

**TOWN OF RANLO
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2014**

A Regular Meeting of the Ranlo Board of Commissioners was held Thursday, February 20, 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
Town Coordinator Charles Graham
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 asked if stated that the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, January 9, 2014 were not yet ready. He asked if there was a motion to accept the minutes from the Special Meeting on December 30, 2013.

Commissioner Carver made the motion and Commissioner Tiderman seconded and the motion passed with four yeas and Commissioner Locklear abstained due to her absence for the December 30, Special Meeting.

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

Mayor Alexander stated that numbers six and eight were misprinted and were the same thing and he suggestion they delete number eight because they both talk about the update on the Sunset Pump Station.

Commissioner Tiderman said she would also like to make a correction and have number sixteen deleted since we now have a full-time Coordinator on board and she felt certain that he could make all the necessary requirements that need to be made and look at all the contracts and approve them without permission from the Board.

Mayor Alexander said yes and asked if there were any further changes requested.

Town Coordinator Charles Graham asked if item number thirteen could be postponed because he needed to do some further investigation and asked that it be deleted from the agenda.

Mayor Alexander asked if there were any further requests.

Mayor Alexander asked for a motion to accept the Agenda as written now.

Commissioner Jones made the motion and Commissioner Carver seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Citizen Concern: 5 Minute time limits

Mayor Alexander stated that no one signed up for 5 minutes.

4. Comments from Citizens: 2 Minute time limits

Mayor Alexander stated that no one signed up for 2 minutes. He stated that this was odd and that was the reason he was asking earlier.

5. Update on Drug Testing Program

Mayor Alexander stated that Mr. Graham had done some investigating on the drug program falling behind so he was investigating this so we can get this back in step. He asked Mr. Graham to explain.

Town Coordinator Charles Graham stated that Mayor Alexander asked him if we did or did not or why were we not doing drug testing on all the Town employees, so he made some contacts to the company that controlled the random testing pool, which he has to be fully added as a contact person, and Tim and he were going to that, so they did share some information, but not all of the details. They did say that the Town does still have a random drug testing pool for CDL drivers, and quarterly they send a name. Right now Mr. Anderson is still the contact person, so quarterly they send a name randomly choosing – he thinks it is just one name – which he then sends over for drug testing. We also still have a pool for the Police Department to do drug testing prior to hiring that they coordinate for us. The drug testing program that was in place for all employees was during the tenure of Chuck Webb. Their notation said that he deleted that item and it was to cut expenses. The drug testing program, these pools that they select people randomly from, they set them up in pools. CDL has to be separate because it is a different testing process. The Police are treated different because it is only for pre-hires. If we want everybody tested again, we have to set up another pool with all names. To set the pool up they charge a \$250 annual maintenance fee and then testing they also charge for the testing of each employee, and those tests run anywhere from – that he has seen the bills on - \$60 to \$70 per test, so we've got two pools that cost us \$250 a year now, each test costs anywhere from \$50 to \$70; if they want him to reinstate drug testing the entire – all of the employees, he needs to reinstate that pool; it will cost \$250 and

then we can direct, he supposed how many they want tested each time and that will cost up to \$70 per test.

Commissioner Carver confirmed we have two pools right now, the Police Department, CDLs, and if we create another pool it will be a third pool, which would be another \$250 setup fee.

Mr. Graham said yes.

Commissioner Locklear said so new employees are not drug-tested.

Mr. Graham said that he was drug-tested as pre-employment, so he understood the policy as still being directed that new employees were being tested before hire or in conjunction with being hired, but all employees do not continue to be randomly tested quarterly.

Commissioner Jones stated that if we are still doing our CDL drivers quarterly, we may as well do them all.

Mayor Alexander said yes we need to reinstate the drug testing program for insurance purposes and for several other reasons. He asked if the Board would prefer two (2) or three (3) pools. He confirmed that someone wanted three.

Commissioner Carver stated that the question was if we already maintain two at \$250 apiece, and we create a third pool and it would be another \$250, which would be \$1500 a year added maintenance fee, and then another \$60 - \$70 per test. He asked if we could not combine CDL and other employees.

Mr. Graham said we cannot combine CDL because it is a different type of test.

Commissioner Locklear asked if the third pool would cover all of the other employees.

Mr. Graham said yes. The Police pre-hire pool is separate, and he did not ask the question of whether it could be combined with another pool. He said he could ask the question of whether they could combine Police with everybody else and drop that pool. He said he could ask that question, but again they would not share all the information with him because since he is new he is not in their database. He got them to tell him what they told him, but that was as far as he could go. He would be happy to do that if that was the Board's pleasure.

Commissioner Carver said that he did not have a problem with it and asked how many employees would they send and how frequently.

Mayor Alexander said they random pick. Everyone will go through a drug test they just won't know when. They'll choose one about every 30 – 60 days.

Mr. Graham said the current pools are setup to be chosen quarterly.

Mayor Alexander said quarterly.

