

**TOWN OF RANLO
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2014**

A Regular Meeting of the Ranlo Board of Commissioners was held Thursday, January 9, 2014 at the Ranlo Town Hall. The Ranlo Board consists of:

Mayor Steve Alexander

Commissioner Linda Rhyne
Commissioner Effie Locklear
Commissioner Jamey Jones
Commissioner Gail Tiderman
Commissioner Jamey Carver

Others Present:

Town Attorney Jim Windham
Interim Town Coordinator and Chief of Police Tim Anderson

Mayor Alexander called the meeting to order and Billing Clerk Beth Price called the roll. All were present at roll call.

Commissioner Locklear gave the invocation.

1. Approval of the Minutes by the Board of Commissioners

Mayor Alexander stated these minutes were from the last Regular Meeting of December 12, 2013. He asked if there was a motion to accept the minutes as written.

Commissioner Carver made the motion to accept and Commissioner Jones seconded and it passed unanimously.

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

Mayor Alexander stated there needed to be additions to the agenda. He explained that number one (1) there needed to be a discussion on the water system over in Smyre, and number two (2) the engineering fees needed to be approached and discussed. He would propose they be added under the last Public Hearing. He asked if there was a motion to approve the changes to the agenda.

Commissioner Tiderman made the motion to accept and Commissioner Locklear seconded and it passed unanimously.

3. Citizen Concern: 5-Minute Time Limit

There were no sign-ups for the 5-minute time limit.

4. Comments from Citizens: 2-Minute time limit

James Hendricks: Mr. Hendricks stepped to the podium and stated he lived at 84 Walnut Avenue. He explained of situation concerning an issue where he and his wife were pulled over for an expired tag on their vehicle. He continued by saying the Ranlo Officer did their job, but Horne's Towing charged them \$100 for the tow, and \$500 worth of pay was lost by his wife for missing work. He complained that the officers were spitting chewing tobacco during the stop. He requested reimbursement for the lost money and he did not think the officers should be chewing tobacco on the job.

Chief Anderson responded by saying that he had looked into this particular case and he explained that Ranlo does not set the impound fees. The standard impound in Gaston County is \$100, so that is not something we have anything to do with, and by law it is required that the expired tag be turned over to the DMV, in the event of insurance lapse, the vehicle cannot be operated on a street or highway. We strictly go by what is reported by the DMV.

Commissioner Locklear asked Mr. Hendricks if the reason his wife could not work was because she not drive her car.

Mr. Hendricks stated yes that this was the cause of her missing work. He explained that the DMV did show their tag as being revoked on the police computer and that he and his wife went to the DMV and showed proof of insurance, so he did not know why the tag was revoked.

He said he and his wife were both sick and needed to get to the doctor, and go to the grocery store, but were unable to due to this.

Commissioner Locklear stated she understood, but asked why the tag was revoked.

Mr. Hendricks said they did not know at that time.

Commissioner Locklear asked if there was no other way his wife could have gotten to work.

Mr. Hendricks said there was not. He also stated they lost \$500 worth of pay due to this situation.

Commissioner Carver asked Mr. Hendricks if you had a lapse in insurance and the DMV, which is State maintained, revoked your tag, how do you think our officers of our Town feels responsible for enforcing State laws?

Mr. Hendricks stated again that he felt like the Ranlo Police did their job as far as taking the tag. He said that when you have a fully disabled person and only one other person in the household working, it takes away from making the household run, because they are pretty tight on their budget. He said that they should not have to sit and struggle with no way to the hospital when

sick, no way to the drug store, and no way to the grocery store. They could not even take their son to work.

Commissioner Jones asked if Mr. Hendricks has shown proof of insurance to the officer that night and was he saying that before he was pulled over that night had he corrected those problems.

Mr. Hendricks stated yes, they showed them the verification of the insurance,

Commissioner Jones asked for the date of the citation.

Mr. Hendricks said the date was December 13, 2013.

Commissioner Jones said the insurance was terminated on June 23, 2013 and the tag was revoked on October 7, 2013, so that was two (2) months before you were pulled over.

Mr. Hendricks said they were not aware of it and had never received a letter from the DMV. He knew the Police Department did their job, but the fact was that they were put in a really good crinkle with their budget.

Mayor Alexander asked Mr. Hendricks to have a good day.

Chris Duncan: Mr. Duncan stepped to the podium and addressed the Mayor and the Board and his fellow citizens of Ranlo. He said that he lives in the subdivision of Grassy Meadows. He was speaking about his vehement disapproval of compound bow hunting in a residential area where the houses are densely packed and there are a number of children that live in that neighborhood. He had to explain to his daughter what hunting is and why people hunt, which he had no problem with; however, explaining why a six-point buck was lying in a neighbor's yard because another neighbor had shot it. He said he had no problem with hunting, but he thinks there is a time and place for that. If the land is sufficiently large to allow for hunting, there is no problem with it, but a cul-de-sac neighborhood, in his opinion, is not a place to have a compound bow, shooting fiber arrows at wildlife. He felt there were enough other places in the county in different areas where bow hunting can be done safely. People in the Town of Ranlo should not have to worry about an arrow coming out of the clear blue and hitting them or their child, a house, a dog, or something else. It is not a very safe environment when there are people doing that. He understood that they know what they are doing and have been using bows for a long time, but accidents do happen, and if that can be prevented, it would be a good thing. There are other towns where there have enforced ordinances where they are limited to hunting on certain tracks of land that are large enough to support that. They hunt from approximately ten (10) feet in the air so the trajectory of the arrow is not going to go where it is not wanted to go, and they are able to maintain and regulate that endeavor. He said he has no problem with that; he just does not believe that a cul-de-sac neighborhood with nineteen (19) houses is appropriate for hunting. He said thank you.

Mayor Alexander called Stephanie Angus to speak.

Stephanie Angus: Ms. Angus stepped to the podium and addressed the Mayor, the Board, and the citizens of Ranlo. She said she lived in the Mountain View Subdivision. She said that this had nothing to actually do with the Hearing on hunting, but it does have to do with guns. In her neighborhood – a couple times per week – there is rapid gun fire and there are cannons that are going off at night, so it is not hunting. It is pitch dark and there is no reason for it. She said she had heard there was a shooting range near her neighborhood, but she does not know if that is true or not. It is loud and at times it rattles her windows. They shoot off cannons and there is no need for that in the middle of the night. They shoot off fireworks, automatic weapons are going off; rapid fire. There are kids in the neighborhood that are scared to death. My dog pees on the carpet every time it happens. It is a couple time per week. She addressed someone who was shaking their head yes. If there is a shooting range close to us, she asked what could be done to prevent her house from being rattled.

Mayor Alexander stated the shooting range is outside of Ranlo and this would have to be investigated further.

Ms. Angus asked if it was in Lowell.

Chief Tim Anderson said it is the police chief in Lowell's property.

Ms. Angus said she had heard that and asked if there are licensing requirements for that and what could be done.

Mayor Alexander said we would investigate this and let her know. He told her to stop back by in private and give him her number so that he could stay in contact with her about this because they are aware of the cannons. There are a lot of calls coming in about this. When you are not sure where it is coming from, and it is hard to do something about it, when it is hard to locate. This is very well noted. Thank you.

Ms. Angus thanked the Mayor.

Carolyn Underwood: Mrs. Underwood stepped up to the podium and addressed the Mayor and Commissioners. She stated she would like to request a change in a Town ordinance regarding the deadly weapons. She wanted it to be added about bows and arrows and any type of weapons and no hunting in the City Limits of Ranlo. She wanted to reiterate what Mr. Duncan had said earlier, she stated there is probably thirteen (13) kids on Strawberry Lane, and the last deer killed was around 5:30 in the afternoon, so would not people be coming home from work. She said she knew there were experts, but mistakes happen. People cannot take a walk in the woods for fear of being shot. Her daughter is afraid to go into the woods to take photos. She would appreciate this change in the ordinance.

Teresa Moore: Mrs. Moore stated she lived in Grassy Meadows. The deer that was shot back in – well number one (1) in October they found people hunting in the neighborhood. She said she contacted the police. In November, a deer was shot and came into her yard and died. She wishes that nobody would hunt in their neighborhood when they do have thirteen (13) children that play in her backyard all day long and at night. There is people hunting out in the corn fields, there is

gunshots all hours of the night, and she has contacted and talked to some of the Board members about what is going on, and the reason she had contacted them is because these little 3-year-olds - they have thirteen (13) from the age of three (3) to thirteen (13) on Strawberry Lane. She has asked all of them to do this for the safety of these children.

