

MINUTES  
TOWN OF RONDA REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 5:00 PM

The Ronda Town Board met on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 5:00 PM with the following members present: Commissioner Helen Porter, Commissioner Chris Nelson, Commissioner Kevin Reece, Commissioner Bobby Munsey, Town Attorney Jonathan Sink, ORC Jeff Jones, and Town Clerk Rachel DeGroat.

The following members of the public that signed-in include: Tim Blackburn, Wanda Blackburn, Doug and MaryJane Combs, Sarah Adams, Mason Church, Skip Adams, Barbara Nelson, Maria Soots, and Andrew Wood.

Town Attorney Jonathan Sink called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Commissioner Nelson led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.

**AGENDA:** Jonathan Sink asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Nelson made the motion, Commissioner Porter seconded. All said aye in a 4-0 vote.

**MINUTES:** Jonathan Sink asked for a motion on the approval of minutes. Commissioner Nelson requests to amend the Work Session minutes from November 14<sup>th</sup>. "A couple of minor changes. On page 3 change *neither* to *could have*. Also, same page change *stand off* to *stay off*. Also on page 4, change *would be* to *would not be* coming. Same page, change *out next meeting* to *our next meeting*." Commissioner Reece seconds the motion to make the requested changes. 3-0 vote of aye, Commissioner Munsey does not vote and therefor 4-0 vote of aye is recorded.

**DISCUSSION OF EXPENDITURES:** Commissioner Reece reminds the public there is a copy of the financial report at the back of the room for their review as well. Commissioner Munsey asks the clerk who drafted this report. Clerk responds that Michael pulled the report while he was in the office this morning.

**Reports:**

- 1) YVSA:** Victor Varella reports meeting held this morning. Internal auditor presented a report at the meeting, and YVSA is in good shape financially. Mr. Varella recommends to the board if ever in the need of a new auditor to consider Cindy Randolph from West Jefferson. Only impact to the town of Ronda is YVSA is pursuing a grant for \$5,000,000.00 to upgrade the system, including the pump station. This would include raising the pump station at Memorial Park, up out of the flood plain and more accessible to maintenance. Grant was just submitted yesterday and should hear something in the next few weeks.

- 2) **HCCOG:** Commissioner Munsey reports they have not met since Christmas, but received information this morning regarding various grant opportunities the town might benefit from for roadway and drainage improvements. Commissioner Munsey will keep the board informed after closer review of the information and application process.
- 3) **Wilkes EDC:** Commissioner Reece reports that Commissioner Combs was appointed to cover the Wilkes EDC. With the recent passing of Commissioner Combs and the transition of Commissioner Reece representing for the EDC, he does not have a report to give at this time.
- 4) **WCC:** no report at this time
- 5) **YVCC:** Victor Varella reports next meeting is scheduled for the end of this month and he will provide a report in February.

**OPEN FORUM:** Doug and MaryJane Combs approach the board and inquire if the board would purchase some mulch and place them in 2 areas of need at the cemetery. Mr. Combs offers his service in helping Jordan spread the mulch. Mr. Combs then comments on the Clerk Evaluation noted on the agenda for tonight. Mr. Combs shares with the board that they have a valuable employee in the current Town Clerk, Rachel. Mr. Combs reminds the board that the town has been through many clerks, and how it makes the town look when employees come and go so easily. Mr. Combs states again that Rachel is a valuable employee, "she knows what she is talking about, she knows how to talk to people, so do what you got to do to keep her." Commissioner Nelson states, "when the time comes with the mulch, and I am home, I got a tractor with a backhoe, let me know." Commissioner Reece asks Mr. Combs how big of an area regarding the mulch? Mr. Combs believes 2 full truckloads. Commissioner Reece asks Mr. Combs how he feels about river rock over mulch. Mr. Combs states river rock would look good but would need borders to protect the areas from the mowers. Mr. Combs believes that mulch would be more efficient and cost effective over river rock. Commissioner Nelson asks about rubber mulch but Mr. Combs does not believe it would be worth the price.

#### **BOARD ACTION:**

1. **Pricing for Well Treatment** – ORC Jeff Jones reports that he had a meeting with Wooten Engineering firm yesterday (Monday) and is presenting to the board now the "estimated new cost of the well with the treatment process. There is a significant increase of about \$440,000.00 for the treatment process at the well, and the attributes corresponding with the treatment. There is like an extra building, an extra storage tank. The original price was \$1.1 million, for the well. And the new price is going to be like \$1.6. This paperwork is directly from our engineers. As you can see, most entirely of that cost is the treatment, installing the treatment on the well to get us compliant. I am not going to say no

radiation, it is going to be within the state limits that we are operated to operate in. if you look at the 2<sup>nd</sup> page, our existing page, they have already worked out a CPI, which is a Capital Improvement Plan for this project. This is if we need to replace the filter, housing, whatever in 20 years, the sand on whatever that maintenance schedule is set out to be, there is an existing cost right now currently of about \$8400.00, as a monthly cost, which is about \$4.64 per thousand gallons of water. With this process because we will be able to lessen our cost from Elkin, and produce our own water, we will go down to a monthly operation cost of \$2400.00, \$1.32 per thousand gallons cost." Commissioner Nelson asks, "this \$1.32 per thousand gallons, that is after the treatment, the maintenance for the treatment, that's all in, where right now we are paying \$4.64 per thousand gallons." Jeff Jones confirms, "yes sir, that is correct." Commissioner Nelson asks, "that \$1.32 will also include what little we would be buying from Elkin?" Jeff Jones answers, "I asked that same question, he said it would go up pennies. The \$1.32 would go up pennies. These costs right now, we are working on the AIA, the Asset Inventory Assessment Plan, this is a snapshot of what they have been working on, so I can bring this in, so I can get this, because you guys know as well as I do time is of the essence with this money. I asked them to make sure we had something that they can start looking at too for this because we got to get rates, we got to actually look at this, what we are going to do. As you can see, I was asking them about the disposal, because that was my biggest concern. We are barely over the actual state minimum requirement right now. They're actually in talks with YSA, I brought up Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro also, because they said that the trace that is going to be in the solution that we actually have to waste off our filters to clean them and stuff like that, it is such a trace that we can send it to a waster treatment plant around here. And that cost is actually included in this money, with their estimated cost." Commissioner Nelson says, "this sounds like a much rosier picture than you pitched to us the other day." Jeff Jones, "well I always try to be, I always try to tell you guys the worst and we hope for the best. Cause if I can give you guys the worst and you can go and start digesting that, and I can digest that, we know what we are getting into. So now if I start, we get down closer and we start getting that really fine-tuned, now we can start talking. Now we are getting the numbers and I think we are palatable to what we are talking about." Commissioner Munsey asks about "disclosing everything to the public." Jeff Jones answers, "yes. I asked them about that and stuff like that and the thing is we can do that. We have that. You guys know just as well as I do, as soon as they told us that I'm like no, we need to go figure something else out. Maybe go drill another well. But then, when I started talking to them about the switch treatment and stuff, the treatment process, what the waste profit looks like, is that even manageable for us on the financial level. It can get real