Mr. Graham said four (4) times a year they will be sent a list of names based on our employee list, and in terms of, he thought, the commissioner's question had to do with how many are we going to send. He thinks we could designate that. He asked Mr. Anderson if that was correct.

Chief Anderson said yes that is correct. Currently we are sending two (2).

Commissioner Locklear stated if there is an accident they are automatically drug tested.

Chief Anderson said yes.

Commissioner Carver said he did not have a problem with this and asked if anyone else had any questions.

Mayor Alexander said he guessed whether they wanted to go with two (2) or three (3) pools.

Commissioner Locklear said she guessed two (2) if they could be combined, but three (3) if not.

Mayor Alexander said that sounds good, and asked if he had a motion to reinstate the drug testing policy with two (2) pools, testing two (2) people quarterly.

Commissioner Locklear stated or three (3) if necessary.

Mayor Alexander said that Mr. Graham would check about the third pool if we can include the Police in it.

Commissioner Locklear made the motion and Commissioner Tiderman seconded.

Commissioner Rhyne asked if we did not need to take the number of employees we have and that way we can get everyone through the year, so we need to divide that up by four (4) so that maybe more than two (2) would go at a time.

Mayor Alexander said he had a motion and a second.

Commissioner Locklear said she did not see that it would be necessary for everybody to go every year.

Commissioner Carver said it would be random.

Commissioner Locklear agreed it would be random.

Mayor Alexander said that's just like everybody else does. That takes care of the criteria.

Commissioner Rhyne said that sounds good.

Mayor Alexander said he had a motion and a second.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Alexander thanked the Board.

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

Mayor Alexander said we are getting bids. He was going to do a little bit and Mr. Graham was going to do a little bit. He stated they had a meeting with the contractors that came by and picked up all the prints, but only two (2) showed up. Caught in traffic, weather, so they decided to post it again because only two (2) showed up and they need at least three (3) bids. Again, the weather got them pretty good on this. He then turned it over to Mr. Graham.

Town Coordinator Charles Graham said the previous conference that we held was this past Monday, and as you said there were only two (2) people there. We expected to receive the bids in open bids on March 3, but because we only had two (2) and he consulted with Mr. Windham about this, and felt that we needed to re-advertise and try to get another bidder, at least one (1) more. If we have advertised twice, according to Mr. Windham, and we still only have two (2), then we can go ahead and open those bids. Basically, all this means is that we are being delayed a little bit in opening the bids. The bids will now be opened on March 24 instead of the third, which is after our March meeting, so we will not be able to vote on the bids in our regular meeting until April now instead of March, so we are going to be delayed about a month.

Mayor Alexander asked if there were any further questions.

No one responded.

7. Proposed Amendment for Changes on the Town's Weapons Ordinance and Schedule Public Hearing

Town Coordinator Charles Graham stated as directed at the end of the public hearing last month, he drafted a comprehensive and hopefully compromised ordinance based on comments that were made during the public hearing, and you all should have a copy of this. Again at the end of the last hearing he was asked to do that in cooperation of Mr. Windham, which immediately viewed what was drafted and bring that back to the Board to present to the Public. At Mr. Windham's suggestion, what we are doing tonight is making that draft available to all of the Board members and to anyone in the Public who would like to pick one up. He said he had several copies with him. He was asking the Board to schedule another Public Hearing on the adoption, amendment, or rejection of this particular ordinance at our next regular meeting. We will have to go through the process of advertising for another Public Hearing, but because things were – there were discussions about hunting, discussions about weapons, and it wasn't clear, he thought, by the end of that Public Hearing exactly what ordinance they were talking about, so now we have something in writing that people can look at and comment on at another Public Hearing, which someone suggested would probably be the proper procedure.

Mayor Alexander asked if it would please the Board to hold another Public Hearing on this at the next regular meeting. This will give everybody in Town time to re-approach the podium and

explain their positions. He said we don't need to vote, we just need to get permission for the Public Hearing.

Town Attorney James Windham said they did need to vote to set the Public Hearing.

Mayor Alexander said okay. He asked for a motion to set a Public Hearing for the next regular meeting.

Commissioner Jones made the motion to have a Public Hearing set for the next Regular Board meeting on March 13, and Commissioner Carver seconded and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jones asked if the proposed ordinance was on the website.

Mayor Alexander said he had not put it there.

Commissioner Jones asked if it could be posted to the Town website.

Mr. Graham said he thought so.

Mr. Windham said just to be sure it is designated as proposed so there is no confusion and said that obviously the Council can make any changes it sees fit.

Commissioner Jones agreed.

Mayor Alexander stated there were copies there for anyone needing a copy.

Billing Clerk Beth Price stated to Mr. Graham that if he would hold her a copy, she would get it on the website.

Mr. Graham thanked Ms. Price.

8. Update on Sunset Pump Station – DELETED

9. Appoint Doug Moore to Board of Adjustments

Mayor Alexander said he was going to appoint Mr. Doug Moore to the Board of Adjustments. They had a person resign from the Board and he would have two (2) years to fulfill. This is an appointment by the Mayor. He said Dougie would be contacted personally and probably by letter for the meetings.