Dora Groves: Mrs. Groves stepped to the podium and address the Mayor and the Commissioners and stated that she lives in Mountain View. She stated she was changing the subject from the hunting but had a question that had multiple parts to it. She knows that they have septic pump station that is down below them and she knows it is checked periodically and asked when and how often. She knew there had been some trouble with the alarm system when they built the road. On an evening that she had to apologize to a neighbor for calling their house late one night and it was only because the alarm had been going off for about five and a half hours by the time they realized that was what it was. If it is being checked, how often is it being checked and who is checking it, and do we know for sure it is being checked considering it had been about five and a half hours when she called her friend?

Mayor Alexander stated he actually got involved in that and was the person called.

Mrs. Groves said yes that she was afraid to call him that late.

Mayor Alexander said yeah, it was a dippy-doodle that night and it wound up being successful. After Mrs. Groves called, it went off pretty quick. He explained that there were problems with power resets in the generator, and since then, we have gotten the digital dialer wired and reburied and put back in the ground; plus every three hours, once every three hours, a policeman is supposed to come by and check that.

Police Chief Tim Anderson stated that this had already been put into practice.

Mayor Alexander stated it will be done. We are going to take care of our liabilities in the Town, and the policeman going by is a redundancy. If something would happen, the digital dialer is supposed to call in the Town troubleshooters to fix it, but if something happens to the digital dialer and it breaks like it did before, the police on their three-hour rounds checks all of them to make sure that the horn is not going off. I have put a lot of time into this, and Tim knows as well as I do that it better not happen no more.

Mrs. Groves said that she now knows who to contact and if it happens again that someone is not doing their job. She is still going to call the Mayor and the Chief, because if it is a three-hour deal then somebody is not doing their job because they didn't that particular day and that costs not me, but y'all and them excess amount of money if something happens and they have a spill like they had before.

Mayor Alexander said we can't do that.

Chief Anderson said that it had been caught since then; after the changes were incorporated.

Mayor Alexander thanked Mrs. Groves and told her that if it happened again to call him if no one shows up. He told her that she was right. They cannot allow any more blind eyes. It will not happen anymore.

Jessica Underwood: Ms. Underwood stepped up to the podium and said that she lives in Grassy Meadows. She stated that she does not agree with the hunting in her neighborhood and she thought the ordinances should be changed. She said that she could not even walk her dog down the street for fear of being shot, so I felt that needed to change. She thanked the Board.

Dottie Shuford: Ms. Shuford stepped up to the podium and addressed the Mayor, the Commissioners, and the Citizens of Ranlo. She said she was here to speak on the hunting issue. She said that hardly a night goes by that you do not hear gun shots. She also lives in Grassy Meadows. The bows and arrows were not included when the original ordinance was established, and she believes this should be added for the safety of the children as well as the adults. She wanted to suggest that this be changed. She thanked the Board for their time.

Robert Horne: Mr. Horne introduced himself as the owner of Ms. D's Auto Service and Horne's Towing. He asked what the function of each of the newly appointed planning and advisory boards or committees were.

Mayor Alexander explained that they were for the purpose of collecting information from the citizens and communicating ideas and suggestions to the different departments or Board members. As far as personnel goes, none of the items would be reflected in any of the personnel files.

Mr. Horne said that he was more interested in what the members' duties and guidelines were; like what are they supposed to be doing or not doing? What is the main function by getting these boards?

Mayor Alexander stated that the three people on the Police board can ride at any time. They are under total control of the Police officer that they're with. If they have questions, the line of communication will go through Tim, then to the Coordinator, and then to the Mayor. These steps have been put into place to try and improve communications. The Planning board – we have got to get back into things like the garbage pick-up. He has found three (3) different ordinances that say three (3) different things about the garbage pick-up. They are going to go through these and pick out what Ranlo needs and put that in place in the UDO, plus recycling, and efficiency in recycling. We need to be sure to move in the right direction with this while watching the budget is also an issue.

Mr. Horne asked if it would not make more sense if the Utility Department was over that?

Mayor Alexander explained again about the digital dialers, which should alert the proper people if there is a problem. The Police going by there during their regular rounds is a double check on the issue.

Mr. Horne said he thought five to five and a half hours was exaggerated on that.

Mayor Alexander said no; that he was going to look after the town and he was sorry if it offended him.

Mr. Horne said he was just saying that the facts needed to be correct.

Mayor Alexander said that as far as he was concerned, the facts are correct.

Mr. Horne said that the Mayor has the job title so apparently he (Mr. Horne) was wrong.

Mayor Alexander said that there were several calls about it, and he wasn't called until last night. He said that he would not tell Mr. Horne anything wrong.

Mr. Horne said okay, they could agree on that.

Mayor Alexander told him thank you and have a good day.

5. Update on Everest Drive

Mayor Alexander explained that Everest Drive going out the back, there was a road open temporarily and they had to shut it back off because it is still a temporary road. We got a checklist we have to go to for the contractors to finish some work that needed to be done. Some of the work has been done, and some of it has not, and as soon as we get a punch list done, that the engineers are happy, the Town's happy and the construction people are happy, we will open this road up. We are not keeping it closed just for the heck of it, and remember that when it is finished, there will be curbing and gutter everywhere. Right now, the road leading out of there is a temporary, but it has been so wet they have not been able to continue on with it. He wanted to let everyone know it has not been put on a back burner. It is checked on every day and they have been on it wide open. They don't want to sign off on something that is not considered safe enough.

6. Vote to Get Bids for Removal of Sunset Pump Station

Mayor Alexander stated that we need to give the engineering staff the okay to ask for bids for the Sunset Pump Station to be eliminated and have the gravity drain pipe put in to go down to the flume. What this is doing is giving the Town permission to receive bids, and we will receive several bids and make a decision accordingly. He asked if there was a motion to grant permission for the engineers to receive bids on the elimination of this pump station.

Commissioner Carver made the motion and Commissioner Tideman seconded and it passed unanimously.

You will be notified of when this procedure will start, and nothing will be done until we get the bids before the council.

7. Public Hearing on Tobacco Ordinance

Mayor Alexander stated that any citizen would have two (2) minutes to speak if anyone wished to talk. Any and all who wished to speak would only have the two (2) minutes. He asked for a motion to go into Public Hearing.

Commissioner Locklear made the motion and Commissioner Carver seconded and it passed unanimously.

Brandon Payne: Mr. Payne stepped up to the podium and addressed the Mayor, Commissioners, and the Citizens of Ranlo. He stated that he lived on Sharon Avenue and had been a member of the Volunteer Fire Department for the past ten (10) years. He asked that the Board reconsider banning tobacco products. He said he understood that citizens coming into the Police Department and Town Hall and also the Fire Department don't want to come into someone smoking at the door, but he asked that it be reconsidered due to the fact that the Fire Department is Volunteer and he didn't understand why they would take away that privilege from the Volunteers. He thought it would take away from the citizens by making the answering of call times longer because no one would want to be up here at the Fire Department. Also, he suggested that there be designated areas for smoking instead of banning tobacco completely.

Cathy Lewis: Mrs. Lewis stepped up to the podium and addressed the Mayor, Commissioners, and Citizens of Ranlo. She stated she lives at 2598 Sunset Drive. She said that she is a non-smoker, she does not like smoking, but she believes it is a person's right to choose. She would also recommend designating smoking areas around the Town Hall, maybe behind the Police Department or Fire Department. As far as the parks and the Lodge, she recommended no smoking inside, but rather a smoking area. She stated in order to police no smoking in the parks or at the Lodge; she thought it would be hard to do. She would recommend the designated smoking areas as a compromise.

Ronnie Laws: Mr. Laws approached the podium and stated that he is a citizen of Ranlo. He said that he does not like smoking. He does not smoke or dip. He stated that he could see how it would be difficult for someone to quit, not impossible, but hard; therefore, he felt that you should not stop them. For the ones that dip, nothing in the building – have a designated area for them he felt there was nothing wrong with it even if they are on patrol. It doesn't bother him or offend them.

Commissioner Locklear stated that she was the Recreation Director for the last two (2) years and it is hard to walk up to citizens and ask them to take their cigarette and put it out. She tried it a couple of time, but they were out there in fresh air, and they came out there to spend money. They brought the kids. There is no smoking in the Town Hall, and she doesn't smoke and she is allergic to it, but we had a couple ladies here that did smoke and they were respectful enough to go behind the Town Hall. She said she never smelled it on them. Our Police officers are in a very, very stressful job, if they do not approach a car with it in their mouth, she doesn't see anything wrong with that. Our Public Works, she would say "no smoking in their vehicles", but we have to work with our guys and our girls and not be too rough on our people.