expensive real fast, when you are dealing with this kind of waste." Commissioner Reece states, "I want to make it crystal clear to the public. When you hear this dollar amount of \$1.6 million, this is not coming out of General Fund, it's not coming out of...it's appropriations' money that we received from the state. It is ultimately tax dollars, so it did cost everybody because there is nothing such as free money. But it is not a matching grant, we don't have to pay debt. In my opinion, it is like the citizens of Ronda paying taxes for one hundred years and the state decided to give some of it back to us. That is the way I look at it. But we have to spend this money. And if we don't spend this money in a short amount of time, we lose it. And so, I want the public to understand this is not something that is going to, that we have to be paying back. I mean I think it is money we already paid and we got back. I just want the public to understand that." Jeff Jones interjects, "our meter project, we are actually \$200,000.00 under budget on that project. So, this cost is \$400,000.00, well \$200,000.00 is going to roll-over into this." Commissioner Reece includes, "based on the numbers he has told us, it is going to cut in half what we are paying per thousand, the town is paying for this water. In theory we should be able to keep rates down, and build up money in reserves to help keep our water system going. I understand we need to approve this so that your guys can go ahead and get to work on this because time is of the essence." Commissioner Reece then makes a motion to move forward with this. Jeff Jones states, "I see that cost savings and I feel more comfortable as the operator for your water system, I feel a lot more comfortable with the set-up we are doing. The only thing is, we still haven't nailed down the disposal of it. They have one of the environmental guys on here, that run the waste treatment plants around here, if they would work with us to dispose of this, we should have no issues. That was kind of like one of my major concerns. But from some of the numbers I see with what the AIA is producing for our water rate, this really helped that cause. What they showed us was ugly. With this number coming down like it is, I think this will be more palatable on the backend when we do our actual rate study part of that." Commissioner Reece explains further his motion is to move forward on approving, specific to the treatment of the newly developed well, this projected increase to \$1,602,760.00. Commissioner Nelson ask, "this starts when?" Jeff Jones states that if approved tonight he will contact Wooten first thing in the morning and they will go ahead and start the work tomorrow. Commissioner Nelson, "so this is not only a motion to approve the increase but to approve and get it done?" Commissioner Reece answers, "that is right." Commissioner Nelson then seconds that motion. Jeff Jones, "another update too that I didn't have for you guys on Friday, the 268 line. We were under design on that; we have gotten five comments back on that from the Public Water Supply. They said they should have them wrapped up maybe, hopefully mid-week this week. So, we can get

that back to them and go and get that to bid also." Attorney Jonathan Sink refers back to the motions made, unanimous 4-0 vote in agreement to approve the proposed increase and accept the proposed well treatment plan.

- 2. Censure against Commissioner Bobby Munsey** – Attorney Jonathan Sink states that he as a law firm serves the board. A public censure is a formal statement of disapproval adopted by a governing board. It does not remove a member from office. It does not impose, fines, it does not restrict the members lawful powers, statutorily, case-law wise or constitutionally. It does serve as an official expression of the boards position. For the record, this board has the inherit authority to govern its own proceedings. It has decided to have me be the chairmen of tonight's meeting to see that all the boxes are checked, all the steps are taken, that due process is actually seen from start to finish. Not just in this action but throughout the meeting. This is to maintain order and decorum, to follow every single step that I will be outlining in the potential censure tonight. For the board to express its collective judgement, if it so chooses to be a public vote concerning the conduct of an individual board member, as long as the action does not exceed statutory actions or violate constitutional rights. The member who is subject to the proposed censure is present this evening. Due process is notice and a right to be heard. The notice was sent out; we have the member present and will have time to hear from. The board will proceed in Open Session, and this matter will be in accordance with applicable North Carolina Law, and any other board adopted rules some of which are referenced in the draft censure. Town Attorney Jonathan Sink then reads entire Draft Censure into record (see attached draft censure). Attorney Sink then states, at this point in the meeting this censure has not been adopted, this is the draft censure that is up for consideration at this particular time. We are not ready for a vote on this at this point in the meeting, we will have a vote at some time. Commissioner Munsey will have a chance to respond, then a conversation/discussion will ensue with the remaining members in response as well. At that time discussion should be limited to the conduct described in the resolution, very important. Attorney Sink then opens the floor to Commissioner Munsey to respond to what he just heard in the draft censure document presented. Commissioner Munsey begins by asking, "how much of the draft document did you (Attorney Sink) participate in?" Attorney Sink answers, "100%." Commissioner Munsey asked, "so you drafted the entire censure itself." Attorney Sink, "I drafted this entire censure." Commissioner Munsey, "based off of what?" Attorney Sink, "based off of what the commissioners who wanted it on the agenda asked me to draft for the boards consideration." Commissioner Munsey, "and which commissioner would you say initiated the censure?" Attorney Sink conveys that he will not share that information, "my conversations with specific commissioners, if they would like to...." Commissioner Munsey continues, "I already know which commissioner