10. Reports from Departments

Finance: Chief Anderson stated that as for the Town Clerk and Finance Director, he had distributed both Revenues and Expenditures up to date to each and every elected official and the Town Coordinator and it was his suggestion that this be done at every Board meeting, handed out personally, that way they could keep up with what is going on if you don't have time to stop

by and get your mail. He stated also within the information there was our banking information from our Powell Bill and our Trust Fund, Capital Management and he blacked out the account numbers, he thought that was appropriate so that there is no information that is on there that would be liable to the Town, that way they could read it for themselves. He said he had not done this on the BB&T records that way yet, but he is working on that as well. That way they can have a physical copy of everything as opposed to just hearing it read. He said he knew there were a lot of questions about the finances and that way if you get (inaudible).

Commissioner Tiderman asked if he had reconciled the bank statements before he printed these reports.

Chief Anderson said yes.

Commissioner Tiderman said that was all she had.

Chief Anderson said that was all he had as an update on the Finance Director position.

Police: Chief Anderson stated that since he had been working in the Finance Office full time, he had not had a chance to prepare a report for the Police Department.

Mayor Alexander said thank you. Tim has been snowed, we all have.

Chief Anderson said thank you.

Public Works: Mayor Alexander stated that Mr. Wall had been excused to take his young daughter to a Father-Daughter Dance that had been rescheduled so they told him to get out of there. He asked Mr. Graham to report.

Town Coordinator Charles Graham said Mr. Wall did provide the information to him to report. He stated that Public Works had collected 265,980 lbs. of garbage; Landfill C & D total was 2,920 lbs.

Recycling Totals were as follows:

Cardboard	4,940 lbs.
Glass/Cans	2,840 lbs.
Plastics	3,480 lbs.
Total	11,260 lbs.

They completed 80 work orders, 17 locates, 23 new services, 30 miscellaneous, 2 sewer backups, 0 sewer taps and 8 water leaks.

Water leaks on the Town's side are as follows:

4 – ¾ inch service lines

0 – 1 inch service lines

1 – 1 ½ inch

1 – 8 inch main water line
1 cut off
1 – 2 inch line

He stated that one other thing he wanted to bring to the Board's attention is that they received approval to be able to work with inmates from the minimum security facility here. He said he knew some other municipalities do that. Lowell does right now. He said he could get definite information for them, but if they would like to do that, they could see there that we can use up to four (4) inmates per month for \$252 a month, which comes to about \$1040 per year. We can start using them, as his understanding is right now, if we elect to do this in June. Right at the time we would have extra mowing and trimming and things like that, so it would be helpful. Anyone who is going to work with them or supervise them does have to go through a training, which the facility provides at no cost. They will come here, as he understands it, and do the training, so that we can be trained properly for the supervision of that, but he wanted me to report that at this point. He supposed he would ask the Board to let him know if they wanted him to proceed with that.

Commissioner Carver said he was all in favor, but he didn't know about anybody else.

Mayor Alexander said he didn't see any problems with it either. He thought it would really be helpful, and it would be mainly on roads, not around people's houses.

Commissioner Locklear said she thought he had brought this to the Board one time when he first started talking about it.

Mayor Alexander said yes, but they had to go, it took two (2) months to get it approved from the state.

Mr. Graham said this was in the works when he came.

Mayor Alexander and Commissioner Locklear both said that was right.

Mr. Graham said he wasn't sure how it started.

Commissioner Jones said he believed they should proceed with it.

Recreation: Commissioner Rhyme stated the Recreation Committee met on February 10, and their first event is going to be the Easter Egg Hunt, she thought a lot of them got the flyer. It is going to be on April 12. They were looking forward to it, and it is going to be for 2nd grade or younger, or 10 and under. They are just asking that if you have an Easter Basket to bring your own basket and they are going to have an Easter Bunny, so bring your camera and bring the kids, and come out and have a good time. There will be more details to follow on that, they are still putting everything together. She thanked everyone and asked them to please come out.

Mayor Alexander said not to forget about the baseball signups.

Sports: Commissioner Rhyne stated they would have ball signups on Saturday, February 22, and Saturday, March 1 from 10 am to 2 pm. They are doing the T-ball 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12. They are also having a little fundraiser for the Ranlo Sports Program at Maylo on February 26, March 12, and April 9 at 6 pm, and it is just donation and all the funds will go toward the Ranlo Athletic Program, and there will be a door thing going out to everybody. We appreciate your support.

Commissioner Tiderman stated that she had a question about a former Commissioner of Sports. She asked the Mayor if this was a time that she could do that.

Mayor Alexander said yes ma'am.

Commissioner Tiderman said okay. In June, at the June 14, 2012 meeting, you (Commissioner Jones) said that you had 25 percent of the money for the score board already donated.

Commissioner Jones stated that no, he said he had it promised.

