

Minutes

Town Of Ronda Special Meeting

September 4TH, 2023 9:00 AM

The Ronda Town Board met on Friday, September 4th, at 9:00 a.m. for the purpose of discussing residential constitutional rights. The following members of the board were present: Mayor Rheajean Bengé, Commissioner Helen Porter, Commissioner JoAnn Royal, Commissioner Sandra Simmons, and Commissioner Chris Nelson, as well as Secretary to the Board Younger.

The following members of the public were present: Kevin Reece

Mayor Bengé called the meeting to order at 9:00AM

Board Action:

East Wilkes Water Bill: Fire Departments Pleasant Hill and Buck Shoals have provided a written and signed statements on how much water to hauled off the hydrants to water the football field. The total based of what the 3 fire departments have reported is 99,000 gallons. The bill total for this comes out to \$939.51. Upon further discussion the board determines there will be no penalty at this time, however, if there is another issue with hydrant tampering any school will face full penalty charges.

Motion for bill to be sent for \$939.51- Commissioner Nelson made the motion, Commissioner Royal seconded, all said aye in 4-0 vote.

Motion for no Fee for Hydrant Tampering- Commissioner Nelson made the motion, Commissioner Royal seconded, all said aye in 4-0 vote.

Letters to FBI, Criminal Justice Standards Division, and North Carolina State Bar Association

Two Commissioners requested a second meeting as they had some questions about the letters and what they were about exactly. Commissioner Simmons felt that Town of Ronda should not go against the Judicial System, especially in this district. She did advise that this was not personal against Mr. Reese but she did not want to bring the Town of Ronda into the situation. Mr. Reece stated that he feels his rights were violated and that he needs to stand up for his rights. Mr. Reece request Commissioner Simmons recuse herself from the vote as she personally knows one of the people he is requesting be investigated. Commissioner Nelson stated that he felt that it is the Commissioners job to stand up for the Constitution and the citizens' rights. Mr. Reece advised Commissioner Simmons that he felt she should abstain from the vote or vote against it due to her own personal legal matters. Mr. Reece feels that the only reason he was charged and removed from the board was because he threatened to file a law suit. Mr. Reece continued to discuss and explain why he felt his rights were violated. Commissioner Royal asked what had been redacted in a document that Mr. Reece had provided in a previous

meeting, Mr. Reece provided her with a nonredacted screenshot of the page of the document as it had information concerning his children. Commissioner Royal questioned how the board was supposed to satisfy everyone in the town when some feel Mr. Reece's rights were violated and some do not feel they were and the town should not get involved. Commissioner Royal also stated that if she voted in favor of these letters she would have to go home and deal with the repercussions. Commissioner Nelson stated that the hardest fights are the ones worth fighting. Mr. Reece continued to state that he feels that it is the right thing to do for the Board to pass these letters.

- 1) Letter to the FBI: Commissioner Nelson made a motion, Commissioner Porter seconded;
Vote: Aye: Commissioner Nelson and Commissioner Porter
Nay: Commissioner Simmons and Commissioner Royal
Tie Breaker: Mayor Benge Aye
3-2 Aye, this letter will be sent.
- 2) Letter to the Criminal Justice Standards Division: Commissioner Nelson made a motion, Commissioner Porter seconded;
Vote: Aye: Commissioner Nelson and Commissioner Porter
Nay: Commissioner Simmons and Commissioner Royal
Tie Breaker: Mayor Benge Aye
3-2 Aye, this letter will be sent.
- 3) Letter to North Carolina State Bar Association: Commissioner Nelson made a motion, Commissioner Porter seconded;
Vote: Aye: Commissioner Nelson and Commissioner Porter
Nay: Commissioner Simmons and Commissioner Royal
Tie Breaker: Mayor Benge Aye
3-2 Aye, this letter will be sent.

Mayor Benge asked for a motion to adjourn at 9:50AM Commissioner Nelson made the motion, all stood in agreement.

Andrea Younger

Andrea Younger, Town Clerk