

**TOWN OF RANLO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 31ST 2022 SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING
RANLO TOWN HALL
1624 SPENCER MOUNTAIN ROAD, RANLO, NORTH CAROLINA 28054
THURSDAY, MARCH 31ST, 2022 6:00 PM**

MINUTES

Governing Body Present:

Mayor Black
Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell
Commissioner Hay
Commissioner Fowler
Commissioner Morton

Staff Present:

Town Manager - Jonathan Blanton
Finance Director - Amanda Ellzey
Chief of Police - Jimmy Lunsford
Public Works Director - Jason Green

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Black called the meeting to order and Town Manager Jonathan Blanton conducted the roll call. All members were present.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Moore motioned to adopt the agenda for the March 31st Special Budget Meeting. Commissioner Fowler seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0.

III. Comments from Attendees

The Town Manager reported that there were no comments from attendees wishing to address the Board.

IV. Approval of the March 7th 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell motioned to approve the March 7th Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Hay provided the second. The vote was 5-0.

V. Continued Discussion of Fiscal Year 2023 Budget

The Town Manager presented the Board with the first draft of the budget for fiscal year 2023. He then gave a review of how each department is budgeted.

The Town Manager noted that Chief Lunsford had worked with Ford Credit to get financing quotes for police vehicles under Capital Outlay. The financing saves \$11,000 in the budget.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell inquired about air cards for Public Works. The Town Manager responded that the administration intends to implement the Work Order Software and make the switch to remote work orders after a year when Public Works becomes acquainted.

Commissioner Hay asked how much was put into the fund balance in fiscal year 2022. The Town Manager responded that \$183,000 was budgeted, but there will be a final number once the year is over. Commissioner Fowler inquired about the Town being on track and the Town Manager responded that at the last check in with the State Treasurer's Office, all concerns were adequately addressed.

Commissioner Hay inquired about the 13th police officer being included in the draft budget. The Town Manager responded that it is included. Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell asked what the budget would look like if the Police Department kept only 12 officers. The Town Manager responded that it would make a difference of around \$65,000 in salary and benefits line items.

Commissioner Moore added that the 4% raises to be evaluated in December could be taken out and put into the Fund Balance until then. The Town Manager responded that the total would be around \$85,000 for a full year. \$42,500 would be the total for raises issued halfway through the fiscal year. Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell added that the raises should be evaluated in December and to budget for half.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell suggested that the Police Department be budgeted for 12 full time officers and one police car. Commissioner Moore noted the lack of ability for grant funding for police departments compared to others. Commissioner Fowler suggested the hiring of an officer halfway through the fiscal year. The Town Manager added that accommodations for the vehicle would need to be made as well. Commissioner Morton highlighted the need for an additional officer due to growth. Commissioner Hay requested a comparison of officer vs. populations for nearby towns. The Town Manager

responded that Lowell has 11 officers, citing the Police Department's budget proposal. He added that Dallas has 16 including the chief and administrative assistant.

Commissioner Hay asked about a target time that the Town will be off the Unit Assistance List. The Town Manager responded that ideally a petition could be submitted after two fiscal years under the adjusted tax rate. He added that the importance of the rate increases is due to the State's high area of concern in the Town's Utility Fund.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell suggested adjusting the budget for meter replacements. The Town Manager responded that there are direct allocations to replace the Town's water meters, but the installation will take time. The Public Works Director added that the department needs backup meters in case of malfunctioning.

Commissioner Moore proposed leaving the officer and two cars in the budget. Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell added that she would prefer two cars on a five-year replacement, but she was not in favor of the additional officer.

The Board discussed decreasing the salary line item by \$42,500 and evaluating raises at the 6 month mark. Commissioner Morton noted that there should be no raises until the Town is off the Unit Assistance List.

Mayor Pro Tem Cordell motioned to decrease the salary line item by \$42,500 and evaluate raises at the 6 month mark. Commissioner Fowler provided the second. The vote was 5-0.

Commissioner Moore motioned to budget for a five year replacement plan for two police vehicles and Commissioner Morton provided the second. The vote was 5-0.

The Board reached consensus on 5% water and sewer rate increases.

Commissioner Moore made a motion to move forward with the 13th police officer. Commissioner Morton seconded the motion. The vote was 3-2 with Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell and Commissioner Hay opposed. Commissioner Fowler voted in favor of the motion.

The Board reached consensus to send the draft budget to the State Treasurer's Office in order to have a budget message prepared for the May meeting.

VI. Review of Ford Credit Financing Quote for Police Vehicles

The Board voted to approve the five-year financing option through Ford Credit during the budget discussion. Commissioner Moore made the motion to approve with Commissioner Morton providing the second. The vote was 5-0.


VII. Adoption of Resolution Accepting ARPA Funding from the NCDEQ

Commissioner Fowler motioned to adopt the resolution accepting ARPA funding from the NCDEQ in the amount of \$2,824,200.00. Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell provided the second. The vote was 5-0.


VIII. Adjournment

Commissioner Moore motioned to adjourn the March 31st Special Budget Meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Cordell seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0.

ATTESTED TO:



Mayor Lynn Black



Recorder and transcriber of the minutes for the Special March 31st 2022 Budget Meeting