Commissioner Tiderman stated that the minutes read already donated, and once you got more sponsors, you thought you would end up with 75 percent. She said she had reviewed all the revenue statements and all the deposits and had not been able to find any deposits turned into the Town to go toward the score board. Then on June 13, you commented you had the concrete blocks, labor, and all that was needed to do the dugouts with the exception of the roof, and that you thought that would be 100 percent donated because you knew there was a question about the donations for the score board. She asked Commissioner Jones if he knew when the Town could expect to receive these donations to offset that.

Commissioner Jones stated that the donations that were promised for the score board, they were promised, they never came in. He stated that he did still have the blocks. They are still down at the mill that was torn down, down on Ozark. The blocks have been donated, and the labor donated, but he stated that he is not Sports Commissioner anymore, so he did not know how to proceed with it.

Commissioner Tiderman said she was just questioning when they could expect the money on the score board.

Commissioner Jones said that like he said, the donations were promised, but they never came in, and he could not *make* people give the money once they promised it.

Commissioner Tiderman said thank you.

Mayor Alexander called on the Fire Chief for the Fire Department's Report

Fire Department: Fire Chief Todd Lewis stepped up to the podium and reported that the Fire Department had a total of 53 fire calls for the month of January as follows:

11 Structure Fires

2 Brush Fires

10 Fire Alarms
2 Hazmat Calls
9 MVA
8 Service Calls
11 Medical Calls

The total call answered for January, 2014 for EMS was 44 as follows:

16 Transports
23 Care Transfers
3 Canceled
2 Refusals

Chief Lewis stated that the last thing he had was Winter Storm Standby of 2014. As everybody was aware we had some record snow going on this year. We had 25 personnel standing by 24-hour coverage for Ranlo with about 845 hours of standby time covered during that time. We attended the EOC meeting along with the Ranlo PD and the Town Coordinator. Gaston County actually got on board this year and stepped up and did some good work this year he believed. Tim also provided them with walkie-talkies, so they would have communication between the Town, Public Works, Police Department, and the Fire Department so we were all able to communicate at all times during these storms. During that time they ran 5 calls – 1 Hazmat, 1 Service Call, 2 EMS Calls, and 1 MVA. EMS responded to 3 MVAs and Squad 199 helped throughout the county pulling out ambulances and everything else, so we stayed pretty busy. He thanked the Board.

Mayor Alexander thanked the Fire Chief and asked that he tell everybody many thanks.

11. Resolution Adopting Water Supply Plan from 2012

Mayor Alexander called on Town Coordinator Charles Graham to address this.

Mr. Graham stated that this was actually to clarify paperwork – he was not sure whether it was or was not done – but at least he knew that the state notified us through Thomas Shrewsbury that they did not have a copy of the approval resolution. Our water is a 5-year plan that has to be adopted and then there are annual updates and when the annual update was done, this is when this was brought to light. We have simply prepared a resolution based on a form supplied by the state approving the water plan that he was sure the Town approved in 2012, but the documentation is not in the state's hand, so if he can get an approval on this, and each of you have a copy of it, then he can submit that to the state. The update has already been done and accepted. They just ask that this documentation be submitted.

Mayor Alexander asked if there was a motion to accept this resolution.

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

12. Consider Hiring Another Employee for Public Works

Mayor Alexander said that he knew there were disagreements on this and he realized that and he respects everybody, but every time somebody is sick, they pull either one (1) or two (2) guys off of water and their regular duties and two (2) days a week they have to do trash. That just shuts down the operations in different areas. We have vacation time and a lot of these guys have been here a long time and they have two (2) or three (3) weeks of vacation. When they are out on vacation, we are just shorthanded. When somebody is out on vacation and then someone gets sick, we are really shorthanded. He said he thought we needed another full-time person with CDLs if possible. He said he wished the Board would talk this over and consider this so that we can continue our services under difficult circumstances. He asked for discussion on this.

Commissioner Carver addressed Mr. Graham and asked that since he was the Public Works Administrator, he said he knew Mr. Graham had not had time to evaluate down there much, but with the little you have now, what kind of evaluation would you give right now.

Mr. Graham said that his honest response at the time was that Commissioner Carver was exactly right, he had not had time; especially with us not have a Clerk right now to fully evaluate the thing. He said he did not disagree with the points the Mayor made. If someone is on vacation or someone is sick, we would probably be shorthanded. Whether that merits a full-time person at this time he honestly could not give a complete answer. He apologized for that, but said that he just did not want to make a recommendation he didn't feel he was prepared to make.

Commissioner Carver said since he deals with the day to day operation, he asked how much time he would need to evaluate the Public Works stuff.

Mr. Graham said that he was spending more time with them now, this week for the first time. He said he needed to spend some more time, but he thought he would certainly have a better handle on it by the next Board meeting.

Commissioner Locklear asked how many CDL drivers the Town had.

Mr. Graham responded by saying we have one (1) full time and one (1) part time.

