at 2o'clock in the morning.

**Delia Perkins:** I'm talking about the Sheriff, even Fox was working by himself and he called the Sheriff Department, the Sheriff Department was on the money. Everybody keeps talking that you don't need, but it makes a difference. We ain't got nobody over here, they ride through town do their little something.

**Mayor Bobby Jones:** So are we saying with a police department those people are going to stop doing what they are doing.

**Delia Perkins:** I didn't say that; it makes a difference when you see. If they saw some police, they wouldn't feel that this place is wide open. Its clear game for whomever to do whatever they want to do.

**Mayor Bobby Jones:** So, how do you explain the decrease in crime since the Sheriff Department took over.

**Delia Perkins:** It's because ain't nobody catches nobody. Why do you think we have back to back shootings, and then two people got shot yesterday?

**Mayor Bobby Jones:** There is a gap somewhere, I agree with that. But when the police come and they can't get anybody to talk, the people that are arrested comes right back and do the same thing.

**Delia Perkins:** You can talk to the police one on one but nobody is going down to that courthouse and sit on that stand to testify. Back in the day, people told the police department a lot of things and that how they made their bets, that how they got who that were going to get. Your name and where you stayed was not out there. I know the officer can't talk, but he knows what I am talking about.

**Mayor Bobby Jones:** When it gets to court thought, your name has to be presented.

**Delia Perkins:** I don't want to be that person on the porch and those shots are scattered, it makes a difference when there is a presence of a police department. The Sheriff Officer assists Pinetops, Sharpsburg and even a one man police officers. Whitakers, Pinetops, Sharpsburg all have police departments.

**Mayor Bobby Jones:** I'm sorry, let me just give you some statistics, Whitakers, population only 875 people, however, violence and crime is 408, while our citizens we have 2,587 and our violence and crime is only 273. Our numbers are low.

**Delia Perkins:** – What we are saying to you all tonight is she had crawled in her house, she had to get on the floor, all we are asking y'all to do, even if you need some help in finding some money, we just want to have that presence here in Princeville.

**Mayor Bobby Jones:** if y'all provide us with the money, we will provide a police department. But its not going to change statistics. If we don't address the issues, its not going to change.

**Delia Perkins :** let me ask you this and I'm not going to say anything else. Why are you paying the county \$125,000, they are obligated to come to Princeville because we pay county taxes, when y'all answer that for me.

**Mayor Bobby Jones:** We will answer that because when we made the contract with them, they were suppose to provide a body in this building 24 hours a day, seven days a week according to the contract.

**Delia Perkins:** contracts are made to be broken

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** The \$125,000 is a full measure. (33m 25s thru 38m 20s)

**Additions and Deletions to the Agenda:** None

**Consent Agenda:**

**Commissioner Ransome** made a motion to accept the consent agenda; **Commissioner Bullock** seconded; motion passed **(4-0)**

**Commissioner Myrick** made a motion to accept the Budget Workshop minutes with two corrections, the first correction, Date change, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, not the 4<sup>th</sup> and Attachment B, Backhoe purchased from Fund Balance not the Powell Bill. **Commissioner Ransome** seconded; motion passed **(4-0)**

**Commissioner Myrick** made a motion to open the public hearing for the Proposed 2016-2017 Budget; **Commissioner Ransome** second; motion passed **(4-0)**

**Delia Perkins:** It's hard to explain, but the budget, ok you got \$575,000 in the budget this year, in that budget, you have about \$200,000 in salaries. I think that's right, over \$200,000 in salaries. That's a lot of salaries for a small town like this, and I don't see anything you have to do over here because everything is done over there. That's just salaries. I saw that you bought the museum up \$200,000. Then you got \$125,000 in public safety and I assume that's what you are paying the Sheriff Department. So, what else, you don't have any debt. Princeville debt is paid off. So, what do the Town have to take up the rest of that \$600,000.

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** The rest is in the budget, you have \$30,000 come out for the fire department \$11,000 for human services. You also have \$63,000 for Powell Bill funds. Right, but I am saying all of that added up to the budget, that's how we go to \$947,000 that's the amount we are going to spend. Are you trying to say what services are you getting?

**Delia Perkins:** The Powell Bill is restricted, you are still looking at. Well we ain't getting them. We don't get nothing for the Town of Princeville, We pay for water, gas and lights, we pay for property taxes, we don't get anything from the Town of Princeville for our tax money. So, what if you do, I know that you all said that you were going to obligate \$150,000 for the park.