initiated the censure." Commissioner Nelson announces, "oh it was me." Commissioner Munsey states, "ok. And could you tell the public that we already had an estimate from a previous contractor that we had used to do the work? We already had an estimate on the table." Commissioner Nelson begins, "we had two estimates", Commissioner Munsey "prior to you bringing in your family." Commissioner Nelson continues, "prior to bringing in my uncle who is a contractor, it has absolutely nothing to do with anything." Commissioner Munsey, "it does have something to do with the censure." Commissioner Nelson, "Bobby, your two estimates one for was over \$7,000.00, one was for over \$8,000.00." Commissioner Munsey, "they weren't my estimates." Commissioner Nelson, "I asked my uncle to give an estimate, \$2900.00." Attorney Sink interjects, "the question was asked and the question was answered. We are going beyond the question that was asked. We are going to stick to question and answer and are going to keep order as we go along. I am turning it back over, it is your (Commissioner Munsey) time to present your response to the draft censure." Commissioner Munsey "in Octobers meeting we had a consensus, more or less, that there was a landscaping committee. And on that landscaping committee was the clerk, Ms. Porter, myself, Rheajean Benge and Ms. Combs. With a close narrow window, for no apparent reason Mr. Nelson called a 48-hour Special Meeting, knowing that everyone could not be there for the meeting and brought his family into the works to get the job done so it could benefit his family. I have from the get-go stated that we should not be utilizing family, neighbors, friends. It causes conflict, misunderstandings, and that is just the way it is. Nobody should be bringing their family. So, he sees this as a personal insult to him. The materials that were shown to be, which is natural stone, during that meeting was supposed to have been utilized in the planter out front. They didn't utilize what they said they were going to utilize. So, they misrepresented what was going to be put in front of Town Hall. So that is what initiated the argument and the misunderstanding." Commissioner Reece asks the attorney if he is allowed to ask Bobby "a few questions". Attorney Sinks ask Commissioner Munsey, "will you yield for questions as this time, pertaining to what you just shared." Commissioner Munsey answers, "go ahead Kevin." Commissioner Reece asks, "Bobby when you say that what you were shown of natural stone" Commissioner Munsey states, "that is what Nelson presented to me, this is what we are going to be utilizing." Commissioner Reece continues, "does anything in there say that is what he is going to be utilizing?" Commissioner Munsey, "right here is a picture. It is your censure; you sent it to me." Commissioner Reece, "but Bobby I am asking you", Commissioner Munsey "yes. He walked across this board and said this is what it is going to look like, the materials we are going to use. It is his picture right here; you sent it to me. The scope of the work is fine. I am not dissatisfied with the work. But when you have a committee, you nor Nelson was

on that committee. Approval of the estimate I do not have a problem with. But what you guys did, you overstepped your boundaries, and didn't allow the people that were on the committee enough time to be here. Now for the past three years that Mr. Nelson has been on this board he travels for work, this board has went above and beyond to make sure that he has the ability to be here during all board meetings. And then he closes in a 48-hour Special Meeting, for something that did not have to have at a Special Meeting. That was for no other reason than for his family's benefit. And I had sent out plenty of emails stating that my work projects had picked up and that I couldn't be here."

Commissioner Reece, "Bobby, I want you to know, if you just listen to me, you might realize that I am just being fair and I am not beating up on you. I am trying to get to the truth. Number one I don't know his uncle, I didn't know it, I don't know the contractor. I want you to know from my perspective, which is independent. I want you to know, the best I understand is that when you say there was consensus to make a committee, committees normally do meet and give information to boards. Boards ultimately don't have to follow that direction. I did not know about the committee, number one." Commissioner Munsey, "it was appointed in October's meeting, Kevin. Yes, it is and I have the minutes right here." Commissioner Reece "I am not saying it is not, I am saying I was approached, not by him (Commissioner Nelson) but by Mayor Benge and she said we are going to have a Veterans Day event, and I honor veterans, and I really would like for that to be finished before Veterans Day. Nobody said it was the benefit of his family. I was told it was about Veterans Day. Commissioner Munsey, "makes no difference." Commissioner Reece, "and then a meeting was called, I was presented with three bids. I approved the lowest bid."

Commissioner Munsey, "it has nothing to do with the dollar amount, Kevin. It has nothing to do with the dollar amount." Commissioner Reece, "but when you say it was for his family, and that we did this for his family. Commissioner Munsey, "I am saying that you avoid bringing family members in to do work, then you avoid what is going on right now. I have been preaching since I was elected, follow statute, follow statute, follow statute." Commissioner Reece, "did he violate statute?" Commissioner Munsey, "let me finish. In October's meeting I expressed the statute regarding records transparency. It was a stressful time because Mr. Boaz got mad, left the room, and you guys were here and all that happened. And I said we still have to follow state statutes. And Mr. Nelson comment was "we follow our own set of rules, right here (pointing to the October Minutes). We follow our own set of rules. So does that mean you change rules whenever you want to just because they are your set of rules. No, you follow the statutes." Commissioner Nelson states, "you have a set of statutes and then the board is able to set its own curriculum that it follows as well." Commissioner Munsey, "but we have not. Chris, we have failed to follow statutes from 2021 to 2024, who

was the Budget Officer?" Commissioner Nelson, "this has nothing to do with this." Commissioner Munsey, "yes it does. It has everything to do with it. You want to set rules, then from 2021-2024 there was not a Budget Officer." Attorney Sink interrupts in an attempt to re-direct and states, "Commissioner (Munsey) you have some hand-outs or what I would call exhibits, did you want the full board to see those as part of your time presenting, since they will be voting on that." Commissioner Munsey replies that he does not care either way. Commissioner Reece states, "I am familiar with what that is and I want to say to the best of my knowledge, when I was shown those pictures to make that vote, to the best of my knowledge, Commissioner Nelson showed us those pictures and said this is work that the contractor has done in the past. And I think it was brought up that he had done some masonry work for Chick-Fil-A." Commissioner Nelson, "that is exactly what happened. You asked if I had an example of his work and I said yes. My wife sent me those pictures in a text so I could show them to you. We have a live video; this is the work that he does." Commissioner Munsey, "if you follow statutes we wouldn't be in this mess." Commissioner Nelson, "if you showed up to the meeting for the vote, we wouldn't be in this. You didn't even bother to show up to the meeting to vote on the contract." Commissioner Munsey, "I was working and you knew that and that is why you scheduled the meeting." Commissioner Nelson, "then the next day you started harassing the contractor." Commissioner Munsey, "I didn't harass him. I sent him a text and he sent me back a picture showing me natural stone." Attorney Sink interjects again and states, "this is how we are going to do the rest of this portion of this action item. Before anybody speaks, this is not a power grab we just have to keep one person talking at a time. Say 'Mr. Chairman, I would like to be recognized'. It is still Commissioner Munsey's time, unless your thoughts and comments are closed, I am just asking do you have more to present." Commissioner Munsey, "it is funny to me that statutes, they're there for a reason, state and federal both. The board doesn't follow statutes. You got me here censured, for supposedly making a threat regarding suing someone, is what I understand, on behalf of the board. And Michael Boaz sits in the office on December the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4PM in front of the town employees and threatens to sue me if I don't stop pursuing my job. And then I told him you can't sue me, I am protected by the board. And he says well I will sue you personally. I sent that text to Kevin and Kevin says, I got it on my phone and I sent it to Chris at the same time. Kevin said, his reply was, we will not stand for this, or I will not stand for this rather." Commissioner Reece asks, "what does it actually say I said?" Commissioner Nelson asks, "does that have anything to do with what we are doing right now?" Commissioner Munsey, "it does, it does because he (Boaz) participated in this censure." Attorney Sink, "I would just caution the body politic as a whole, which is comprised of individual members, that if we are going to