Mayor Alexander stated that they were going to try in Closed Session to go through an application and get a part-time, call-in CDL driver. He said, you know, if one of the CDL drivers is out, we'd call him in, but that's further on down the line.

Commissioner Carver stated on Graham's recommendation, since he deals with the day-to-day operations of the Town, he thought they should put this off until the next meeting.

Mayor Alexander said that was fine.

Commissioner Locklear stated she agreed.

Mr. Graham said he would say, since they are having Closed Session anyway, he did have some thoughts about the CDLs already. He said he could speak on that in Closed Session.

Mayor Alexander said yes sir, thank you.

13. Install Internet Service at Public Works - Deleted

14. Close Town Hall for Lunch from 12:30 to 1:30

Mayor Alexander said that we needed to discuss making a change in the way we operate the front office. We're wanting for everyone to go to lunch between 12:30 and 1:30. This would be for safety, this keeps from one person being up there by themselves at times. He said he had been around doing a lot of things lately and the office could get hectic. He said he would like to go with this and maybe give three (3) to four (4) weeks' notice to everyone. It's just like the Post Office, doctor's office, or anywhere else, and this would eliminate one person being in the office by their self. This is a safety issue. He asked for discussion please.

Commissioner Locklear asked if there were not three (3) clerks, and why would there be just one (1) up there.

Mayor Alexander explained that if one of them is on vacation, then one would go to lunch and one would be up there by their self, if you have someone sick it would be the same thing. There are a lot of situations where someone may have to go pick up something for one of the Town's functions, or go get things that have been printed. There are a lot of things that go on that people's there by their self.

Commissioner Locklear said that Mr. Graham could be trained, and she was hoping cross-training would take place, where he could step in for a short time. What – could she ask Beth her thoughts?

Mayor Alexander said sure.

Commissioner Locklear addressed Billing Clerk Beth Price and asked what her thoughts were, and said she hoped Beth could speak candidly.

Ms. Price oh yes, she thought it would be a good idea to close for an hour and let everyone just go to lunch at one time because it would cut down on conflict as far as one person being there, and as far as safety goes.

Commissioner Locklear asked what the hours would change to – the working hours.

Mayor Alexander stated they would be the same. Everybody would just go to lunch from 12:30 to 1:30 they all get an hour anyway. Instead of lunch being staggered, it would just all be at one time.

Commissioner Locklear asked what Mr. Graham's thoughts were.

Mr. Graham stated that cross training is happening now with Ms. Smith that she is presently cross training to back up Beth. He said he would learn it too, in fact, the other day there was no one here but Beth and he, and Beth had to go, so he had already covered one time. I counted change correctly (laughter) and she told him he had done well. So we are doing those things. There are times that people will end up being alone. He had no objection to doing it, and if the staff would like it that way, he didn't see any reason not to. He did think we needed to take the time to make sure the public is aware and he did not think it was something that should happen immediately, maybe give it a month.

Commissioner Locklear said that was her other thought, our residents.

Mr. Graham stated that they would need to be made aware that if they come during that lunch hour they would need to use the drop-box rather than being able to come through the window to make their payment, so it would be a slight adjustment that way. He said he did not have any strong feelings either way.

Mr. Windham asked if this reference would mean that just the front window or all of Town Hall would be closed. He just wanted to clarify if that meant the front window or . . .

Mayor Alexander said the front door and the window.

Mr. Windham stated so the front door would be locked.

Mayor Alexander said yes.

Mr. Windham said okay. That would mean closing the Town Hall.

Mayor Alexander said yes, just like the Post Office and the doctor's offices and other businesses. They do that for safety reasons and to keep people from being alone.

Commissioner Locklear asked if there were any other towns in the county that closed for lunch.

Mayor Alexander said he didn't know.

Commissioner Carver addressed Mr. Graham and said that he had shown him the Section 2-2013 in our book that says Town Hall offices hours are from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm; we would have to make an amendment in our book to change that.

Mr. Graham stated that Commissioner Carver did mention that, but he did not have a chance to actually look at the ordinance before the start of the meeting. He said he would ask Mr. Windham about that.

Mr. Windham said he had seen it and our "eagle eye" councilman here (Commissioner Carver) had shown him that, and he thought it would have to be verified, although he was sure it was correct, but they would have to note it and make sure it was properly changed. He said they

could go ahead and decide tonight if they wanted to do it. If it was an ordinance they would have to have a Public Hearing. He would have to look at it further. He supposed it could be interpreted as Town Hall opening at a certain time and closing as a certain time, but if you're going to lock that door, you may as well make it clear what you are doing in your book.

Commissioner Jones stated that if it says 8:30 now, then we have been doing it wrong for a long time. He said the 8:30 to 5 only give them a half hour for lunch.

Mr. Graham stated that the employees come in at 8:00 to count the cash drawer and get prepared for customers. They start at 8.

Commissioner Jones said okay.

Mayor Alexander said would the Board want to vote on this at a Public Hearing at the next meeting.

Commissioner Carver asked Tim if he would grab the book and let him look at that section.

