

**TOWN OF RANLO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MONTHLY JANUARY 2024  
MEETING**

**RANLO TOWN HALL  
1624 SPENCER MOUNTAIN ROAD, RANLO, NORTH CAROLINA 28054**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 7:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Governing Body Present**

Mayor Lynn Black  
Mayor Pro-Tem Katie Cordell  
Commissioner Jamie Fowler  
Commissioner Doug Moore  
Commissioner Wade Morton

**Staff Present**

Town Manager	Charlie Hansen
Finance Director	Reagan Day
Public Works Director	Jason Green
Billing Administrator	Beth Price
LFNC Fellow	Antonia Christou

**I. Call to Order**

Mayor Black called the meeting to order, and the Interim Town Manager conducted the roll call.

**II. Adoption of the Agenda**

Mayor Black called for a motion to adopt the agenda for the regular January meeting. Commissioner Morton motioned to adopt the agenda for the regular January meeting. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous 4-0 vote.

**III. Comments from Attendees**

There were no comments from attendees.

**IV. Adoption of the December 14<sup>th</sup> 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board**

Mayor Black called for a motion to adopt the December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Fowler motioned to adopt the December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Regular Meeting. Commissioner Laws seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous 4-0 vote.

V. Adoption of the December 14<sup>th</sup> 2023 Closed Session Meeting Minutes of the Board

Mayor Black called for a motion to adopt the December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Closed Session Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Fowler motioned to adopt the December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Closed Session Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous 4-0 vote.

VI. Adoption of the December 21<sup>st</sup> 2023 Special Meeting Minutes of the Board

Mayor Black called for a motion to adopt the December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Morton motioned to adopt the December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Laws seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous 4-0 vote.

VII. Adoption of the December 21<sup>st</sup> 2023 Closed Session Special Meeting Minutes of the Board

Mayor Black called for a motion to adopt the agenda for the December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, Closed Session Special Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Laws motioned to adopt the December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, Closed Session Special Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Fowler seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous 4-0 vote.

VIII. Swearing-In of Charlie Hansen as Town Manager

Mayor Black administered the oath of office to Mr. Charlie Hansen. Mr. Hansen recited the oath, pledging to fulfill his duties to the town of Ranlo with integrity and dedication. Following the swearing-in, Mr. Charlie Hansen expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Ranlo. He reflected on his years of service, emphasizing his commitment to making a positive impact on the community and expressing gratitude for the chance to serve the town of Ranlo.

IX. Proclamation Honoring Carrie Aquino Blanton's service to Ranlo

A proclamation was presented to Carrie Aquino Blanton, highlighting her exceptional service and commitment to the town of Ranlo. The proclamation emphasized her dedication and positive impact on the community through her role as a recreation

organizer. Carrie Aquino Blanton spent countless hours volunteering for the town, an unpaid contribution that does not go unnoticed. She served in many capacities, seamlessly organizing the town of Ranlo's events, such as the 2023 Christmas party.

X. Awarding of Contract for Lead and Copper Grant Funding

The Town Manager explained that the town of Ranlo analyzed quotations per the town's Request for Quotation (RFQ), which advertised a position for qualified engineering consultants to aid the town in developing, managing, and implementing the Town of Ranlo's Compliance Program for the revised United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Lead and Copper Rule ([here](#)). Upon thorough evaluation by a board of town employees, it has been determined that the Wooten company satisfactorily fulfills all stipulated requirements. The Town Manager proposed to the board that the Wooten Company ought to be selected.

Mayor Black called for a motion to adopt the Contract for Lead and Copper Grant Funding for the Wooten Company. Commissioner Moore motioned to adopt the Contract for Lead and Copper Grant Funding for the Wooten Company. Commissioner Morton seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous 4-0 vote.

XI. Awarding of Contract for Engineering Services for NCDEQ Grant Administration

The Town Manager explained that the town of Ranlo analyzed quotations per the town's Request for Quotation (RFQ), which advertised for a professional firm to provide engineering and technical services to coordinate and prioritize the improvement and expansion of municipal water systems funded by a \$5 million grant from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality – Division of Water Infrastructure ([here](#)). Upon thorough evaluation by a board of town employees, it has been determined that the Wooten company satisfactorily fulfills all stipulated requirements. The Town Manager proposed to the board that the Wooten Company ought to be selected.