Cause, I mean to me that \$150,000 for the park could be used for the police department. So what else do you have, you don't have any debt, you don't have utilities, they don't run that much. So, what else were you looking at for that \$800,000.

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** Well you are looking at \$229,000 in public works. You are talking about that, \$100,000 is actually going to work if you give the kids something to do, you won't be calling the police. You shouldn't treat them like they are just vagrants. You need to look at your children as assets.

**Delia Perkins:** I didn't say that

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** That's what you sounded like you are saying. That's exactly what you are sounding like you are saying. You are not going to provide any fair play or fun play for the children of, but you...

**Delia Perkins:** St Luke Church of Christ providing recreation, they are doing the basketball, baseball all of that. They were going for the basketball thing but they could not get children signed up to come and do basketball.

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** It hasn't been in your history to do that.

**Delia Perkins:** Princeville has had everything that you all are talking about they haven't had. Princeville has had everything that you can think of. We've had some programs over here, We've had some baseball teams over here, we had all those things over here. It's not we never had them. But what I am asking you is ...

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** Crime was down to wasn't it?

**Delia Perkins:** Say what?

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** Was crime down when you did something for the kids then?

**Delia Perkins:** It wasn't like this.

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** But they had something to do right?

**Delia Perkins:** I didn't say that we didn't have any crime. So what else are...?

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** I didn't either, I said crime was down.

**Delia Perkins:** What are you doing with a half million dollars?

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** \$229,000 was for public works, \$100,000 for the children, we have a little bit of money for contingency \$20,000.

**Delia Perkins:** Contingency should be more than that.

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** You don't have it in your budget because you only collect 80% of taxes. So, every dollar you get, you don't get a true dollar. You have to be able to afford it. It's easy to say that. You have to be able to afford to do that.

**Delia Perkins:** Ok so, \$200,000 in the budget, how much is that for salaries?

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** I had to look at it, but...

**Deila Perkins** \$33,000 as far as the main man, and then you got two other employees.

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** Now if you look at salaries for towns even of this size, you still under paid. Look at towns of this size where you are under. The town I came from was an African American Town and we were about this size, it didn't have any business in it other than two gas stations and they paid four.

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** They kept their water systems and they let their taxes get collected.

**Delia Perkins:** Well the county collects the taxes, it's the county water and sewer, it's not Princeville's anymore. It belongs to the county. Now, if you bring the garbage back over here, y'all will have something to do, but the water system belongs to the county, and guess what? The water system is the major problem that Princeville has had every since, I don't know when. And trust me, the state is not going to let you bring it back to Princeville. Because if you bring it back to Princeville, the folks ain't going to pay the bill. That's what happened.

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** Well they are paying the bills to the county.

**Delia Perkins:** I know they paying the bills to the county.

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** You are paying the bills to the county.

**Delia Perkins:** I know we paying to the county.

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** And that often how Towns Fund programs we talking about. It was just an example. I think I read a state statute where the Electric Fund, where they actually paid for police officers. So, I'm like it can be done but, you see the information y'all were given was in error. They said that you could not, the state said, Mr Sherrod can speak to it. The statutes state that the water and sewer can give money back to the general fund, it just can't give money back to the general fund if had not paid all the debt from the water and sewer fund.

They did not tell y'all that. So you were making decisions based on bad information.

**Delia Perkins:** So you think Princeville has the capacity to borrow 6 to 9 million dollars to bring that system up to date.

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** It doesn't cost 6 to 9 million dollars to bring to date. I haven't seen the report. No one has validated those numbers. I am going to finish this conversion offline. I think we need to move on to the next speaker.

**Delia Perkins:** So I mean the public hearing is for asking questions.

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** You have two minutes.

**Delia Perkins:** So we don't get to find out exactly what you all are doing with our money? It's our money in the budget. A half of million dollars can do a whole lot. I am looking at the fact that what are you all doing, because over here at this Town Hall, the only reason somebody come is looking for somebody else, because you don't collect nothing, and I don't know what y'all doing and I'm not worried about that. But when I come to this meeting, as a citizen, as a tax paying citizen, I have the right to ask the question that bothers me on the inside. Now you are an outsider. You are from somewhere else. You need to get to know the inside and then you will understand why some of us ask questions. If that's what you all want to do, then go right ahead and do it your way and I am going to continue to do it my way. I appreciate it.