start talking about staff then we are in a weird intersection." Commissioner Munsey, "he is not staff, he is a contractor. Boaz is a contractor." Commissioner Nelson, "then that means we need to go into Closed Session." Commissioner Munsey, "no it doesn't that is for personnel." Attorney Sink, "does he get any benefits?" Commissioner Munsey, "no, we pay him directly. He is a contractor." Attorney Sink, "ok, then withdrawn." Commissioner Munsey continues, "he sat in that office and threatened me, an elected official. Now I am going to recommend to the board and we take a vote and terminate his contract. You are going to sit here and try and discipline me for something that he does, but you are going to be ok with it. The man threatens to sue a member of this board. If you don't believe he will do it, he already has a lawsuit against his previous employer at Pilot Mountain. Here it is, it was delivered on everybody's doorstep that lives here in this town. Everyone of us. Now it is your money, it's your money but if this board doesn't do something about it, then what you do is during election in November. You need to remember the ones that chose not to do something about this. And I have got a witness that heard him say it. Said that he would sue me. And like I said, I am a member of this board and I was in this building doing work, what people in this town elected me to do. This is ridiculous. They want to censure me for doing something that they are ok with him doing?" Attorney Sink asks if Commissioner Munsey is done speaking, Commissioner Munsey continues, "I had a meeting with Rheajean, when she was appointed back to the board. Rachel set that meeting up, it took place in Town Hall. I asked her who the Budget Officer was for four years. She said I didn't know we were supposed to have one. Boaz did all of the budget without advising the board. And by statute the board is supposed to appoint one. And just like all of our audits, Boaz does it all, he does everything. The board is supposed to appoint an accountant and that accountant is supposed to present his findings to the board, not through Boaz. Everything is running through Boaz, and the two sitting at the end of this table (Nelson, Reece) allows it to happen. And it is nothing but a recipe for disaster. It is coming. May not be next week, may not be in months or a year, but it is going to be come. The tax payers are the ones that is going to eat the bill. You guys opened this can of worms. I have tried to work with you, tried to be understanding. Kevin since you were appointed back to the board, and the entire time that I have been on the board with Chris, expressed how concerning these statutes were and allowing one man to oversee the entire finances on the town when its right here he was terminated for misappropriating over \$160,000.00, or \$600,000.00+ at Pilot Mountain." Attorney Sink thanks Commissioner Munsey and then states, "as we transition to a full board discussion on this, I will just say that the discussion needs to be limited to the conduct described in the resolution. Not only are we within a Special Meeting, which the law requires us to stay within the reason for which it was called, within

that agenda we have that specific Action Item within this page and a half. We should be limited to the conduct described in the resolution, whether that conduct warrants formal censure and the boards institutional interest. Personal attacks, speculation or matters unrelated this, the resolution are out of order. And I will gavel it. And I am not elected but I am here as your town attorney, the full board direct that. Personal attacks, speculation, or stuff out of bounds with regards to these two pages, it is going to be gavelled out of order because it is not, we can't legally discuss that. Thank you." Attorney Sink then grants Commissioner Reece allowance to speak. Commissioner Reece says, "this talk about ethics, and I know this was talking about a contract situation. Mr. Munsey had made it about something different, but it is still about ethics. My understanding, we hired an independent CPA firm, the law requires that." Commissioner Munsey, "Boaz hires him, you don't." Commissioner Reece, "it is an independent auditor. And the board has to approve that auditor, to the best of my knowledge." Commissioner Munsey, "we don't. We have never seen one. We have never seen an auditor come before this board." Commissioner Reece, "I don't know that any auditors from," Commissioner Munsey interrupts, "yes they do." Commissioner Reece continues, "I don't know that any auditors from Winston, wherever they come from, comes before boards. Maybe they do. But the final line that gets submitted in the OGC deals board does not come from anybody in this town it. It is a CPA firm, licensed CPA that does independent audits and they have to be peer reviewed. So, I want the people to know that. There is a separate set of eyes that are neutral. Nothing to do with the town expect to make sure that the towns money is being spent appropriately or whatever. So, I want you to know this Michael Boaz he is talking about is our Financial Advisor. Now we depend on him a lot for finances, I want you to know that. I tried to look for the text that he said. I didn't see it but to the best of my knowledge I remember when he told me that he was threatened by a contractor, I think I said if that is true, I won't stand for that. Or either way that is what I would be thinking. I would never stand for anybody threatening any town employee, resident or board member. Not at all. Now, since he brought that up and he said me and this gentleman (Nelson) well first of all, only thing I did was vote to get a flower bed fixed before Veterans Day. And I think it looks good. That's the only thing I did. But, now that he said that, the way we act as commissioners is important. And truth and honesty is the most important thing and the people need to know about that. And I will tell you, as a commissioner when it talks about ethics, I went to a former board members home and had the door shut in my office and I was told that I caused all these problems here, that led to their separation with the town. Around that same exact time, I went to see the late Sandra Simmons daughter, Clarice Benton. Clarice Benton," Commissioner Munsey corrects Reece, "it's Clarrisa." Commissioner Reece