Commissioner Carver stated that he doesn't see a purpose of creating an ordinance for the Town to enforce the no-smoking issue, but we do need to have signage up in the front of Town Hall, and he agreed with the people who have spoken that we need designated areas for smoking in the back, not in front of the public view to have respect for everyone. As far as an ordinance goes, he is not in favor of passing an ordinance of policing no smoking, but he thinks that there does need to be proper signage should be displayed. He said that everyone is an adult here and everyone usually pays attention and most people will respect that and pay attention to the signage. He thought there should be a designated area for Town employees and was not in favor of making it illegal by passing an ordinance.

Mayor Alexander stated this would be brought back up as old business at the next Board meeting after getting with Mr. Graham and Mr. Windham to decide what is proper and go over the legalities. He asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Carver made the motion and Commissioner Locklear seconded and it passed unanimously.

8. Public Hearing on Hunting and Weapons

Mayor asked for a motion to go into a Public Hearing.

Commissioner Jones asked if he could hand out some information before the motion was made to go into Public Hearing.

Commissioner Locklear asked if the Clerk needed one.

Everyone was given a handout.

Commissioner Carver made the motion to go into Public Hearing, Commissioner Locklear seconded and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Alexander stated this would be two (2) minute limit to speak and anybody could approach the podium.

Brandon Payne: He asked that the Mayor and Board reconsider banning bow hunting. He did not think it should be banned. With all due respect, like someone said, we are all adults, we have kids, he said he has a kid, but you have to consider where these people hunt there might be a couple of houses, and he knew they did not want deer laying in the yard, but where these people are actually hunting behind houses, in the corn fields, and the woods, a five-year-old, six-year-old, seven-year-old shouldn't be out there playing, regardless. He said he was sorry, but his would not be out there playing, but he wished they would reconsider the matter. He thought bow hunting should be allowed, he understood if they wanted to go with guns. With all due respect, thank you.

Carolyn Underwood: Mrs. Underwood approached the podium and said, okay, what he said was, in our neighborhood, we have houses here and we have houses here, so if the person over here

shoots the bow and arrow across the street and hits a deer and it runs into her yard and dies, this is not dangerous? Why would anybody with common sense think that bow hunting or shooting anything in the Town limits is proper? She said she just doesn't understand it.

Commissioner Jones spoke up and said he had to respond to one question.

Mayor Alexander said well let her finish. He asked Mrs. Underwood if she was finished.

Mrs. Underwood said she was finished.

Commissioner Jones stated that one part of Mrs. Underwood's question stated "shot an arrow across the street" that's not factual.

Mrs. Underwood said she thought, well okay, where did you shoot it from, the blind, or the deer stand that you had; did you shoot it from there into someone else's yard, because you know there are houses all around the cul-de-sac.

Commissioner Jones said he would respond to that question. He said that in case there was anyone who did not know, he was the person responsible for getting all this started, so any legal hunter in this town, I apologize for what may happen to y'all's rights tonight, but let me tell you the story. He said he had heard everything he could hear about this story, he heard that his son shot the deer with a rifle in someone else's yard, and now tonight, the story is that the bow was shot across a street. The bow was shot from a legally placed stand fourteen (14) foot high, with permission from the landowner. The deer was harvested, which is the word hunters use, they don't say shot and killed. The deer was harvested, and it did what deer do, they run when they are hit with a projectile. I am deeply sorry for where it ended up, but people need to understand that everything about that incident that night was cleared as nothing illegal happened, and that was from the Wildlife officer who was contacted, so whatever the Town decides to do tonight, he just wanted to clear up the fact that nothing illegal happened that night. He said he was not happy with the way it turned out that night, and he wished it had not happened like that and that was all he could say.

Mrs. Underwood said that they were not aware that hunting was going on in their area until that occurred.

Commissioner Jones said he also wanted to apologize to Mrs. Underwood and her daughter. There has not been zero hunting since that night, so he wanted them to feel free to walk your dogs.

Mrs. Underwood said she did not think Commissioner Jones was the only one that has hunted down there because other people have hear gun shots like Dotty was talking about. She thought it was along with that.

Teresa Moore: Mrs. Moore approached the podium and said in October there was a child twenty (20) feet from the corner of our land hunting, they said, raccoon. A month later, the deer come across. Jamey, you did shoot it. It was on someone else's property and she contacted everyone in

the neighborhood to let them know that these children, she said Jamey knew as well as she did, that the little kids on the corner plays in her backyard. They all have stopped since the bow hunting has happened because accidents happen. People can get shot with a deer, and it was a child that we caught twenty (20) feet from their land, and they all came because of the corn they had put up, they planted, and it has not yet been cut down. They have raccoon, they have deer. They saw six (6) Sunday running across their backyard. We enjoy it. She has pictures. You can stop in her yard and take pictures; they will let you – with no flash. But she thinks bow hunting is dangerous and she would like it stopped completely in the Town of Ranlo.

Gary Polson: Mr. Polson state that he knew there needed to be an ordinance or something as far as bow hunting, but instead of restricting the whole township they should look as how far in distance did that bow travel from the property line and go forward from that. Some bows can go – what 100 yards or so?

Commissioner Jones said there was no way you could shoot something 100 yards away with a bow unless you were doing it on purpose. You couldn't do it by accident.

Mr. Polson said that was what he was saying. We can restrict it back to at least 100 yards or so from any property lines or anything like that so a person won't be that close to a property.

Commissioner Jones stated he was sure they would discuss all the options.

Mr. Polson said that was what he was saying – don't eliminate it because the deer is overrunning Ranlo now.

Commissioner Jones stated he was going to read some stats on that in a minute.

Mr. Polson asked that they take it into consideration – 100 yards or 200 yards away from a person's property line and let it go from there. Thank you.

Andrew Lewis: Mr. Lewis approached the podium and state that individual property rights were pretty simple. He understood that it needed to be done safely – a child out there – are they doing it legally, we don't know. Does everyone do it legally? No. No one follows every law or there would be no use of a police officer to stop you from speeding or going through that stop sign. And our family, we've got about 100 acres in the city limits of Ranlo -100 acres. Should I not be allowed to hunt on that just because someone might get hurt? I might get hurt. I might get hurt standing here. Also complaints about corn – it is an agricultural commodity. We grow it for an agricultural usage. It is fed to agricultural animals. Raccoons come after, deer come after it. We don't plant it there on purpose for the raccoons or the deer. Thank you.

Chris Duncan: Mr. Duncan approached the podium and stated that he thought the Town should take a seriously look at a unified approach to a solution. He said their answer is not going to make everyone happy, that's a given. Okay, if there is enough land to support the hunting in the Town of Ranlo, he thought the hunters should be able to legally and properly use that land. For areas that are small enough to where it is not safe to shoot a bow or any other type of element – shooting an arrow or a crossbow, should not be allowed. 100 acres is more than enough land. A

lot of towns have issued a policy where five (5) acres is the minimum amount of property they allow bow hunting on, so investigate what other towns have done in North Carolina, see what the ordinance they have adopted and has been ratified for their communities, make an educated decision on what to do. Banning it outright he does not believe would be the right thing to do. Allowing it on his street is definitely not the right thing to do. Okay, so they need to come up with a compromise between the bow hunters and the residents that keep both of them safe, keep the Town safe. It is not going to make everybody happy, that's a given, but take the time, look at the problem, come to a solution. He is sure that they would get some input from the citizens.

Jeremy Bidy: Mr. Bidy stepped to the podium and stated he lives at 26 Burlington Avenue and he is against this ordinance. He hoped the Board would reconsider this. He feels that, not only is it a way to teach children an education of safety, as well as a lifelong way to take care of themselves, but it also gives an opportunity for them to hunt with their family. His 3-year-old is a member of the National Wildlife Association, as well as having a lifetime Sportsman membership card to hunt and fish for the rest of his life in the state of North Carolina. If you take this away from him, you also take it away from me and the opportunity to hunt with my family, and he feels that is not appropriate. He said they should look at this, there is some safety concerns, but every hunter has to go through a safety course. It is required, and they don't want to hurt people. They don't even want to hurt other animals; they are simply taking the opportunity to be with their families, take some time and some hobbies that they enjoy, and grow and develop. So he hopes they will consider this and asked please do not make this illegal for hunters to use this area. He thanked the Board.