Mr. Windham said they just needed to be sure whether it was an ordinance.

Commissioner Tiderman said she though the ordinance did read that way.

Commissioner Carver said he did not believe that was an ordinance, he thought it was just stating the opening and closing of Town Hall.

Mayor Alexander asked that everyone please speak up and into the microphone.

Commissioner Carver stated again that she thought it did read that way, but she thought that was dated back to 1979. That was what she looked at, so it had been changed probably since then.

Commissioner Locklear said unless you have time to read those minutes . . .

Commissioner Tiderman said there had been a lot of changes in that book.

Mr. Windham stated that he did not think this would require a Public Hearing. He thought it did not appear to be an ordinance. It was just part of the administrative organization, and he thought you could change the hours without having a Public Hearing. He said if he looked at it further and found that you did, then they could go back and have a Public Hearing, but he thought they could go ahead.

Mayor Alexander said that the hours are not changing, the lunch is just not being staggered; they are all going at one time.

Mr. Windham said right. What you're doing is not an ordinance, so they could do it without having a Public Hearing.

Mayor Alexander stated that this was his recommendation, and it was up to the Board, but this was a whole lot safer.

Commissioner Carver made the motion to accept it.

Mayor Alexander said he had a motion to accept and give at least a four-week notice.

Commissioner Tiderman seconded and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Alexander thanked the Board and stated that we would put some signs on the door to give people notice.

15. Consider Changes on 2 Minute and 5 Minute Sign-ups for Speaking at Board Meetings

Mayor Alexander called upon Gail and Linda for discussion on this.

Commissioner Gail Tiderman stated that several citizens had mentioned the fact that when they're up there and they only have 2 minutes and they get told "you've got 30 seconds, you've got 25 seconds" it interrupts the thought process, and she knew that some towns actually have 5 minutes with no sign up. Some have no sign up and no limit on time, and she would like to see the Board consider going to 3 minutes and possibly getting some type of electronic timer or clock that can be seen that would go off at the end of the time period to not break the train of thought of the person, and then we – somewhere along the road – it was made a motion that make if you speak for 5 minutes you would have to wait 3 months to speak the second time or another time for 5 minutes, and she thought that was being a little unfair to the citizens because different projects and different subjects come up from time to time and she thought they should have the freedom to speak . She said they were here to serve them and hear them.

Commissioner Carver asked what the exact standard for signing up right now for 5 minutes.

Mayor Alexander stated that they come in any day through the month until the day before the agenda has got to be completed. They state that they are going to speak, and just a rough information on what they are speaking about, and the reason the speaking on was put in there originally was if they was wanting to question about a bunch of numbers or certain items, you know, we might could have it ready for them to show documentation that was the reason they had to put that.

Commissioner Carver asked Commissioner Tiderman was she wanting to change it to 3 minutes instead of the 2 and 5 minute, and just have a 3 minute sign-up sheet. Is that your proposal?

Commissioner Tiderman said well the 3 minutes, but if they had something to say for 5 minutes they would still follow the same procedure, but the way it is now, if you speak in February for 5 minutes, you can't speak again for 5 minutes for 3 months.

Commissioner Carver said okay.

Commissioner Jones stated that he thought originally when they voted that in, it was because people were coming every month talking about the same thing over and over.

Mayor Alexander said over and over, yes that right, and the diction was not pleasant. (laughter)

Commissioner Tiderman stated but then you've got a lot of concerned citizens that have a lot they need to say and want to say.

Commissioner Locklear asked but the same thing every month, and she thought the Mayor had really been lenient, because she really thought he had gone over his 2 minutes and let them talk.

Mayor Alexander said he would be glad to get a timer.

Commissioner Jones said he thought 3 minutes would be fine.

Mayor Alexander agreed.

Commissioner Carver said he would be happy with that.

Commissioner Locklear stated she often wondered why they didn't have a timer.

Mayor Alexander said that way he would not have to mark his watch everywhere. That will be fine. He then asked if he had a motion to go to the 3 minutes – oh we're not through with discussion yet – we know what we want to do with the 3 minutes; what about the 5 minutes? Now do we want to stay with the 5 minutes like it is? Do we want to stop having people put down what they want to talk about? Do we stop making them wait a month or two? How do we want to structure?

Commissioner Locklear stated that she thought the 3 months was fine, because she remembered back when they were doing it every month and it was the same thing every month, every month. She thought the 3 month thing was – in her opinion – worth the wait.

Mayor Alexander asked if they wanted to keep them putting down subject matter.

Commissioner Tiderman said that if they are doing 5 minutes and it is a different subject matter, she didn't think they should have to wait 3 months to bring up a new subject, and you know, we don't see everybody speaking – you saw me speak more than anybody else.

Mayor Alexander stated yes.

(laughter)

Commissioner Tiderman said it was normally a different subject.

Commissioner Locklear said sometimes it was the same, sometimes different, sometimes the same, yes.