continues, "Clarissa Benton had recordings on Sandra's phone. Sandra had recorded Commissioner Munsey." Commissioner Munsey asks, "has this got anything to do with what is in front of us, the censure?" Commissioner Reece replies, "it's about ethics. And here is what I am going to tell you, Clarice", Commissioner Munsey corrects him again, "Clarissa." Commissioner Reece continues, "Clarissa is the executor of Sandra's estate. She got Sandra's phone. Anything that is on that phone belongs to Ms. Benton to do what she wants to do with it. Ms. Benton at the time gave me the copies of the recordings of Bobby Munsey talking about to Sandra Simmons." Commissioner Munsey asks, "was it a personal conversation?" Commissioner Reece answers, "no, it actually wasn't." Commissioner Munsey replies, "well then if you just said I was talking to Ms. Simmons", Commissioner Reece states, "you were talking to Ms. Simmons about town business." Commissioner Munsey states, "she was a commissioner." Commissioner Reece answers, "she was not a commissioner at that time. I got the dates of them. The point is he is trying to stop me from telling the public what was said. The truth is Ms. Simmons recommended the fire department, having the fire department come help us with the flag pole. He told her that the fire don't help the town, the fire department don't help flag poles, he helps cats. He said the fire department will not help us do anything." Commissioner Munsey states, "it was a joke." Commissioner Reece, "either way that's what she said. Then you started beating up on Michael Boaz on that conversation with her. I got it. Then Mickey Cruise, was an elected official, Mickey Cruise, Commissioner Mr. Nelson brought up removing maintenance from under her supervision, the whole world needs to know this. You all probably know I have some issues with Mickey Cruise, but in that situation, I didn't like how it was going down. And I actually called him and defended her on that; he knows that that's true. But Munsey is on the recording at the same time, calling her Mayor B-I-T-C-H to Sandra." Commissioner Munsey states, "she was." Commissioner Reece continues, "then that she needs to go wash her nasty butt, saying a different word. This is the kind of actions of the man that you got sitting over there; to say he wants to expose corruption. This is what you got. What you have already elected." Commissioner Munsey replies, "and what we've got is a felon that has been removed from this board." Commissioner Reece states, "we got a president of the United States that's a felon and he is doing a really good job. Let me tell you something, because that is all the left can say is a felon. That's all they can say. Here is what I can tell you, I can tell you all what is the truth. I can tell you what's the truth. And just watch what it does to people when it is the truth. I can tell you this man went around and told many citizens that me and Commissioner Bengé, Mayor Bengé stole money from the town. That is how she got the truck sitting in her driveway. That truck belonged to her son; he was visiting her while she was dealing with cancer. I can tell you that he went and told lies, and

accused us of committing a crime to the public when he knew an audit had been done by the state auditor. It had been completed. It found no wrongdoing. He never took those comments back. He just let those lies stay out in the atmosphere. This is what's happening, this is who you are dealing with. With the Michael Boaz situation, Micheal Boaz to my understanding," Attorney Sink reminds Commissioner Reece to make sure this relates to the censure document. Commissioner Reece, "to my understanding he mentioned that about Boaz, to my understanding Boaz came to Town Hall. Bobby and Boaz met outside, to my understanding, not in the building. And Bobby started accusing Michael Boaz of committing fraud, that he stole. He started accusing him of a crime. Commissioner Munsey states, "I did not." Commissioner Reece continues, "he has never been charged with a crime. Well, I understand there was an independent witness who saw it, that is my understanding and maybe they are lying. But in my opinion, any in the public would know that talk to these people in the campaign, there was a meeting that was held at a former Commissioners house and he was a part of and they had a plan to get rid of Boaz before they ever got elected. In fact, they had a plan to get rid of the late Andy Waddell." Commissioner Munsey ask, "can we just vote on this and move forward." Commissioner Reece, "I know why he wants us to vote on it; he wants us to vote on it so I will shut up." Commissioner Munsey, "everybody wants you to shut up." Commissioner Reece states, "you all deserve to know the truth and I think they are paying attention to me. These lies have to stop, all these lies have done is torn this town apart. These lies have to stop. If you want a better town, you have to start weeding through the stuff and figure out who is lying to you. What I can tell you is this, in good faith we voted to get a flower bed done at the lowest bid. Have it done before Veterans Day event. Some of you all came to that event. It was a good event. I think the flower bed looks good. That's what I can tell you. I did not know at any point they were going to use natural stone. I didn't know and in fact it is probably negligent of me to vote on it not knowing what they were going to use. I just figured the material was included. I voted on it, and we all passed it by unanimous vote. It got finished." Commissioner Munsey states, "not all the committee did. We weren't there." Commissioner Reece, "the committee didn't have to vote on it." Commissioner Munsey states, "yes, they did. That is why you appointed them." Commissioner Reece, "at any time, when that was appointed did, they ever say the committee must approve something before the board can take action on it. Absolutely not. It didn't have to happen and we took that vote because that was the only way to get it completed before Veterans Day. That is the reason we did it." Commissioner Munsey, "there was no discussion in the Work Session about having to be completed before Veterans Day. There was no discussion." Commissioner Reece, "what I can tell you is this, we approved it. When we approved it, the next thing