Jessica Underwood: Ms. Underwood approached the podium and stated that she is a member of the National Wildlife Federation and Sierra Club. She does a lot of research on wildlife, residential areas, etc. If you want to hunt, go do it where there is land. Taking it away in Ranlo is what we need, but there are plenty of other places to do it. So she thinks that it should be reserved for acres and acres of land – not two (2) acres – not a residential area. She thanks the Board.

Todd Simonds: He grew up at 109 Woodside Avenue, and he is against the ordinance.

Mayor Alexander asked what his current address was.

Mr. Simonds said it is actually 207 McGinnis in Lincolnton, but he is moving back here and is actually in the process of building a home.

Mayor Alexander said this should be for Ranlo citizens only.

Mr. Simonds said that he felt like he was, he grew up here. His family still lives here, and he is moving back here, so he felt he had the right just as anyone else in Ranlo to speak.

Mayor Alexander said he would be glad to let him speak, he really would, but you are not really supposed to. You are not a citizen, but you may speak.

Mr. Simonds said that he is against this ordinance that he and his family have shot there for years. They have hunted, and hunted properly. They have hunted here for years. His children have grown up doing it and he just didn't want this taken away from them. You know, in the small neighborhood across the street, yes maybe they don't need to be shooting arrows across the street, but he and his family have never done that and they want to keep it the way they have had it so their family can always hunt the way they have. He thanked the Board.

A lady spoke up from the audience and told Mayor Alexander that Mr. Simonds was speaking for her. She had lost her husband and she didn't feel like she could talk.

Mayor Alexander said that was fine, that is why he was welcome. The mayor said he just didn't really know this and he apologized, but that was fine.

Stephanie Angus: She stated that she was under the assumption that there have been some Facebook sites out there. People are going back and forth about bow hunting in an urban area and things of that nature. There were some websites and some links were posted, and when she looked from what she saw – to bow hunt in an urban area within a neighborhood, you have – the Town has to apply to the state to be able to do that. It is her understanding that the Town has not done that, so technically, bow hunting in Ranlo is illegal. If you want to hunt five (5) acres is a great limit, anything more than that is fine to hunt. Her family has hunted their entire life, she has been around it her entire life, but don't hunt next to her house. Don't hunt next to a subdivision. She said she meant that was common sense. So is everybody wants to argue over the bow hunting, it is illegal already because the Town has never applied for that permit.

Commissioner Jones asked if he could address that.

Mayor Alexander said sure.

Commissioner Jones said that the permit Ms. Angus was speaking of is called Urban Archery. It was instituted by the Wildlife Commission in 2008. That permit is only to allow you to hunt with a bow from January 11 to February 15, which extends your bow hunting season because of the deer problem. It is not a permit you have to have to bow hunt. It's a permit to extend your bow hunting season. Every bit of that can be verified by contacting the North Carolina Wildlife Commission. We do not have to have permission to hunt in the Town of Ranlo with a bow.

Ms. Angus said that was not her understanding. Everything she has looked at says that you do because we are an urban area.

Commissioner Jones said okay.

Chris Lewis: He stated that he lives at 327 Lewis Road. He said his family is the one that is farming the corn and they have about 100 acres here in town. They have property elsewhere also. For anybody that gets your information off of Facebook, Bonjour. If you know anything about getting information off the Internet, it's not always true. We have the land in Grassy Meadows – it is leased from the Rhyne family. Anyone that knows anything about renting land or leasing land is if you want access to it, you need to talk to the lessee and get a sublease. Well I was that

planted the corn, my acre meter said 11 acres was what I could reach with my tractor and planter. A good bit of it I left open for the sewer right of way on it and what's in trees. It's a fairly good size piece of land, he doesn't know exactly what it is, but for anyone that is out walking their kids or anyone walking their dogs and you're out in the woods and you want to play or whatnot, and you don't feel safe; stay at home. You do not have permission to be on that land. I have sole rights to the lease of it. We do have 100 acres, and they do hunt there on the farm. They do not gun hunt, they bow hunt. He thinks they would be making a mistake by keeping people from doing it. He does have friends that depend on that meat that they harvest through the year to support their families. He has two (2) friends that honestly do depend on it. He thanked the Board.

Commissioner Effie Locklear stated that she liked to see the deer also. They take the senior adults every fall to Pigeon Forge, Gatlinburg and they go the Cade's Cove to watch the deer, and they are beautiful. She has also seen them come through her backyard. Her husband plants a big garden, and she saw three (3) deer and she thought it was just great until they ate all their corn. Sam told her on Friday that the corn would be ready to harvest on Monday. That was their corn for the year. She got eleven (11) ears of Silver Queen and four (4) ears of Avalon and that was their corn. She didn't like the deer after that. It was a lot of money and a lot of hard work. That was all she had to say about the deer.

Commissioner Linda Rhyne stated that she would like to make one comment and this happened to her personally. Her next door neighbor was out shooting his bow and arrow one Sunday afternoon. He was out there with his kids and they were out there looking for something and we had just come in from the beach. We had pulled my truck inside the garage, and they were busy unpacking, and they had a float in the back of the truck they had used at the beach. The arrow was stuck in the float in the back of her truck in her garage. But arrows and stuff do get away from people and there could be accidents. We were just fortunate that nothing happened, and I went and knocked on my neighbor's door and said are you looking for this and he apologized and said it wouldn't happen again, so – and it hasn't – so. But they do get away from you sometimes.

Robbie Lewis: He stated that he was the owner of the corn in Grassy Meadows. He said that they do understand the issue about safety, but he wanted to make it clear that they are against a City-wide ban. The problem with deer is state-wide, it is nation-wide. It's not just outside the Town, it's inside the Town also, but he guesses it needs to be done in the proper areas, so what he was asking for is a compromise between the two. He doesn't know how to come about that. The deer are here – the corn is not bringing the deer, the deer are here, they have been here. They are a problem and have been a problem for years and it is getting worse. It doesn't matter where you are at – doing away with the corn is not going to fix the problem. They have to be managed in a way that is best for everybody. He just wanted the Board to know that he is in support of some kind of compromise if one can be thought of. He thanked the Board.

Jim Burns: Mr. Burns stepped up to the podium and addressed the Mayor, Board and fellow Citizens. He state that he also lives in Grassy Meadows on Ridge Avenue. He said the point that he would like to make is that a lot of this has made a play on words. And what we are looking for and what they hope to accomplish on this is the entire reason for this Public Hearing for

everybody that is here this afternoon. Now, based on what he has heard – he hasn't read the ordinances – it says that hunting is legal but it doesn't permit bows and arrows, or it doesn't mention bows and arrows, which he guessed makes it legal. At least that is the thought process of a lot of people. When you are talking about a bow and arrow – how long will it be before some makes a play on those words and adds crossbows. The next thing you know is that you have bear traps and then you've got water pits. Where does it stop? Nowhere within Grassy Meadows should there be anyone with the right to kill wildlife. If we approve bows and arrows for deer, then what's wrong with BB guns for squirrels and rabbits? And then you've got window lights and you've got cars that are damaged and one fellow said "I've got friends that like to hunt". If we open this up and make it legal to hunt with bow and arrow in Ranlo, that's going to bring people from Bessemer City, and that's going to bring people from Gastonia, because – hey man, you can go to Ranlo and kill all the deer you want to during bow season. You see, there is no place in Ranlo that he would like to see that. Now, the Lewis family, he does not have a problem with where they have that kind of acreage out there, but the law has to be defended. It's not gray – it has to be either black or white. He said he is not against some sort of arrangement or agreement that would specify something to that effect, but the eleven (11) acres where the corn is planted, he doesn't go down there, he has no business down there, but if they make hunting with bows and arrows, and if they make hunting with crossbows legal then the deer are not going to stay just in the corn field. Like Mr. Lewis said, the deer were here before the corn was. The deer will be here after the corn is gone. The deer don't come here, migrate, and stay and raise their families; it's a constant moving and they are shuffling all of the time, and within that process, there is always going to be deer here. The problem that we are faced with tonight is – are we willing to risk life, limb, injury, and danger by allowing this to take place in the City limits. He, for one, would be totally against it. He thanked the Board.