Commissioner Morton motioned to adopt the Contract for Engineering Services for NCDEQ Grant Administration. Commissioner Laws seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 unanimous vote.

XII. Town Manager's Report

The Town Manager began his report by bringing attention to the beloved town employee, Chris Wright, who was recently released from the hospital. The Town Manager asked attendees to kindly keep Mr. Wright, lovingly known as "Tiny," in their prayers.

Moreover, the Town Manager thanked the police officers and public works professionals who worked diligently during the storm on Tuesday, January 9th, 2023. The Town

Manager acknowledged that the storm was difficult across the state of North Carolina, leaving approximately 112,000 people without power.

Furthermore, the Town Manager excitedly announced the update to the Town of Ranlo's sign. The Town Manager underscored that updating the Town of Ranlo's sign is crucial as it is a prominent symbol that welcomes residents and visitors, creating a positive first impression of the community. A modern and well-maintained sign not only reflects civic pride but also contributes to community identity and a sense of belonging.

The Town Manager highly recommended that the board attend the Gaston Business Association Event on January 17th, 2024, from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

The Town Manager also provided an update on the letter of response drafted by the town's auditor, Eddie Carrick. As of January 8th, 2024, the town of Ranlo is still reporting the available funds in the utility fund. The Town Manager emphasized that the town still has time to update and report this information as it is not past due. The Town Manager drew the board's attention to the option of calling a special meeting if needed.

The Town Manager commended the police department and Chief Lunsford for securing two grants. The first is a Safety Grant, the Guardian Angel Light Grant, and the second is a property liability grant. Both of these grants allowed the town to save significant money for necessary equipment purchases.

Chief Jimmy Lunsford provided the Police Department's call report. Chief Lunsford stated that the Police Department responded to 6,246 calls, made 114 arrests, issued 413 citations, answered 22 overdose calls, 10 death calls, 125 domestic calls, 92 civil disobedience calls, and 94 vehicle wreck calls.

Public Works Director Jason Green provided the Public Work Department's monthly report, underscoring the dedicated service from the employees in the past month.

The Town Manager ended his report by reminding the public that on Monday, January 15th, 2025, the Ranlo Town Hall will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Junior Day. As a result, trash pick up has been moved back by one day.

### XIII. Comments from the Mayor and the Board

Mayor Black had nothing to report.

Commissioner Morton recommended amending the reservation policy for the Ranlo Lodge, suggesting that the Lodge only be available for full-day rentals.

Commissioner Fowler argued that the option for half days should be retained, providing a more affordable choice for town residents. Commissioner Fowler inquired about the success rate of half-day rentals, and Billing Administrator Price mentioned that the only instance resulted in a verbal disagreement requiring town intervention, with only one current half-day rental booked.

Commissioner Laws suggested the board consider dedicating a plaque for town employees who have served Ranlo for a significant number of years.

Mayor Black called for a motion to amend the reservation policy for the Ranlo Lodge, excluding half-day rentals. Commissioner Morton motioned to make this amendment, with Commissioner Laws seconding the motion. The amendment passed with a unanimous 4-0 vote.

Commissioner Morton also addressed the age and poor quality of the Ranlo Town Hall, emphasizing the need for a new town hall and renovations to the public works building. Commissioner Fowler highlighted the flooding issue with the Public Works pump and asked Public Works Director Green how often his office has flooded. Public Works Director Green mentioned it has occurred twice.

Mayor Black called for a motion to adjourn the January 11th, 2024, meeting of the Board. Commissioner Moore motioned to adjourn, with Commissioner Fowler providing the second. The vote passed unanimously 4-0.

ATTESTED TO:

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Mayor Lynn Black

Antonia M. Christou | LEAD FOR NORTH CAROLINA FELLOW

Recorder and transcriber of the minutes for the Monthly January 2024 Meeting.