Mayor Alexander said it was going to be up to the Board on this, we all agree that we should go to 2 to 3 on signups, get a timer and we haven't decided on the 5 minutes; we need to know how to make a motion. Do you want to go to a 3 minute signup and keep 5 minutes like they are and discuss it later?

Commissioner Jones asked why don't we compromise and do 2 months.

Mayor Alexander said okay.

Commissioner Tiderman said that was fine, she just thought it was too long to wait and so do some of the citizens.

Commissioner Carver confirmed that they had a motion that stood at 3 minute sign up, we purchase a timer, and we only wait 2 months now for 5 minutes. He asked if that was the motion on the floor.

Mayor Alexander said that was the suggestion and asked if someone would make that motion.

Commissioner Carver said Gail it was your motion.

Mayor Alexander asked Commissioner Gail Tiderman if she would go with that.

Commissioner Tiderman said she would go with 2 months unless they started getting a lot of people that feel like they're being cheated out of their opportunity to . . .

Mayor Alexander asked if they still wanted them to put subject matter down.

Commissioner Tiderman said sure.

Mayor Alexander asked for a motion to consider the changes we need to go to a 3 minute sign-up sheet; when it comes to the 5 minute sign up, they can do it every 2 months and put down subject matter so the Board could be prepared with the information if necessary.

Commissioner Carver said also buy a timer.

Mayor Alexander said yes and buy a timer. He asked if he had a motion.

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

16. Expenditures over \$1500 to require Board approval / Contracts included – Deleted

17. Zoning Consideration for the Retail of Natural Gas located at Waste Management

Mayor Alexander said we have some considerations to the Zoning. This has already gone through our Board of Adjustments. He asked Mr. Graham if he would like to lead us in this.

Mr. Graham said yes, Ms. Smith couldn't be here, she worked on this more closely, but also here tonight is Joseph – and he was sorry he didn't know his last name.

Mr. LaBeck told his last name from the audience.

Mr. Graham continued saying that Mr. LaBeck was with the company that came to the Adjustment Board for this adjustment. This has to do with the retail sale of natural gas for vehicles station that has been – and he brought these, so he was going to let him pass them down – out at the Waste Management site, since they are converting their vehicles to natural gas, the company is going to install a station that would allow the public also to purchase, it will be unmanned, and it will be credit or debit card operated, it will not be on the street, and it will not be widely advertised on the street or otherwise. There is a sample of the different stations they've done he was just understanding that the terminal will have only one pump, not two, and this will be one of only two of these stations anywhere in the county. The Zoning Board has already approved this, and this is coming before the Council for official Council approval. The reason for the variance, according to our ordinances right now, retail sales of natural gas are required to be indoors and this obviously will be an outdoor station. He did not know why the ordinance was worded that way right now other than he was sure they meant gas bottles or something, but this is to install the station outside Waste Management. It will be fully fenced as he understood so that the public will have access to Waste Management will build a circle drive on the other side of the railroad tracks down near their facility, which if you would like to see – he was not sure if they have all the (inaudible) – as far as any questions you might have that's why these gentlemen are here. They can answer your questions if you have any.

Mayor Alexander asked if anybody had any questions. He stated that this had gone through the Adjustments and they voted for it unanimously. He then asked for a motion to approve.

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

Mayor Alexander thanked the gentlemen for coming and said he appreciated their business down there.

Commissioner Locklear asked if she could ask a question before we moved on to the next item on the Agenda.

Mayor Alexander said yes.

Commissioner Locklear said she had noticed so signs on the buildings that stated “Welcome to our tobacco free or nontobacco facility” – when did we vote on that?

Mayor Alexander said they had agreed to go with signage instead of trying to make any type of . . .

Commissioner Locklear said she thought they were going to – she knew they had the Public Hearing, but she thought they were going to vote on it.

Mayor Alexander said no not signage, signage is voluntary. If we were going to go in and change our ordinance book, we would have had to, but this is just signage. It's will you please not smoke around our children.

Commissioner Locklear said okay, that she had seen the signs and after the Public Hearing they were going to vote on it.

Mayor Alexander said we would rather that people would police themselves; that's what the objective was.

Commissioner Locklear said okay.

Mayor Alexander stated that if someone was way off down at the walking track and wanted to smoke, he didn't want to take that away from them, he really didn't.

Commissioner Locklear asked what did that do to the firefighters, our . . .

Mayor Alexander said whatever – he didn't think – did they put any signage over in the fire department? No.

Commissioner Locklear said she didn't know, she didn't look, but that was a question that was posed to her.

Mayor Alexander said well they don't smoke in the fire department now.

Commissioner Locklear said do they dip – do they chew?

Mayor Alexander said they dip.

Commissioner Locklear said well that's tobacco and that is the question they asked me.

Mayor Alexander said well we will put a sign up and it will be voluntary. Hopefully people will respect each other. That is what the objective was.

Commissioner Locklear said okay.