Cathy Lewis: Mrs. Lewis approached the podium and stated that she lives and 2598 Sunset Drive and said she is also part-owner of Lewis Farm. As my husband and son both stated that they own the corn. Our corn is a family affair, our farm is a family affair and we raise that to feed our livestock, which in turn goes to – for anybody that eats hamburger meat, not McDonald's, but anybody that eats meat – we help raise that. We do not raise it for the deer, but they come and have a feast every year anyway and so do the raccoons. Another problem that we have with deer on our farm is deer going through our fences. They repeatedly go through our fence, they can't tell whether it is there or not and they tear it down. The animals get out. We go and put it back up. With the proposed solar farm coming to the landfill, that's going to again take away the deer's natural habitat and they're going to move into Town even more. A deer's favorite food is not corn; it is the grass you grow in your yard. A lot of accidents happen where cars hit deer. My dad – I think his car hit six (6) deer – lot of them in the Town limits of Ranlo. Somebody made a statement about taking a walk, I certainly appreciate that, we like to walk, but the position of my family is, if we are not on our property, we are on someone else's, so if you want to go and not worry about hunting – number one (1) hunting is illegal on Sundays, so if you should be able to walk at any time on Sunday. If someone is shooting that's not a hunter. If you walk on our property, you need to ask permission. All sorts of things go on all the time. We have lots of activities going on. We don't allow hunting when we have other activities going on, but if you want to take a walk in the woods, make sure you have the property owner's permission. If the Board so chooses to put a ban on hunting, then I need to go ahead and know what that penalty is. Because when I have deer in my corn, when I have deer in my pumpkin fields, and

when I have them taking down our fence, I am going to make sure that they are harvested properly. She thanked the Board.

Robert Horne: Mr. Horne stated that he was with Horne's Towing again. He said just a little different perspective that a lot of people are not looking at – there is an overgrowth as far as the deer population. Whether they decide to go ahead and forbid it in Ranlo or not – on average between Gaston County along with the Towing service and other agencies that they deal with, we probably tow eleven (11) cars per month, every month, twelve (12) months per year from deer accidents. This past year, in 2013, five (5) of those were fatalities. Look back up in the records – I don't know what they are, but how many accidents where you have deaths that we've had during hunting were from hunting – a stray bullet or a stray arrow. Those records are much more readily available and sought after where there are auto accidents those people is kind of an accepted thing. You know, it is part of wildlife, it is going to happen. Take out the hunting in certain areas, and it's going to go a little bit further. Of course when you get down Spencer Mountain getting out of Ranlo, it is a huge problem with deer running in the woods. You are going to have a lot more accidents – not just in Ranlo, but throughout the county. The further and further you push it out. That's all – just a different perspective for people to look at. He also wanted to commend anybody who is teaching their kids about hunting – with his running three (3) businesses he doesn't have the time to hunt like he would like to – but his kids still hunt regularly throughout the Town it should be a tradition passed down. He thanked the Board.

Commissioner Carver stated that he felt it was not the job of the Town or Government to set restrictions or invade the rights of any property owner; but it is the job of the Town to provide safety for its citizens, and this is the reason we are having this open forum. Obviously, Jamey, if I am correct, deer season is over?

Commissioner Jones answered yes, sir.

Commissioner Carver continued by saying deer season is over and we are not going to get an answer tonight. We have heard great debates on both sides. Obviously there needs to be restrictions upheld or whatever – as a Board – we decide to go, but we have heard all the debates from each side from the citizens and they have been great debates on both sides. He didn't have anything else, but he did think that they had a problem and they need to set restrictions in, and as far as those restrictions, they need to get with some experts and find out exactly what the safety concerns are. He asked if anyone else had any questions or debate.

A lady from the audience asked – what about twenty-five (25) acres. That would be considered safe, because if you are going from tree stands, you will be shooting down.

Commissioner Carver said he did not want to make any decision right now; he would like to get with some experts and hear all sides. He wanted to get an expert opinion on how far it would travel and things like that. He stated that as he had said, deer season is over and it doesn't affect anything right now and he asked Commissioner Jones when the season would come back in.

Commissioner Jones said October – mid September.

Commissioner Carver said September. Okay, so he thought they needed to make an education and rational decision, and weigh the options out.

Mayor Alexander asked Commissioner Jones if he was wanted to speak.

Commissioner Jones stated that he just wanted to give the citizens their chance to speak. He wanted to read out some statistics that he had compiled, and as he read them he would give the source that he gained them from. Anybody who feels like it can check those statistics out, it will be in the public record. You can go back and check them for yourselves. First of all, he wanted to say that in forty (40) of the records being kept by the Wildlife Resource Commission there have been zero (0) bow hunting accidents. That can be verified by calling the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission – zero (0) in forty (40) years in North Carolina. As far as Mr. Horne's stats on the vehicles, the most recent records on file go from 2009 to 2011 and sometime in the spring the newest records will come out, but for those years 17,000 motor vehicle deer collisions, 3,000 injuries to drivers, 17 fatalities. Our most recent fatality in Gaston County was in November on Dallas-Cherryville Highway. The individual lost his life in that accident and you don't really want me to go into it tonight of the particulars on how he lost his life. It was not good. He had a quote from Highway Patrol Officer Brian Huffstickler who is the lead accident investigator for North Carolina Highway Patrol, "The average motor vehicle damage associated with vehicle-deer collision is \$3,000 to \$3,500. In Ranlo we have also experienced vehicle damage with three (3) of our police officers. Two (2) in Town owned vehicles, one (1) in a personal vehicle. To tell you how close the problem is to us, the average population of Northern Whitetail Deer in the United States is ten (10) to twenty (20) per square mile. In North Carolina the average population of Whitetail deer is thirty (30) to fifty (50) per square mile and if you ride by Ralph Lewis' property tonight at about 9 o'clock, you'll see one (1) acre with those twenty (20) to thirty (30) in one (1) acre. Information from State Farm Insurance website. Our neighbor – closest neighbor – Mecklenburg County has the highest number of vehicle deer collisions in North Carolina. North Carolina and South Carolina have the highest number in the whole United States. In the last three (3) years, auto accidents were down in general by eight and a half (8 ½) percent. Vehicle deer collisions were up eight (8) percent. Estimates from the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission and local agriculture growers estimated crop loss on an average small farm, which I think that is what we have around here, \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year, and that could probably be debated too, if you ask them. The problem is so wide-spread in North Carolina, that there are now 34 towns on record throughout North Carolina that have adopted the Urban Archery Program that we spoke about earlier to extend their deer season to more – to help more control the population of deer. The number is actually higher than that because he knows for a fact that Belmont approved it this year because he was on the committee that wrote their ordinance to be presented to the State and it was approved. That is the statistics that he gained and if you want to talk to anybody in Belmont about hunting in a subdivision, their most prestigious subdivision, called Reflection Pointe; y'all may have heard of it, had about sixty (60) deer harvested there this season, and they can't get enough of it. They want twice as many next year. Again, he asked that he go back and say that he is sorry for the problems that were caused in Grassy Meadows. He has not hunted since that happened. He doesn't know what else to say to the people in Grassy Meadows. He has three (3) children, and has taken his two (2) oldest children hunting with him and takes one (1) of them with him every time he goes. If his child is with him hunting, he is not out doing drugs; he is not out roaming the streets. He knows where

he is at and what he is doing. He also knows what kind of mindset he has because he spends time with him. People don't spend time with their kids any more, and he has one hobby. He is very passionate about it; it's hunting. He said believe him that he does not want his kid hurt any more that he wants your child hurt. He does not plan on hunting any more in Grassy Meadows. He hates to not do it, but he has to live there, so he is not going to do it. He doesn't mean this lightly and does not want to make a joke out of it but he wanted to correct also that the deer was not a six-pointer; it was an eight-pointer. He doesn't go out and . . .

A man in the audience said his daughter didn't really care when she saw it laying there in the street.

Commissioner Jones said there was no deer dead in the street. The deer was in Mrs. Moore's yard. Like he was saying, he does not plan on doing any more hunting in Grassy Meadows. It's not worth it. He doesn't think everyone in the Town should be punished for a mistake that he made; well he didn't make a mistake; he didn't do anything illegal, but he won't do it again. He just wanted to give everyone some stats. People can talk about the safety of it, but what are you going to do when it is your wife or your husband that comes through Ranlo one night on their way home and a deer comes flying through their window and decapitates them? You know, it's a problem. So he is not in favor of a ban, but he believes they need to set some guidelines and some rules for it.

Katelyn Jones: Miss Jones approached the podium and stated that when they are out hunting, they are not hunting your dogs. They are not trying to shoot your dogs, and they are not going to shoot you. People hunt in the daylight, they don't hunt at dark, and you can tell a difference if it is a deer or a person standing there. If it's a person moving through, you are not going to shoot them. You can tell if it's a deer or a person. The kids that are out there, when that deer was shot the kids were out there playing with the deer – holding its antlers up in the air. They are not scared of it. That's all she had to say.