I know is this gentleman is texting the contractor after we voted on it. I was told, based on what I have seen, he told the contractor if you do the work, you are not getting paid. He was interfering with the contract that this board approved unanimously. That's what happened. And to say that, I can't say what Commissioner Nelson knows in his mind, but what I do believe is he cares for veterans and it was an important event to him, and I do believe that he wanted Town Hall looking as best as it could be for that event. And I agree with that. I can tell you that there is no way that me and Commissioner Porter voted on something that was trying to help his relative. We voted on something at the lowest bid to get something done for the town. And this gentleman interfered with that contract. And that's the facts, undisputed." Commissioner Munsey, "did the work get completed?" Commissioner Reece, "yes sir." Commissioner Munsey, "then how did I interfere with anything?" Commissioner Nelson then asks permission from Attorney Sink to be recognized. Attorney Sink reminds the board, "please if you would try and keep it to the action at hand. A two-part allegation, the unilateral action of the full board, and the allegation that there was an interference with contractual relations." Commissioner Nelson, "first of all there was never a landscaping committee or team ever voted on. There was discussion of the women getting flowers to in the planter once it was repaired. I think they had like a \$60.00 a month budget, or something along those lines. Bobby, you did say you would help them with that. But there never was a landscaping team or committee, voted on or approved of by the board. It was not appointed; it was simply discussed. At one of our past meetings, I passed out copies of all of the text messages between Mr. Munsey and the contractor. And I actually still have them here on my phone. You sent a picture of the natural stone, or he sent it to you. You said 'that looks great' and then you sent a couple other pictures and said 'or this, you choose.' And he said 'the one on the right is fake rock' and you said 'I know, I just want that scale of stack option. Thank you I think we are on the same page again, so you choose'. He said 'I've been thinking about this since last Tuesday and I know you said for me to pick out the stone'. Now understand this is after we considered all three bids, we talked about them I think on Thursday?" Commissioner Munsey, "no, the contractor agreed to meet me and he and I go pick out the natural stone". Commissioner Nelson, "the Work Session before the meeting, or before the Special Meeting, we discussed it. Then when the Special Meeting came up, we all were here except for Mr. Munsey, we all went over the bids, one was \$8,000 and some change, one was \$7,000 and some change, and this particular one was like \$2900.00". Commissioner Munsey, "and I know that I couldn't be a part of that meeting". Commissioner Nelson, "it did not matter". Commissioner Munsey, "it did matter because I was part of the committee". Commissioner Nelson, "it was a Special Meeting, you had advanced notice." Commissioner Munsey, "two days?"

When do you stop driving your truck in Missouri and fly back here for a meeting, you don't." Commissioner Nelson, "you'd be surprised how much I have lost trying to be here for Special Meetings. Beyond all of that, we had the meeting, we had the vote. This contractor was settled on. These texts were after this was voted on and approved of by the board. So, the contractor said 'I know you said for me to pick out a stone but I am going to let the Town of Ronda do that. I am going to need like a 140 square feet to make it back to original size. I can pick it up if you want. But if the town pays for stone, they can save some money.' Mr. Munsey says 'it's all good. I am good with transparency. With the board involved we can delay our project until the next meeting. I will inform the clerk in the morning. So don't show up until further notification next month.' Now that is not the end of the text. But that is the second problem here. First problem is he should've never been contacting the contractor independently to begin with." Commissioner Munsey, "I was on the committee...." Commissioner Nelson, "no you were not!" Commissioner Munsey, "you're lying!" Commissioner Nelson, "you call me a liar again and we are going to have a serious issue!" Commissioner Munsey, "well go right ahead. Don't threaten me." Commissioner Nelson, "there never was a landscaping committee voted on or approved of by the board." Commissioner Munsey, "yes there was, you're lying," Commissioner Nelson, "the second thing was, after the contract was already given out, he independently tells the contractor not to show up until the next month." Commissioner Munsey, "so we can have time to discuss it!" Commissioner Nelson, "that's impeding a contract, that is interfering with a contract!" Commissioner Munsey, "no it is not." Commissioner Nelson, "it absolutely is." Commissioner Munsey, "he understood what I was talking about." Commissioner Nelson, "the problem is...." Commissioner Munsey, "the problem is you were not apart of that text so you're just coming up with your own assumptions." Commissioner Nelson, "you should have never been texting him to begin with! We voted on this as a board. We act as a board, not one of us has anymore power to act independently than another!" Commissioner Munsey, "I was not acting independently. I was acting with the landscaping committee." Commissioner Reece asks, "did anyone on this landscaping committee give you a consensus and tell you to send that text? or did you do it alone" Commissioner Munsey, "we were having a discussion about materials." Commissioner Nelson, "you told him not to show up until next month. The problem is number 1) it was coming up on Veterans Day. Number 2) the mayor's husband had just died, who was a veteran. Which made it all the more important to have this particular celebration and have it all ready. Now moving on from that, the contractor says "sounds good. If I got something some board members didn't like that I would be at fault and I don't want to be in the middle. Choose what is voted on and I will be happy to take care of it'. Because the contractor don't know all this crap that is going on. Mr. Munsey said 'I'm on the

landscaping team approved by the board so it is not clear to me who you are dealing with. At the end of the day, you won't be paid till the landscaping board approves bud'. Now that is threatening him of non-payment of work." Commissioner Munsey, "no it is not." Commissioner Nelson, "that is exactly what it is! And then the contractor says, 'I think he's mayor, Chris Nelson' and Munsey says 'he is a she and she has no authority over the board.' Which he was right. 'But you roll the dice if that is your game. Chris is not a mayor but a commissioner.' He is definitely right about that. The contractor says, 'sorry not rolling any dice. Just wanted to make sure all were on board.' Mr. Munsey 'again I have been told you're related. Again, you roll the dice.' Contractor said 'related has nothing to do with it.' 'To many cooks in the kitchen' Mr. Munsey says. 'Again, do as you please and let the dice fall.' Contractor says, 'that's enough of that. Find another mason.' So, he first tried to get him to put off until the following month. Which is not what the contract said. Second, he threatens him with nonpayment, and then he aggravated him till the contract said the heck with it, find somebody else to do the job." Commissioner Munsey, "did he show up and do the work?" Commissioner Nelson, "oh we ain't done yet. Because later more texts 'I've contacted my wife's attorney whom she works for provided him with the pics you provided along with the ones Chris opted for me, if the work that the town's insurance doesn't opt for regarding natural stone I'll be filing a suit against you, against your business. You'll pay more in attorney fees than your profit margins so let's see. You're welcome to do the work as long as it's natural stone as we agreed based on the pics you provided regards.' Contractor says, 'yeah, I really welcome after you just threatened to sue me. Makes perfect sense, don't it,' Mr. Munsey says 'after you set Chris upon me so dittos. All I ask is for nice work that's all. You sold these people on trailer park crap is what Chris is saying I just don't get it.' Contractor says, 'natural stone you want natural stone you get. Just pay \$1505 for what's done already and \$2650 retainer for half the total cost remaining of \$5300. I haven't priced any stone if you look at my quote. I just priced blocks and bricks on one and split face for the other. I'm ready to see my lawyer about harassment. I never spoke to you at anytime about this job and I will not do this for you. You just bombarded me a day or two after because you didn't get your way and I'm not rolling any stupid dice as you say.' This is between he and the contractor. He's threatened to sue him, he's harassed him, he tried to get the contract put off. He threatened not to pay the man for doing the work. Now I don't know what anybody else's definition of ethics are but they don't seem right to me. He didn't show up for the vote, regardless of what his excuse was. Nobody held anything against him. He was not here for the vote. The board voted on the contract. They approved the contract. Approved the man to do the work and then the next day he is out here harassing the guy." Commissioner Munsey, "Out here, I never showed up! You're