Mr. Mayor, I appreciate you all given us the opportunity but, you know me, you know who I am, I have always asked questions. I will always ask questions and if I don't like it, I will pick it up and say it and I don't worry about it. I think I have enough information from prior years to ask questions. I am willing to help you find money to do things, but I also want to be respected, and say that when I ask a question I like to have answers.

**Ann Howell:** Do you have to sign in for the public hearing?

**Mayor Bobby Jones:** Yes ma'am.

**Calvin Sherrod:** I can save the town a lot of money. It's about 14 to 16 vacant lots in the Town of Princeville. They need to be cut, I got a tractor and a bush hog and I could do the job. I will cut every lot for \$250.00; \$50 will go to the Town and I will take \$200. I will cut every lot around here, I don't care what size for \$250.00. It's a lot of lots around here for sale and I will cut them too. You will save some money. I know we haven't built that place up there at the park yet. I know Calvin Adkins is getting paid for the position, I don't know how much he paid but if you need to cut the salaries, and bring that girl back in to work, she need to be in house cleaning the bathroom and scrubbing the floors. You need to bring her back in here to do some cleaning and let Adkins help the other two in Public Works. Y'all I'm convinced that will save you money. Same thing about the museum, ain't nobody coming to the museum.

Cut her hours and that would put money back into the budget. I see a lot of things I can do to save the Town, I don't mind do, I got the equipment. I would be glad to work with the Town Manager.

**Delia Perkins:** How much money is in the budget to clean out the ditches?

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** That's all in the Public Works, a backhoe is being used and we have \$8,500 budgeted to map the ditches to determine flow.

**(Discussion between Delia Perkins and Daniel Gerald about ditches, using grade and engineering costs involved with cleaning ditches)**

**James "ED" Bridgers:** Talked about increases and decreases between last year's budget and the proposed 2016-2017 budget. He wants to know how \$100,000 would be spent in the recreation department.

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** We will be able to match the PARTF grant and provide recreational activities that we so much deserve.

**James "ED" Bridgers:** Mr. Mayor don't be too proud to get a committee to help in finding money for the police department.

**Commissioner Myrick:** All those things discussed are necessary and we will take things into consideration, and maybe in our next workshop, we will look at everything that's been said.

**Ann Howell:** I have a question for Mr. Gerald. You stated that it will not take 6 to 9 million dollars to pursue the water and sewer system over here. I would like to know what source did you get yours numbers from?

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** I got mine from Rural Water. Dwight Lancaster from Rural Water came here on several occasions to try to tell the Town that it didn't cost that much money and that they would look into the system free of charge and that the Town was paying the contracted utility company too much money. Which I happen to agree with. I think they were paying them \$10,000 a month, you probably could have gotten away with paying \$500 a month. They could have gotten a licensed utility contractor to fix any major problems. You have to get someone with a license, you could call someone to fix it. As far as the waste water system, the lift stations is what was being charged that much. They were looking at buying Cadillac lift stations and they probably get them based on your minority and female status. You could probably get lift stations at \$50,000 apiece. They could have taken out a loan for half a million dollars or repaired one lift station a year for ten years.

**Ann Howell:** Yeah, but my thing is, under the influence of LGC, they negotiated with the county about the water system. My question is still not being answered. How you feel now that with Princeville bring back the water to Princeville going to benefit the Town financially, you got all these people that are not supposed to live in Princeville? They are not contributing to the tax base; the government is subsidizing the utilities.

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** This is what LGC frowns on, what you can do is take revenue from Water and Sewer and move it into your General fund, and when you do that, you have a tendency of not raising taxes in the General Fund. So, the general fund is not really being self supported. So, LGC helped to enact and passed a statute that says that if you transfer over funds, you have to make sure you paid out all the debt in your water and sewer fund. They didn't tell you that and they didn't tell me that either when I met them on the 10<sup>th</sup>. But I knew it wasn't right, because in Spring Lake, they transferred \$250,000 every year.

**Ann Howell:** You are still not answering my part. All these properties subsidized by federal government pays for most of these people utilities, and they come in here crying, complaining because they can't pay the difference, you are still going to find yourself right back in that rut that LGC came and got us out of.