Mayor Alexander asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Locklear made the motion and Commissioner Rhyne seconded and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Alexander stated that with all of the information they had received tonight that it would be impossible to write an ordinance and what they would do would be to get with Mr. Windham and get Mr. Graham involved see what they come up with. He knew that there was no way in this world to make everybody happy. It is one of those things that he understands, you have to realize that as far as he is concerned, the mayor thinks different from anyone in the whole town. He cannot be opinionated, sometimes he wants to be, but he can't. The main thing that the Town government has to do is look after the safety and the well-being of the citizens. If not, then the Town could get into one heck of a law suit. He feels sure that they will do their best to come up with something that will satisfy as many as possible. He asked if any other member of the Board had anything else they wanted to say.

Commissioner Carver spoke up and said he did. He just wanted to say he was glad everyone had come out and asked that they come back to the regular meetings instead of just complaining about this. We would greatly appreciate it.

Water system in Smyre, Add-on

Mayor Alexander said the next item he needed to speak on was the add-on about the sanitation system in Smyre. We are still furnishing water in Smyre. We have written two (2) letters to the City asking them to take it over, so that we can get out of there because it is costing us something terrible. Manpower, gallons of water, leaks, it's continuous. He would like to try one more time to get a letter composed by Mr. Windham to the City to Mr. Bynum. If they will not – it's in the City limits (Gastonia) – and we are having to spend Ranlo money inside the township or citizenship of Gastonia. This is not right. We are taking tax money. We have tried and tried – this is not out of our trying to stop this. If we don't get a response, we need to go up on the water three (3) or four (4) times the rate. This will get the citizens over there to want to change over. We have no choice. It doesn't sound good, but he doesn't want to spend any more of the citizens' of Ranlo money in the City of Gastonia just because the City won't come in and do what they are supposed to do. Writing a letter to the City of Gastonia – can he get the permission of the Board to have Mr. Windham to do so.

Commissioner Tideman made the motion and Commissioner Jones seconded and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Alexander addressed Mr. Windham and said it is going to be tough, but we have to get rid of that.

Mr. Windham said yes sir.

Engineering Fees, Add-on

Mayor Alexander said he and Tim were talking, and we have engineers coming in one time per week for eight (8) hours. We have got a lot of our need satisfied and it needs to be cut back to four (4) hours per week. This will suffice for right now. If we need further assistance, we can always go up again. This is a cost-cutting measure. He asked if this would suit the Board. He then asked if he had a motion to cut back to four (4) hours weekly.

Commissioner Locklear made the motion and Commissioner Carver seconded and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Alexander thanked the Board.

9. Reports from Departments

Mayor Alexander asked Chief of Police Tim Anderson if he wanted to take a stab at this.

Chief Anderson said he had the report ready.

Finance: Chief of Police Tim Anderson stated that he would report that the Finance Director, the Town is in the process of hiring a new Finance Director and this is a brief report:

Concentrated Checking:	BB&T	\$ 508,426.00
General Account:	NCCMT	\$ 1,104,309.05
Powell Bill Account:	NCCMT	\$ 246,488.71

Mayor Alexander asked the Board if there were any questions. No one responded.

Police: Police Chief Tim Anderson stated the Ranlo Police Department responded to 692 events in the month of December. These events include 339 special checks, 8 - 911 hang-ups, 11 alarms, 17 assists of other agencies, 30 follow-up investigations, served 1 warrant, checked 6 suspicious vehicles, responded to 9 vehicle collisions, had 1 assault, 15 civil disturbances, also checked 4 suspicious subjects, 1 malicious damage, 3 larcenies, and responded to 15 domestic violence calls. We also had 1 break-and-entering of a residence in the month of December. The Police Department had a total of 7 arrests, 53 citations, with 79 charges including driving while licenses revoked, driving without a license, no insurance violations, and numerous other offenses. Also he did not have the correct Code Enforcement numbers he didn't change those and he apologized. In the month of December, it was reported that \$28.00 worth of property was stolen, and he would like to say that has been the lowest that he could remember in the last 10 years. It is usually thousands plus. Code Enforcement had 140 calls. That concluded his report for the month of December, 2013.

He also wanted to touch on GPS tracking for patrol cars; he stated that he had passed out a handout that he printed off of his email. It is not the best quality, but it is FleetMatics. It is a GPS tracking system that would be installed in all of the police cars, and what this does is it would track every car, their patrol routes, even if they went down the same street more than once, twice, three times, four times. The photo you see that he handed out, he would be able to access within 30 seconds a direct image of that patrol car through a live satellite feed. This is also linked into 911. It is a very good system; there is a lot more features than what he mentioned, but it is a low starting cost. We are looking at an average per car at \$40.00 per month, but this would track everything that the car does up to when the oil needs to be changed, fuel, where it has gone, everything that's done.

Commissioner Carver wanted to confirm that it would be linked to the 911 operator.

Chief Anderson answered yes, it's linked into 911.

Commissioner Locklear asked how much it would cost to start up.

Chief Anderson said it would be free. They would give us the equipment and install it for free.

Commissioner Locklear asked if there was a contract.

Chief Anderson stated that he did not know. It printed out on the – it broke it off. You can see where it says no hardware costs, no hidden fees, automatic software upgrades. He didn't mention

a contract when he met with him personally today, but he said he could find out, but this is the most reliable, cost-effective measures that he could find, and you could come in each morning and print out every street the officer patrolled, even if he drove up the same street three times, it is not going to overlap each other. It will show that he went up and down that street, and with the pump stations, you can identify certain areas that are designated to be checked, and it will time stamp every time that officer checked that particular area.

Commissioner Carver stated that he had also checked in to it at USGlobalStat.com that is the GPS system they have in the police cars at City of Gastonia. The guy is out of town this week. I will contact him again and get you the information on that. The main concern is with officer safety. There have also – you have also reporting out – this is not to track officers. This is for officer safety. If an officer is responding to a call and he is somehow disabled to radio in his location or where he is at, 911 can link him to – like every officer in Gastonia – and find out exactly where he is. So this is not a tracking thing for officers. This is more of an officer safety for the Town.

Chief Anderson stated that Mr. Graham just pointed out to him that it does refer to a 36-month contract. They were referred to us by Verizon, which has the State contracts for cell services, and he did say that they were willing to negotiate on their price and fees. He was sure they would be willing to negotiate on their contract, but they currently – he thinks it is around 1150 police departments they have this service for, and he would also give the officers – if there are two (2) officers working at night, it would give the other officer the ability to look up and see exactly where his partner is. He stated that he could actually pull it up for himself on his cell phone and tell you exactly where an officer is with this GPS type tracking system.

Commissioner Locklear asked if he had it in the budget.

Chief Anderson replied no.

Commissioner Carver stated that he thought they should look at some more options at this time. He said it was a great discovery by Chief Anderson, but he wanted to make sure they got some more quotes and stuff before they move forward on that one. He said he would hate to move forward too soon until they know of a better offer out there.

Chief Anderson stated that he agreed, he just wanted to give them a starting point because he had promised them he would tonight.

Commissioner Carver said thank you.

Commissioner Locklear stated that it is a good price. There is no starting cost even though there is a 3-year contract. It is a good price with Verizon.

Chief Anderson said that when he met with the salesman today, that he did say since we were a government entity, that could reduce those rates, but there wasn't enough elapsed time – my original meeting was scheduled for yesterday, but he wanted to do a phone meeting and he rejected that and the mayor was present at that time – and rescheduled in person for today at 3

o'clock so he could go over everything with me. He said it tracks the fuel, oil changes, it is very comprehensive. He said that concludes his report.

Mayor Alexander asked if there were any questions. No one responded.

Public Works: Bryan Wall stepped to the podium and addressed the Mayor, Commissioners, and citizens of Ranlo. He wanted to take a few moments to let everyone know what the Public Works Department had done since last meeting.

Public Works had collected 225,010 pounds of garbage and the Landfill C&D total was 1,460 pounds. All the brush was shipped throughout the Town.

The recycling totals were as follows:

Cardboard	2,880 pounds
Glass and cans	1,940 pounds
Plastics	2,000 pounds

The total for all three is 6,820 pounds

We have completed 77 work orders, 12 locates, 12 new services, 40 miscellaneous, 8 sewer backups, 0 sewer taps, and 2 water leaks.

Water leaks on the town side are as follows:

- 2 – 3/4" service lines
- 0 – 1" service lines,
- 3 – cut offs
- 0 – 2" lines

Mr. Wall thanked the Board.

