

**TOWN OF RANLO
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
March 12, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Ranlo Board of Commissioners was held Thursday, March 12, 2020 at the Ranlo Town Hall.

The Ranlo Board of Commissioners consists of:

Mayor Lynn Black

Commissioner Doug Moore

Commissioner Jamie Fowler

Commissioner Effie Locklear

Commissioner Katie Cordell

Commissioner Robin Conner

Town Attorney: Jim Windham

Others Present: Public Works Director Jason Green

Pastor C. L. Simmons gave the invocation.

Mayor Lynn Black called the meeting to order and Pam Moore called the roll - all Board Members were Present.

I. Approval of the Minutes / Board of Commissioners

Mayor Black asked for a motion. Commissioner Fowler made a motion, and Commissioner Locklear seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

II. Motion to Adopt Proposed Agenda (additions and/or deletions)

Mayor Black asked for a motion. Commissioner Cordell made a motion, and Commissioner Conner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Citizen Concern: 5-minute time limit

None

IV. Comments from Citizens: 3-minute time limit

Jessica Haley stepped up to the podium and stated that she believes the Town's finances have been mishandled and asked the Board to protect our Town and get spending under control. She feels that the Finance Commissioner should not be splitting their time between Recreation and Finance. Finance should be the sole focus of the Finance Commissioner.

Mayor Black thanked Ms. Haley for her comments and stated that the fill-in Finance Director had gotten sick, which was the reason there was no finance report tonight.

Commissioner Conner state she thought there should be some discussion to address the concerns of Ms. Haley. She stated that she agreed with Ms. Haley that the Finance Commissioner should be someone who knows finance, and asked Commissioner Locklear if that was something she knew.

Commissioner Locklear stated she was appointed the position of Finance Commissioner; however, she does not feel that she should be in the office every day micro-managing the employees. She feels that the employees should be allowed to do their jobs without the added stress of someone watching over their shoulder.

Mayor Black stated that Mrs. Locklear is a Commissioner, not a paid employee of the Town and she wasn't expected to be up at Town Hall all day long when there are employees that were hired to do a job and the issue of wanting to change commissioners would need to be put on the agenda for the next meeting as it was not on the agenda for this meeting.

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NEW BUSINESS

V. Public Hearing Matters

Mayor Black asked if there was a motion. Commissioner Cordell made a motion to accept the Amendment and Commissioner Moore seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Reports from Departments

Finance Department

No report.

Police Department

Assistant Chief Brian Holland gave the report and asked the Board to recognize Pastor C.L. Simmons as the Ranlo Police Department Chaplain if Pastor Simmons would accept the invitation.

Assistant Chief Holland also asked the Board to consider the surplus of some body cameras and radios that the Ranlo Police can no longer use due to the purchase of new body cameras. He spoke to the Grover Police Chief and he seemed interested in purchasing them for a total price of \$1700.00.

Mayor Black asked if the Police Department would get a badge for Pastor Simmons, and Brian said "Yes."

Commissioner Moore made a motion to allow the Police Department to surplus the body cameras and Commissioner Cordell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The citizens applauded.

Public Works Department

C.J. Harper gave the report and stated the gentleman from NC Rural Water Association and Jason Green had spoken and the Town's water loss is down to 16% thanks to all the water leak repairs done since Jason had come in as the Public Works Director.

He announced that a new employee would start on Monday as a Water/Sewer Tech named Jeremy Bumgardner, he lives here in Ranlo on Mesa Court, and has experience in Water / Sewer through the City of Gastonia.

Commissioner Fowler asked Jason Green if the Town's decrease from 28% to 16% in water loss had a dollar amount estimated and Jason answered it was estimated at a \$43,000 savings per year. Commissioner Fowler asked if the goal was to get under 10% water loss, and Jason said that less than 15% is the State requirement. They are trying to get less than 15% to be within the guidelines of the State of North Carolina.

C.J. stated that he wanted to make the citizens aware that if a new meter is installed for your residence to expect an increase in your usage due to the fact that the older meter had probably been reading at a 60% usage and the new meter would be reading at a 100 to 110% usage; the newer the meter, the higher the accuracy in readings.

Jason Green stated he would like to ask the Board to consider doing away with the Patch system and surplus the Chiefs' radios for the Public Works Department to use at a cost of approximately \$980.00 for the radio system.

Mayor Black asked if there was a motion to allow Jason to surplus the Patch system. Commissioner Cordell made a motion and Commissioner Conner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Fire Department

Assistant Chief Harper gave the report. The new station is looking to be ready in June or July now, due to rainy weather.

This is the 50th Anniversary of the Ranlo Fire Department and they will be selling challenge coins for \$10.00 to commemorate the occasion.

Mayor Black asked if anyone had anything else and Jason Green stated that he met with Gaston County officials this afternoon to discuss the situation with the Coronavirus. He recommended that we close the lobby and operate through the drive-thru window only for the next couple of weeks until an assessment could be done in our area.

Also, the services offered by Public Works may be slow if the prisoners are put on a stay order and no one is allowed to leave the prison. Trash will be picked up.

Mayor Black agreed that the necessities should be taken care of and asked if the Board agreed to operate through the drive-thru window for the safety of the office staff and the citizens. They agreed. He also advised everyone to wash their hands and keep their hands away from their faces to prevent the spread of the virus.

VII. Reports from Mayor and Commissioners

Mayor Black asked if there was anything from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Locklear stated she needed to say something in response to Commissioner Conner's earlier comments. She feels that people are hired to do a certain job and they should be allowed to do it. She did not believe in micro-management. She has come in to Town Hall if needed on occasion. She does not believe that Tracey's leaving has anything to do with anything. She does not believe that Tracey has done anything wrong, and she does not believe Tim Anderson has done anything wrong. When a new employee is hired, she will work with that employee. She was appointed as Finance Commissioner and is not hired to work here. There was some discussion between Commissioner Conner and Commissioner Locklear about past questions and answers.

Mayor Black explained that the Finance Director would normally answer questions about the finances; however, there is no Finance Director at this time.

Commissioner Cordell stated Soccer sign-ups would be Thursday, as long as things do not deteriorate on that front due to the Coronavirus. Soccer games will be on Saturdays and they are excited.

Mayor Black thanked Commissioner Cordell for the positive report and asked if anyone else had anything. No one responded.

VIII. Closed Session

Mayor Black asked for a motion to enter closed session. Commissioner Locklear made the motion and Commissioner Fowler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. Motions Pertaining to Closed Session

Mayor Black asked for a motion to come out of closed session. Commissioner Fowler made the motion and Commissioner Cordell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moore made a motion to offer Jonathan Blanton the position of Ranlo Town Manager at a salary of \$85,000.00 per year, plus a \$10,000.00 yearly car allowance. Commissioner Fowler seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Commissioner Cordell made a motion to grant raises to all officers and administration listed on the sheet, and Commissioner Conner seconded. Motion carried with 3 in favor. Commissioner Moore and Commissioner Locklear abstained.

X. Adjournment

Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Moore made a motion and Commissioner Cordell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ATTESTED TO:

Mayor Lynn Black

Recorder and transcriber of the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting on March 12, 2020