

MINUTES
TOWN OF RONDA REGULAR BOARD MEETING
November 18th, 2025, 5:00 PM

The Ronda Town Board met on Tuesday, November 18th, 2025, at 5:00 PM with the following members present: Mayor Rheajean Benge, Commissioner Kevin Reece, Commissioner Helen Porter, Commissioner Michael Combs, and Town Clerk Rachel DeGroat.

The following members of the public present: Maci Reece, Victor Varela, Jerry Masterson, and Doug & Mary Jane Combs.

Mayor Benge Called the Meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

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

AGENDA: Mayor Benge asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Reece requested an amendment be made to the agenda. Commissioner Reece requested to "ask about having a third check signer, appointing a Mayor Pro-Tem and discussing Wilkes Chamber appointment, and I'd like to ask if I can get the board to agree to allow, well it's about pole cameras....litter and the people in Ronda." Commissioner Combs makes the motion, Commissioner Porter seconds the motion, all said aye in 3-0 vote. Those items are then added to the agenda.

Commissioner Reece then makes the motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Combs seconds that motion. All said aye in a 3-0 vote, and agenda is approved.

MINUTES: Mayor Benge asks for a motion on the approval October 21st Special Board Meeting minutes. Commissioner Reece made the motion, Commissioner Porter seconded, all said aye in a 3-0 vote. Minutes for October 21st Special Board Meeting are approved.

EXPENDITURES: Commissioner Reece raises a question regarding the October expenditure reports. Commissioner Reece inquires about travel in October, "when we travel for the benefit of the town....what fund does that come out of?" Mayor Benge replies "the General Fund." Commissioner Reece wants to verify that the recent travel reimbursement check he received from the town is not being missed in the expenditures report and asks the Town Clerk to find out where that money came from. Town Clerk Rachel DeGroat states that she believes there are 2 line items of cost, one listed for travel applicable for *Travel* that the Commissioners pursue and the other line item listed as *Travel and Training* is possibly applicable to costs specific to training and those expenses would be taken from that line item. Rachel DeGroat then emphasizes

that it is her belief but will get confirmation from Michael Boaz that both travel reimbursement and training expenses are being documented correctly.

Reports:

- 1) YVSA:** Victor Varela presents report. Recent breakdown of FEMA money that YVSA has received totals \$2.426 million so far. They have spent close to \$500k so far and have another \$1.276 million they are submitting . UNC School of Government put together an article highlighting the YVSA. Title of the article is Consolidating Utilities Lessons From the Yadkin Valley Sewer Authority, speaking how three towns got together and pooled their resources. A case study for the state showing how towns can cooperate. There was an engineering report, pump station, and line replacements, including clay pipe replacements. Here in Ronda, at the park they will be raising all the elements in that pump station about two feet about the flood plain. Mayor Benge asks if they are still having a lot of trouble with clay pipes, Varela replies yes and that YVSA is replacing those "little by little." Commissioner Reece then asks if the town needs YVSA to help run cameras through existing piping as DOT recommended to address flooding concerns on various public streets, can the town contact them directly or should the town go through Mr. Varela as the YVSA representative for Ronda? Varela replies that the town can call YVSA directly. Commissioner Reece also asks about a Ronda resident that recently purchased an old church and would like to convert that into apartments. This resident is interested in running sewer to this future project and would Mr. Varela be opposed to Commissioner Reece sharing his contact info with this resident to facilitate a future conversation with the YVSA. Mr. Varela states that Commissioner Reece can absolutely share his contact information with the interested party. Commissioner Reece then invites Mr. Varela to an upcoming meeting, strictly about the water system, set to be held this Friday, October 21, 2025, at 5PM.
- 2) HCCOG:** Commissioner Bobby Munsey was not in attendance to provide a report.
- 3) Wilkes EDC:** Commissioner Reece reports there has not been a meeting for Wilkes EDC since his appointment as representative, nothing to report.
- 4) Wilkes Chamber:** Commissioner Reece reports there has not been a meeting for Wilkes Chamber since his appointment as representative, nothing to report.
- 5) YVCC:** Victor Varela presented report. Ronda was the only town present at last week's meeting. YVCC was happy to have us in attendance. They are building an indoor shooting range "behind the old Walmart." Calendar of events coming up include: 12/14 – Festival of Lights Parade, beginning in Jonesville at 5PM and ending in Elkin. 12/17 – Christmas Session from 5:30-7:30 PM at the chamber, all members of the board invited to attend. 1/20 – annual banquet, members of the board invited to attend.