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** That's true, the county experiencing that. You are going to have to cut people's water off. The County didn't do anything but cut people's water off. (Discussion took place when cutting water off, and they get cut back on by citizens, what steps would be in place in order to collect and water still be off)

**Ann Howell:** So if you get the water system back in Princeville, you have funds in the budget that can cover the costs of lift stations and all of that kind of stuff.

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** We will have to probably do a budget amendment, we would have funds for that, we would have income coming in, we would also have residual funds, we wouldn't be set at \$10,000 for a utility company. A purchased water system is one of the simplest systems you can run. You have the same thing the county has, you don't have any plants, all you have to do is to ensure that the water is running and have somebody licensed. I said I would put my own license on the line, take that responsibility, and hire out a contract utility company to do repairs.

(Discussion about the water system and lift stations between Delia Perkins and Daniel Gerald)

**Delia Perkins:** How are you going to get the system back from Edgecombe County when you gave it to them?

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** That's something we will take about during closed session.

**Delia Perkins:** Why can't Edgecombe County start fixing the system with the stock pile of money that they have and why can't you put pressure on them to fix it while the grant process is taking place and while you all are talking about getting the system back?

**Commissioner Myrick:** Do you have any knowledge of any major problems we are having with the lift stations

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** We don't have any major problems with the lift stations, and when LGC applied for grants they didn't get them because the lift stations hadn't failed enough.

**Commissioner Myrick:** Can we get a status report from the time they took over based on repairs?

**Town Manager, Daniel Gerald:** You may or may not because it's their system.

**Delia Perkins:** We have energy efficient everything, and paying a \$100 a month with garbage of course, but there are some people paying more than that. A lot of people can't afford it; what I'm saying is while you are getting your stuff together, put some pressure on them to do something about the rates for the citizens of Princeville. Bring the rates down, they said in the beginning, the more people on the system, the cheaper the rates, and that has not happened.

**Calvin Sherrod:** If people got concerns about the water system, go across the bridge and put pressure on the county to fix issues.

**Mayor Pro Tem Joyner** made a motion to close Public Hearing for the proposed 2016-2017 Budget Hearing; **Commissioner Ransome** seconded; motion passed **(4-0)**

### **New Business**

**Mayor Pro Tem Joyner** made a motion to approve the 2016-2017 Fiscal year budget as written with no tax increase minus the \$4,500 grant money from UNC; **Commissioner Ransome** seconded; motion passed **(4-0)**

**Commissioner Ransome** made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #15; **Mayor Pro Tem Joyner** seconded; motion passed **(4-0)**

**Mayor Pro Tem Joyner** made a motion to accept a legal contractual agreement with the Chicago group with stipulations that the Town will be involved in every decision made, and the Town will not have any financial obligations; **Commissioner Ransome** seconded; motion passed **(4-0)**

**Mayor Pro Tem Joyner** made a motion to sign the Fire Department contract with no increase and allow the mayor to sign the contract if there are no changes from last year; **Commissioner Ransome** seconded: motion passed **(4-0)**

**Town Attorney Report: None**

**Senior Center Report:** The senior citizen had a yard sale and they did really well, and also had a picnic in Rocky Mount. There are still items on sale that you can purchase daily from 9am to 1pm. The senior citizens are coming in complaining that they had to duck because of gunshots and would like for the Town to consider a police department for the citizens of Princeville. We are still hoping to get in bids to purchase the handicap van from the USDA. She applied for a grant from United Way and for the next three years they will be funded. Upper Coastal Plain make surprise visits and that they comply with health and safety regulations. The Conetoe Family Life Center donates food for healthy eating, and would like for the board to find out about marketing strategies to try and let them sell some fruits and vegetables for the citizens of Princeville. Worsley said the program at the Museum went really well and I really enjoyed it.

**Commissioners Ransome, Joyner, Myrick and Bullock thanked the citizens for attending the meeting, said that they are all concerned about the safety concerns, and would take into consideration all issues concerning the citizens of Princeville.**

**Commissioner Ransome** made a motion to adjourn; **Mayor Pro Tem Joyner** seconded; Motion passed **(4-0)** **Meeting adjourned 8:41 PM**

X

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Bobbie D. Jones  
Mayor

X

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Lakisha Archer  
Town Clerk