lying! I never showed up!" Commissioner Nelson, "I know you didn't show up! I said the next day you were harassing him. In other words, if you have a problem with the board decides you should have contacted the board and not bothered the contractor. It does not make matter who he is, or what he is, you have no business independently trying to influence any contractor that the board agreed on as a whole. And then turned around and misrepresented yourself, you said you were the landscaping team and he wouldn't be paid if you didn't agree on. I don't know what else you call that. And then you threatened to sue the guy. Ad then you harassed the crap out of him. You want me to go into the text you sent about suing me over this thing." Commissioner Munsey, "did he show up and do the work?!" Commissioner Nelson, "he absolutely did!" Commissioner Munsey, "so he wasn't intimidated, was he?" Commissioner Nelson, "of course not." Commissioner Munsey, "well, that's my point." Commissioner Nelson, "the point is had it not been him, had it been any other contractor and you did this to, this town could be sued. We would be held liable for your actions. You are a board commissioner. This is not Town of Ronda Board of Bobby. This is Town of Ronda Board of Commissioners." Commissioner Munsey, "you have had a problem with me since I was elected." Commissioner Nelson, "I have had a problem with you since high school buddy!" Attorney Sink interrupts and says "we are not going to get personal, not that we haven't but that is over the line for sure. So, I want to give, and you don't have to but we haven't heard from Commissioner Porter. Would like to say anything at all? You don't have to but I want to make sure that if you did you were heard." Commissioner Porter, "the only thing I said about it is that Bobby could not decide on the contractor not doing the work without going before the board." Attorney Sink turns to Commissioner Munsey and grants him the opportunity to respond before the board decides to cast their vote. Commissioner Munsey, "I am all about transparency, I have been from day one. Everything that we have ever done, at least since I've been on the board since last year, I have linked all Commissioners into my emails. I have linked whichever mayor was on the board, to make sure things get done the way they are supposed to be. Reason being, from 2021 – 2024 the board spent \$35,000.00 on that front room. And it fell in. When I was elected, Chris is traveling for work, Kevin wasn't on the board. It was me, Helen, the clerk that worked with a contractor, did the research, make sure we got a good contractor with a good portfolio. He came back in, pulled up the linoleum, the ones from 2021-2025 supposedly paid \$35,000.00 for, the work wasn't done properly. He didn't even replace but about 60% of the room. So, my whole point here is, to make sure good quality work gets done. And with oversight. When you don't have oversight, you wasting the towns money for one end to the next. Same thing with being put on the list with the League of Municipalities because we lost \$160,000.00 in water revenue from 2023-2024. Now there is a couple different

reasons that was. Part of it was because we had several leaks in town. Jeff, at the time Boaz, the maintenance guy sat right here, they reported those and its in the minutes, leaks to the board during those 4 years. Well, the board didn't take action fixing those leaks. That is why we had \$160,000.00 worth of loss revenue, or a portion of it. Now thanks to Kevin, I will say this, we had a leak down on Old Traphill Road, and he got involved, Jeff got involved, Jeff came out on a weekend and got that fixed. But the amount of money that we have lost, another \$7,000 - \$8,000 on a roof for the maintenance building, that if you stand in it when it is raining you take a shower. No oversight. That is going to have to be replaced. That happened from 2021 – 2024. From 2021 – 2024, we went through 7 clerks. 7 clerks. Now I notified the labor board and they said that is not the fault of the clerks. You don't go through 7 clerks in 4 years, that is the fault of the board. That is the fault of the board. So, all I am trying to do is get involved when people have to travel for work, Kevin wasn't on the board, Helen wasn't able to crawl down a 6-foot manhole and look at leaks. And it is all about transparency. If you have transparency, you don't hire family, you don't hire friends, you don't hire neighbors to do the work. You don't have these problems. You don't have misunderstandings. You don't have arguments. You don't have censures. When people come to do the work, you get contractors to provide a portfolio, you have some to oversee the project while it is ongoing. So, my whole thing is we have wasted your money, not me, I wasn't on the board then. Hundreds of thousands of dollars of your money, having to re-do work that happened from 2021-2024. So again, is there had been some oversight, none of this would've happened. So, if I do give oversight, I sure will do the job. You folks elected me to sit in this seat, and nobody is going to muzzle me. And that is all they are trying to do. They are trying to censure me to keep me from doing my job. But you elected me to do this job. I don't care about this censure; it's nothing but a piece of paper written on. And that's just how I feel about it. I am going to the job that people put me in this chair to do." Attorney Sink announces that there will a 10-minute recess prior to board voting on the draft censure. Attorney Sink calls meeting back into session from a brief recess and asks if there is a motion pertaining to the draft censure as discussed. Commissioner Nelson makes a motion "to censure Mr. Munsey again for misrepresenting himself, for trying to interfere with a contract, for harassing a contractor. All of these things I believe are violation of ethics. Could have put the town in serious legal jeopardy. Therefore, a make a motion to censure Bobby Brown Munsey." Commissioner Reece seconds the motion. Attorney Sink advises a raise of hand vote will take place regarding the motion that is now on the table. Commissioner Nelson and Commissioner Reece both raise their hands in favor of the censure motion. Commissioner Porter states, "I don't know how you do this. The only thing he tried to get the contractor to stop the work. So would that lead to be