OPEN FORUM: None

BOARD ACTION:

- 1) JFam Utilities Contract Review:** Commissioner Reece proposes that since Jeff Jones is not in attendance, can we table that till December meeting? Contract review for JFam will be placed on the agenda for the upcoming December Work Session.
- 2) Third Check Signer Appointment:** Commissioner Reece states that he has spoken with Commissioner Combs, Commissioner Combs is "pretty much in town quite a bit." Commissioner Reece motions to appoint Commissioner Combs as third check signer, Commissioner Porter seconds. 3/0 vote in favor of Commissioner Combs becoming third check signer on the board.
- 3) Mayor Pro-Tem Appointment:** Commissioner Reece motions to appoint Commissioner Combs as Mayor Pro-Tem. Commissioner Porter seconds by stating, "I guess so." 3/0 vote in favor of Commissioner Combs appointed as Mayor Pro-Tem.
- 4) Wilkes Chamber of Commerce (WCC) representative:** Commissioner Reece states that he was recently appointed as representative to both the Wilkes EDC and WCC, primarily due to lack of interest from other members of the board. Since the appointment of Commissioner Combs, Combs has shown an interest according to Commissioner Reece in representing the town on the WCC. Commissioner Reece makes a motion to appoint Commissioner Combs to take his place as representative on the WCC. Commissioner Porter seconds this motion. 3/0 vote, Commissioner Combs is appointed as representative to the WCC.
- 5) Cameras for Littering:** Commissioner Reece recently asked the board to purchase a dash camera for the maintenance truck, for the safety of everybody and that has been agreed upon. Commissioner Reece continues that he noticed solar pole cameras at another town location in the county. When they are placed in areas that have a lot of littering, the littering stops. Reece requests the board to grant the Town Clerk a budget of \$2,000.00 to purchase similar solar pole cameras. Commissioner Reece believes this amount should not come out of the monthly office supply budget allowance, but rather permission for Town Clerk to process a pre-approved single purchase limit of \$2,000.00 for the purchase of these cameras. Commissioner Reece also believes that upon review of video recorded on these cameras, anyone caught littering, those recordings/still photos can be presented to the magistrate's office by the Town Clerk on behalf of the town to pursue legal action. There are already No Littering signs on some town streets that are deemed "high problem" areas specific to littering. Proposal is to place these security cameras in those locations as well. Commissioner Reece

confirmed that we have every legal right to set up cameras on public right-aways to watch over the public streets. Commissioner Reece also believes that these cameras will serve a dual purpose and provide the town with needed data collection to make decisions regarding traffic flow for recent concerns voiced by the public regarding resurfacing and repair needs on Old Trap Hill Road and speeding issues on Elkin Highway 68. Commissioner Reece makes the motion to grant a \$2,000.00 budget for the purchase of pole cameras, Commissioner Combs seconds that motion. 3/0 vote. \$2,000.00 budget for the purchase of "pole cameras" has been approved.

Mayor Benge at 5:30PM announce the entry into Closed Session. Commissioner Reece makes the motion to enter Closed Session, Commissioner Porter seconds. 3/0 vote. The board enters Closed Session.

At 5:37PM the board enters back into Regular Session.

Commissioner Reece makes a motion to move Performance Evaluation for Town Clerk to the December Work Session, Commissioner Porter seconds. 3/0 vote, Performance Evaluation is moved to December Work Session.

Commissioner Reece makes a motion to "increase Jordans pay by \$1.00 an hour than what he is getting now, and we start that next Monday". Commissioner Combs seconds the motion. 3/0 vote. Starting Monday the 24th of November Jordan pay will increase \$1.00.

At 5:38PM Commissioner Reece makes a motion to Adjourn. All stand in agreement and meeting is concluded.

Rachel DeGroat

Rachel DeGroat, Town Clerk