Mayor Alexander stated that he would like to thank the Public Works Department. The flu bug had been making its rounds down there and he knew there had been one of the main one's out with neck surgery and they had been short-staffed but they had been keeping up, and he wanted Bryan to tell everybody "Thanks", and they were going to get through this and things will be better and it is greatly appreciated – thank you. He called on Linda Rhyne.

Recreation: Commissioner Rhyne stated that she wanted everyone to know that Dottie Shuford has graciously accepted the position of recreation coordinator for us. She has twenty years' experience with Gaston County Parks and Recreation and she was instrumental in getting equipment and grants for all three of our Ranlo parks. She has organized special events and assisted other agencies in the County. She has chaired the annual "Just Plain Dog Show" that is very popular. She has planned and worked with a lot of senior citizen programs. So we are very happy to have her on board with us. Currently she is working on getting information for the grants and hopefully we can secure some grants so that it would help us with our playgrounds and we can upgrade them. They need a lot of work. We do need a new shelter out there and any funds coming in would really help with that project. Tentatively our committee is going to meet

on the second Monday of each month and our first event is going to be an Easter egg hunt that we are going to have in April, and we'll have more details to follow on that. Our committee members will be Cathy Wilson, Sherry Alexander, Randy Gibson, Judy Green, Phyllis Kaiser, Bill Kaiser, Lisa Hoyle, Gwen Ivey, Theresa Moore, and Laura Auten. Our honorary members are Mildred Breedlove, Joyce Paysour, and Gay Alexander. We have a great team; we have a lot of experience on the team, yet we have some newcomers that will bring new ideas and so we are looking forward and getting excited about our plans for this next year. We will give you more details later, thank you.

Mayor Alexander asked if there were any questions. No one responded. He stated that the sports had not responded yet. He called on the Fire Chief.

Fire Department: Doug Moore approached the podium and addressed the Mayor, Commissioners, and the citizens. He stated that the Fire Department had responded to 49 calls during the month of December. 24 medicals, 5 MVA, 5 firearms, 8 house fires, 0 brush, 4 service calls, and 0 Hazmat calls. They answered a total of 490 calls for the year. That is about 130 to 135 calls short of the year before, which is a good thing. He said to touch on the GPS, they have GPS in the fire trucks and the computer systems and they just went to the software that the City of Gastonia uses. They can pinpoint where you are at any time, and it also recommends the closest unit. If you are closest to a call, it will recommend you to get to the call because it picks you up on there. He didn't think it would pull up on your computer, but you could pull up and then call the County and 911 and, or like, Tim would be the supervisor, it would go to the County if something happens to one of the officers, he can go in and say he needs the whole GPS layout of their tracking for the whole night. They can give him a printout of every turn they went. We also get our calls over that system. When we get dispatched to a call, it downloads a direct copy of fire trucks – see we go through the same thing they say on the radio, they put on the computer. So anything you say on 911, the dispatcher has to type into the computer and it automatically pops up, so if somebody says that somebody has a gun, or if somebody is listening to the scanner, and don't tell them he has a gun; they'll type that into the computer and the officer or whoever can see that on the computer screen and know right then. He thanked the Board.

10. Commercial Trucks in the Mountain View Subdivision/Permits Required

Mayor Alexander stated that we have trouble with the roads that are in existence now with large trucks coming in off of Spencer Mountain Road going down Mitchem. We have a new road coming in on the back side coming off of Highway 7. We need to get the heavy duty trucks to start coming in this way, because this way, the road that we've got there temporary. They might mess it up, but that road is going to be redone anyway because that road is temporary. We want to save our roads that we have now and let these heavy trucks come in the back way. Now, when the road is torn up, it will be replaced and fixed by the construction people. If someone is living in Mountain View and they need a big truck down there, all they need to do is come and get a permit for the truck. It will be free; it won't cost anything, because he knew as well as anybody that there are going to be reasons to have heavy trucks down there, but we have to eliminate it as much as we can. This keeps our money in Ranlo's pocket. He asked Chief of Police Tim Anderson if he had anything additional on this.

Chief Anderson stated that this would eliminate with a gross weight of 26.1000 pounds or more. That is the requirements for a CDL driver's license. That is about when you start getting into the weight that will start damaging the roads.

Mayor Alexander asked the Board to consider this in order to really help our budget.

Commissioner Carver said Tim you said what was the tonnage?

Chief Anderson said 26.1000 pounds.

Commissioner Carver asked what size truck that was.

Chief Anderson said it was Class B, Commercial garbage truck – a little bigger than a garbage truck. The reason for the permit is that we could do it more safely than tearing up the road, like a concrete truck, if someone is going to have an addition added; it would be better off for them to go over toward the middle of the road, even if we have to escort them because the problem we are running into in Mountain View is the compactions on the road where it meets the curbing is already starting to give way in certain locations in Mountain View, and when you start doing the construction in another phase that's coming up, if that heavy traffic starts coming through there, it will tear up the roads. We are not trying to eliminate it, we are just trying to reduce as much damage as possible.

Commissioner Carver asked what good the permit would do. You are saying that you are trying to eliminate the traffic, but the permit is free, so what is the purpose of having a permit?

Chief Anderson said that you could make it free or charge for the permit. The permit would put the restrictions and we would allow the guidelines on how they needed to navigate where they are going to go, and to stay at least two (2) feet off the shoulder, things such as that to keep from damaging the road.

Commissioner Carver said okay.

Commissioner Jones asked that even with a permit, if the road still gets damaged, we can't pass that liability on to them?

Chief Anderson answered no. Since the fares in the road that we've seen thus far and the developer saying that they didn't do a GeoTech Study on the property, if we don't start taking precautions and preventive maintenance now, that road is going to get worse, and within the next 10 to 15 years, he said he hated to say it, but you would have to repave all of them.

Commissioner Carver said what about the road that's being built off of Everest, is that one going to be compacted and up to standards?

Chief Anderson said it is completely compacted and up to standards, and we had a GeoTech Study done with an engineer out there every day to make sure they were in compliance.

Mayor Alexander said that we still have problems, but it's a much better road pavement. He said that anybody in Mountain View could still do anything they wanted to do. We just want to try to control the heavy, heavy trucks.

Chief Anderson said we'll make it. We are mainly trying to prevent the construction that's going to be building the new houses on the new road from coming through the existing development. That's it, and we're not preventing residents from having work or ordering something that is going to exceed that weight; it is still going to be allowed. We are just going to put certain restrictions to maintain the road a longer period of time, that's it. You are going to get a lot of freight coming in – a lot of lumber and concrete – bulldozers – grading off that property out there, 18-wheelers and those roads are just not suitable for that type of weight.

Commissioner Carver asked how would the Town pass that on to the developer, because more than likely the traffic there is going to be from your developer coming in building the new houses.

Chief Anderson said signs. No commercial vehicles.

Commissioner Carver stated that the only problem he had with the signs is that the neighborhood is littered with signs now. You can't drive 10 – he would say within every 30 feet you have a No Parking sign, or you have a speed limit sign – stuff like that. He suggested maybe a sign in the front of the neighborhood stating that not throughout the neighborhood or contacting the developer that is doing the building into the neighborhood.

Chief Anderson said considering that you only have one entrance into the neighborhood that would be appropriate, yes.

Commissioner Carver said yes and contacts the developers that are building in the neighborhood and inform them of the new ordinance.

Chief Anderson said yes, that would be part of the process when they apply for the permit.

Mayor Alexander said so they still have to get a permit to do this stuff.

Chief Anderson said to build a house.

Mayor Alexander said that goes on the plot print too he believed. He asked the Board if they thought it was a good idea or a bad idea.

Commissioner Carver said that he did not have a problem with it. As was said they would be doing it when they do the plot so he was fine with that. He just doesn't want excessive signage throughout the neighborhood stating this, maybe one sign out in front the neighborhood at the main entrance on either side.

Mayor Alexander asked for a motion to approve this.

Commissioner Tiderman made the motion and Commissioner Carver seconded and it passed unanimously.

11. One Time Forgiveness Policy Changes

Mayor Alexander said that the front office staff had asked him to bring up the one time forgiveness policy for water. The way it is now, if someone has a leak or something, and it gets to be expensive, then for one time they can average up for 3 months and they can just pay that monthly bill. We have gotten into problems doing this. The front office staff asked that it needs to be \$300 before they get into the forgiveness area, correct, and we've got to limit this to 60 days because we've had people come in here that have a high water that's moving a year after the fact, and this is even in another set of books. We cannot go back over a year and change all of this, and they were asking; say if you need your one-time water forgiveness do it within 60 days, that is two (2) months, this way they can make proper adjustments, and they would like for it to be \$300. Okay. I was asked to bring that before the Board, and I can see their bookkeeping troubles with that. He asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Carver asked what the current standard or regulation for this was now.