the censure against him?" Attorney Sink answers, "well the motion on the table is the censure as it is written in this one and half page report. That's all that can be done because it is the action item before the board. The board is either going to adopt this censure or reject this censure. The motion before the board right now, and why 2 hands are up, is to adopt the censure. So now is the time for yea, only." Commissioner Porter asks, "so now it warns the rest of us not to do anything unless we go before the board?" Attorney Sink answers, "well that is one way to see it. This is a specific warning against Commissioner Bobby Munsey, what this vote is on." Commissioner Reece asks, "but to clarify, would it not be clear to the rest of the board that if we did the same thing we can expect this". Attorney Sink answers, "I think embedded on page 2 of this draft this is a reminder to everybody. But I am just saying as the censure reads is that the reminder, as articulated in the document, is to Bobby Munsey. And I just want to be clear about what is being voted on. And that is this one and half page document. As to whether or not an individual board member believed that is a reminder to everybody, I mean sure the censure does serve that purpose. What is being voted on tonight is what you see in bold, is a good way to sum it up." Commissioner Nelson, "in other words, yes." Attorney Sink, "so I see two hands for ayes. Any nays? I am not speaking to you (Porter) when I see 2 hands when having called yeas and nays, and only 2 have voted. NC law does require an affirmative vote, yea or nay. What the law indicates people who the people put here as elected officials when a vote like this comes up, I do need to hear a yea or nay from all 4 board members. I don't need to hear; I just need to see hands since that is how we are taking the vote. I am going to call a vote again. Hands in favor of a motion to censure, please raise. I see 3 yeas. All those opposed? There are 3 hands raised and with no hands opposed, a non-vote for municipal purposes is an affirmative vote, so it is actually report to a 4-0 vote. Commissioner Nelson, "just so the public knows. Your (Sink) last paycheck was close to \$2,300.00. Well, I know because I signed it. Given a ball park figure, not an exact dollar, paying for a portion of that and you say you drafted this document, and for you being here tonight for this censure, what is this costing for the tax payers? We would like to know what it is costing as tax payers." Attorney Sink, "I'd have to look back at my last invoice and what that was billed." Commissioner Munsey, "Rachel that is in your office?" Attorney Sink, "that is a public document, if we want to get that. It is not part of our meeting agenda but it is public information and public record." Commissioner Munsey, "I would just like the public to know what this is costing them." Attorney Sink, "we can consider that a public records request and get that information out to the people." Commissioner Munsey, "and keep in mind Mr. Nelson is the one that said he initiated the censure, so you will know what he has cost the town." Commissioner Nelson, "or what it could've cost the town based on your actions."

- 3. Appointment of the following:** Attorney Sink directs to the next action on the agenda and filling open Commissioner vacancy first.
- a. Commissioner** – Attorney Sink asks for a motion to adopt the nomination ballot method for the Town of Ronda Commissioner vacancy. Commissioner Nelson makes the motion to accept. Commissioner Reece seconds that motion. 4-0 unanimous vote in agreement to proceed. Commissioner Reece makes a motion to nominate Matthew Foster to fill the vacancy of Commissioner Michael Combs. Commissioner Munsey nominates Victor Varella. No other nominations are given. Attorney Sink asks, by show of hands on the vote for nominee Matthew Foster. 4-0 vote, Matthew Foster is then immediately sworn in and takes his seat as Town of Ronda Commissioner.
  - b. Mayor** – Attorney Sink opens the floor for nominations for the open Town of Ronda Mayor seat. Commissioner Nelson nominates Gerald Masterson. Commissioner Munsey nominates Victor Varella. Attorney Sink asks, by show of hands on the vote for nominee Gerald Masterson. 5-0 vote, Gerald Masterson is then immediately sworn in and takes his seat as Town of Ronda Mayor.
  - c. Mayor Pro-Tem** – Attorney Sink opens the floor for nominations Mayor Pro-Tem. Commissioner Nelson makes a motion to nominate Commissioner Kevin Reece as Mayor Pro-Tem. With no other names nominated, Attorney Sink asks, by show of hands on the vote for nominee Commissioner Kevin Reece serving as Mayor Pro-Tem. 5-0 vote. Commissioner Kevin Reece has been appointed as Mayor Pro-Tem.

Attorney Sink then announces the entry into Closed Session.

Closed Session: Pursuant to the N.C.G.S § 143-310.11 subsection (a)(1) and (6) for the purpose of considering confidential personnel matters.

Mayor Masterson asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Foster made that motion, Commissioner Reece seconds, and all stood in agreement.

*Rachel DeGroat*

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Rachel DeGroat, Town Clerk

Closed Session: Pursuant to the N.C.G.S § 143-310.11 subsection (a)(1) and (6) for the purpose of considering confidential personnel matters.

- 1. Clerk Evaluation** – Commissioner Reece reports that Rachel DeGroat, Town Clerk is responsive, takes immediate action on any request he has, she is taking classes and getting certifications, and learning. He reports she is wonderful with the citizens, honest, and at times has been put in a bad situation with some division on the board and has handled it well. Only improvement Commissioner Reece would like to see is an improvement in her IT capabilities. Commissioner Reece would like to consider presenting to the board a raise consideration. Commissioner Munsey reports that he believes Rachel is over qualified for this position. She goes above and beyond; her resume and education speak for themselves. She has even offered to go out and pick up trash. She does all she can do to assist the maintenance and lawn crews. She does the work of both a full timer and part timer. Rachel and Jordans proposal to sub-contracting out the lawn work in town they have saved the town over \$60k a year in labor. Commissioner Nelson reports that Rachel is probably the most knowledgeable person in this town about this town, and she don't even live in this town. All the calls go through her.

Commissioner Reece proposes to increase Town Clerks pay from \$22.00 an hour to \$25.00 an hour. Each board member is in agreement and values the work and efforts of Rachel. Commissioner Nelson makes a motion for a \$3 an hour rate increase, \$25.00 an hour. Commissioner Munsey seconds that motion. 5-0 unanimous vote in agreement. Commissioner Munsey requests to document an effective date of Monday regarding the pay increase.

Mayor Masterson asks for a motion to exit from Closed Session. Commissioner Nelson makes the motion to exit Closed Session. Commissioner Munsey seconds. 5-0 unanimous vote to conclude Closed Session.