18. Mayor Speaks

Mayor Alexander said he only had one thing and he could talk forever on this, but they needed to set a date for a retreat. He said they needed to meet at the Lodge or over there at the house by the walking track because they have several projects coming up that need to be done. They have numerous things that they have to start planning, and they needed to get all the Board members together and form a list of priorities of what the Board thinks they need to do first, second, and third because they need to do this and do some planning before they do the budget because their planning of their needs would fit the budget. He asked if everybody understood that. He said the budget would be here before they knew it. He said he wished they could meet sometime next month, and anytime anybody could be there, he would be there because these were some items that the board needed to plan and organize so that the budget could be done correctly. He asked for any suggestions of the time and if everyone would agree to have a retreat.

Commissioner Carver said he agreed to have a retreat, but he would have to check his schedule at the house because he would be in and out of town for the next two months. He didn't have anything on him right now so he would have to check his schedule at the house.

Commissioner Rhyne asked if this would this be on a weekend or would they try to do it during the week.

Mayor Alexander said anything that suited them was fine – he didn't care when it was, just so that everybody could be there. This was up to the Board. He would try to make arrangements to be there whenever they could, because it was easier for him, he was retired.

Commissioner Carver said he would get back with Charles the next day.

Mayor Alexander said that would be fine, it is just up to the Board.

Commissioner Carver said and get open dates and try to coordinate with everyone on the open dates. He asked if Saturday would work better for everybody or through the week.

Mayor Alexander said it didn't matter to him.

Commissioner Jones said any night other than Wednesday.

Commissioner Locklear said any night other than Wednesday.

Commissioner Tiderman said any night – she would actually think that if they did it on Saturday, they wouldn't have a time crunch to leave as quickly as they would at night.

Mayor Alexander said if they did it on Saturday, they could come in about 12 o'clock and he would try to get a little deli tray from Will's and they could set there and talk and plan out. He asked if that would be fine.

Commissioner Carver said that would be fine.

Commissioner Tiderman said that was fine.

Mayor Alexander asked Commissioner Rhyne and she concurred.

Mayor Alexander said they would try for a Saturday if everyone would coordinate with Mr. Graham. He said that was good because they needed to start this somewhere and this was a good place to start.

Commissioner Rhyne said she just had ball signups on March 1. That was her only conflict and it was from 10 am to 2 pm.

Mayor Alexander said okay that finished him up on that and he appreciated consideration from all the Board members.

19. Reports from Commissioners

Mayor Alexander asked if any commissioner had a report.

Commissioner Rhyne said she just needed to report that she attended an MPO Meeting. That is the Gaston, Cleveland, and Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization. Basically they finalized a lot of plans that they had turned in at the end of December. Of course, the hot topic was I-85. They did have another meeting scheduled for 2/12, but that was cancelled due to the weather. She said she had an agenda and that was going to be rescheduled and she had a letter naming Thelia Bumgardner to the House of Representatives and she would give a copy to them so they could read over it if they liked.

Mayor Alexander said okay.

Commissioner Locklear asked if that was the TAC.

Mayor Alexander said yes. He said that he would read through it.

20. Report from Town Coordinator

Mayor Alexander called upon Mr. Graham for his report.

Mr. Graham said he did not have any specific reports, but he did want to mention a couple things that have been in the works since he had come on in the past four weeks to let them know where they were. He was asked to proceed with trying to open Day Street behind Town Hall here and connect it with Spencer Mountain Road. What they found is that they do have to have a driveway permit from DOT. He submitted that application and is waiting on a response. They started contacting for some bids but after looking at it and determining that we probably need to offset the connection so that it is not so close for Burlington that comes from the other side because it will not match up. It will be just close enough that the DOT will probably reject it. So a slight curb would change (inaudible). We have already talked about the pump station. The Smyre water

system – he has had a couple conversations with Mr. Bynum with the City of Gastonia, and he is putting together the City’s position and was supposed to call him back this week to schedule a meeting, but he did not call. He will have to call Mr. Bynum back, so hopefully he would have a meeting on that and be able to get with the Board with their proposals on the Smyre water system. He was invited to participate with Two Rivers in a new advisory board they set up to meet quarterly that is composed of all the municipal administrators in the county, and it’s an exchange of information and to talk about how the different municipalities who are served by or in other words connected with Two Rivers to better cooperate and serve each other, so it’s going to be a good thing that’s will provide good information for the Town and for the Board in ways that we may be able to improve water service and help the cause. This was the initial meeting, it was held this week and it will meet quarterly so he will keep them informed. That was all he had.

Mayor Alexander asked if there were any questions.

No one responded.

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

Mayor Alexander stated it was written to interview for the Clerk position and to consider Part time CDL Driver for Public Works. He asked if there was a motion to go into Closed Session.

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

Mayor Alexander requested a 10-minute recess before going into Closed Session.

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

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

22. Consideration of Motions Pertaining to Closed Session Discussion

Mayor Alexander said all the business had been taken care of.

23. Adjournment

Mayor Alexander asked for a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Carver made the motion and Commissioner Tideman 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 FEBRUARY 20, 2014