Mayor Alexander stated that if they come in and want one-time forgiveness, and it's for \$50, \$60 or \$80 they are giving because all citizens are treated the same for the one time; but what happens, if it is longer than 60 days or its been over a year – people come in and want this and the books has done been closed out.

Commissioner Carver asked what about the dollar amount, you said \$300, but what is the dollar amount now.

Mayor Alexander said there is no dollar amount now. He told Billing Clerk, Beth Price to go ahead and speak on this.

Billing Clerk Beth Price gave an example of a bill being \$100 and a customer asking for forgiveness, but six months or a year down the road they have a major pipe bust and their bill is \$400. They cannot get forgiveness on that because they have already used their one-time on the \$100, so we felt like maybe setting it at a little higher amount would basically help the citizen.

Commissioner Carver said well you deal with it every day, so.

Billing Clerk Beth Price agreed.

Commissioner Carver said that he was fine with that.

Mr. Windham spoke up and said Mr. Mayor, we currently have one matter that has been discussed. It has been a long discussion and he is waiting to hear back from an attorney for the citizen. If you change the policy, it might be good if it relates to this day forward, because he would hate to, he guessed, go back on that by changing that.

Commissioner Locklear said right.

Mayor Alexander said that would suit him fine, it would be all right.

Commissioner Carver asked if everyone knew that they could now pay their water bill online.

Billing Clerk Beth Price said she had been telling everyone.

Commissioner Carver asked if it could be printed on the water bills.

Commissioner Locklear said nobody reads it.

(the audience laughed)

Commissioner Locklear said well listen Jamey, it is printed right at the bottom where there's a bunch of little marks down there so they can't really read what it says on there, but we can print it on there at the bottom. She asked Beth if we could do that next time.

Billing Clerk Beth Price said the next time we order, we can get that put on there.

Commissioner Carver said he was just trying to get a little more information because he thought if they saw it on the bill then maybe they would try to go online and use it.

Chief of Police Tim Anderson said that we also need to have the 800 number added as well for those who don't have computers.

Commissioner Carver agreed.

Commissioner Locklear said you also need to note that you get charged an extra amount.

Chief Anderson stated that he assisted a man in the lobby today. His bill amount was \$37 and his charge was a dollar and thirty something cents.

Commissioner Carver said okay, thank you.

Mayor Alexander asked if there was any further discussion.

No one responded.

Mayor Alexander asked if someone would make the motion to extend the forgiveness policy to a \$300 minimum and it has to be recorded within 60 days.

Commissioner Locklear stated from this day forward.

Mayor Alexander said right it is from this day forward.

Commissioner Locklear made the motion and Commissioner Carver seconded and it passed unanimously.

12. Fence Repairs for Park Area

Mayor Alexander said this was for Jamey about the repair of a fence at the park that we found out is upside down.

Commissioner Carver stated just did a little safety check of the parks and the basketball goals and stuff like that and the fence out there in front of the playground, which has been there for years, is upside down. The barb is up this way, you know, little kids have climbed on. It is a very safety hazard and the Mayor explained it was upside down, so we are going to rectify that problem there.

13. Mayor Speaks

Mayor Alexander said that the only thing he would like to say is that he appreciates Tim doing all the hard work he has been his worth his weight in gold. Thank you, thank you, and thank you!

Chief Anderson told him thank you, sir.

Mayor Alexander stated that in the discussions a while ago, he appreciated everyone staying civil, that everything went pretty good, and he really wanted to thank everybody. Again he would like to thank public works. He also stated he appreciated the community coming out tonight.

14. Reports from Commissioners

Mayor Alexander asked if any of the commissioners had a report.

No one responded.

15. Report from Town Coordinator

Chief Alexander said that a digital recording has now begun in the Board room. We will now be able to email electronic copies, if so requested. Within the next two weeks, it should be completed, but we started the process today. We will try to work out the bugs this coming week. If they want a digital copy of the meeting minutes to listen to, they will be available now. Also, there have been some recent changes in staff, and the employees seem to be very pleased, and very proud. Things seem to be moving in a more positive manner.

He wanted to thank the Board for the last two years and allowing him to have the pleasure and the experience of being Interim Coordinator. He said he learned a lot. He learned that it was too much for him to handle, and he would like to introduce to those in the audience that have not met our new coordinator, which starts on the sixteenth or twentieth, Charles Graham. He is going to be the Town Coordinator from here on out. He said he had gotten to work with Mr. Graham over the past two weeks and he thinks we are going to be very proud to say the least.

Commissioner Locklear said to Chief Anderson that he was welcome.

Chief Anderson said that was all he had to Mayor Alexander.

Mayor Alexander said that Mr. Graham is a sitting lawyer. He has worked with Mr. Windham for many years. They know each other well. He has a lot of expertise in a lot of areas that the Town deals with every day. He is also going to help us out in Public Works, but everybody knows this, we've been through it before, but thank you.

Mr. Graham thanked the Mayor and the Council for the opportunity to serve them and the citizens. He said that he was excited and looking forward to it.

Commissioner Locklear asked if we could back up a minute. She stated she had a question about one of the committees that the Mayor appointed.

Mayor Alexander said sure.

Commissioner Locklear asked how it was going with the over-sight, or on-site committee for the Police.

Chief Anderson said that it seemed to be going good so far.

Commissioner Locklear asked if they were having a lot of ride-alongs.

Chief Anderson said that he knew Mr. Ronnie Laws has ridden along quite a few times.

Commissioner Locklear asked Mr. Laws if it was going good.

Mr. Laws said he thought it was going real good.

Commissioner Locklear asked Chief Anderson if it was going good.

Chief Anderson said he had no complaints.

Commissioner Locklear said that she knew about a year ago that Jamey brought up – Jamey number one (1) – brought up something about we had to do the background checks for everybody that rode. She asked if the new committee knew about that.

Mayor Alexander said that Ronnie had already done it and Mike had done it.

Commissioner Locklear asked if everybody had their background checks turned in before they could ride.

Mayor Alexander said that he actually told them that, since they were an appointed committee, they don't have to do that.

Commissioner Locklear said as Commissioners that they have to do that.

Mayor Alexander said Randy would you please get a background check or Tim would you. Chief Anderson said if he would stop by that he would get his information.

Mayor Alexander said that he knew that Mike had one and Ronnie.

Commissioner Locklear said she thought they had decided that at that meeting that even the Commissioners and the Mayor had to have background checks before they could ride. She said that she just wondered how it was going.

Chief Anderson said it seemed to be going well, and that he had had no complaints or concerns.

Commissioner Locklear said beat him down Randy.

(laughter from the audience) (inaudible comment from Randy)

Chief Anderson said go easy on me.

Commissioner Locklear said she just wondered how it was going and that was great.

Chief Anderson said he had served his two (2) years already.

(laughter from the audience)

Commissioner Jones joked that Randy could always open up the door and stand outside to be intimidating.

(laughter from the audience)

Commissioner Locklear said that was all, she just wondered how it was going.

16. Closed Session/NCGS 143-318.11 (6)

- a. Employee Evaluations
- b. Interview for Clerk Position
- c. Interview for Police Officer
- d. Consider Part time CDL Driver for Public Works

Mayor Alexander said that they would have employee evaluation, they would be interviewing for the Clerk, and they would also have an interview for a Policeman. They also would have to consider a part time, call-in CDL driver so if one of our CDL drivers calls in sick, we'll have somebody to come in right quick and then one of the Policemen won't have to do it. This is the matters pertaining to our closed session. He then asked for a motion to go into Closed Session.

Commissioner Carver made the motion and Commissioner Tiderman seconded and it passed unanimously.

17. Considerations of Motions Pertaining to Closed Session Discussion

The Mayor declared an eleven (11) minute recess.

The Board convened to go into Closed Session.

Mayor Alexander asked for a motion to come out of Closed Session.

Commissioner Locklear made the motion and Commissioner Tiderman seconded and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Alexander asked for a motion to extend a job, if accepted, to Lucas Taylor as a Police Officer, making \$11.99 per hour, and at the end of a probationary period of one (1) year another dollar will be added on.

Commissioner Carver made the motion and Commissioner Locklear seconded and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Alexander said there were no other motions made.

18. Adjournment

Mayor Alexander asked for a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Tiderman made the motion and Commissioner Locklear seconded and it passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

STEVEN ALEXANDER, MAYOR OF RANLO

BETH PRICE, BILLING CLERK AND RECORDER OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON JANUARY 9, 2014