

MINUTES  
TOWN OF RONDA SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 8:30 AM

The Ronda Town Board met on Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at approximately 9:00 AM with the following members present: Commissioner Helen Porter, Commissioner Chris Nelson, Town Attorney Jonathan Sink, Town Consultant Michael Boaz, and Town Clerk Rachel DeGroat.

The following members of the public present, those that signed in included: Doug & Mary Jane Combs, Albert Soots, Kevin Reece, Victor Varela, Andy Waddell, Matthew & Maria Soots, Kathy Wilson, and Chandler Reece. More bodies were present but did not sign in.

Commissioner Chris Nelson Called the Meeting to order and thanked everyone in attendance. Commissioner Nelson began by stating that a commissioner has resigned and another commissioner not in attendance and confirmed with attorney Sink that Mr. Sink has taken a vote amongst the Commissioners and there has been a decision to accept Commissioner Ruben Bumgarner's resignation. Mr. Sink states that is correct, he continued by stating that he has heard from the majority of the remaining members, that not statutory law but common law to hear from a majority of the remaining members to take a vote, that Ruben would not vote on his own resignation and the 3 actual remaining members of this town board, and that talking amongst yourselves would violate open meeting laws, but I did hear though from a majority of board members that you had in your individual voting capacity, your individual voting abilities that you have accepted the resignation so that the town can move on with its business. Mr. Sink then stated that he did hear from two of the three remaining members in favor of accepting the resignation. Mr. Sink advised that is the only way you all can proceed today.

Commissioner Nelson then asks Mr. Sink if the board needs to vote then again here physically. Mr. Sink replies that the resignation itself has been accepted the majority of the remaining members, and you can now move on to item number 2 on the agenda.

Commissioner Nelson, then announces that they need to select someone to chair the meeting. Commissioner Nelson asks Commissioner Porter if she has any objection to him chairing the meeting and Commissioner Porter replies with No.

Commissioner Nelson announces that they will do a voice vote on commissioner vacancies. Commissioner Nelson states there are three names for consideration, Victor Varela, Kevin Reece, and Rheajean Benge. Commissioner Nelson turns to Commissioner Porter and asks Victor Varela, yes or no. Town Consultant Michael Boaz interjects that there is to be a motion and a second to that motion. Mr. Sink continues by stating to

Commissioner Nelson that he is to entertain a motion. Commissioner Nelson continues by stating that he is looking for a motion for Victor Varela. There is no second motion offered and Commissioner Nelson proceeds. Commissioner Nelson states he is looking for a motion for Kevin Reece. Commissioner Porter responds by stating I guess I have to make a motion for that one. Commissioner Nelson seconds that motion. All said aye in a 2-0 vote. Before continuing any further Mr. Sink interjects and recommends that before proceeding to next board action first go and swear Kevin Reece in.

Kevin Reece comes before Judge Donna L. Shumate and is sworn in as Commissioner of the Board.

Commissioner Kevin Reece takes a seat with fellow members of the board. Commissioner Nelson states that he is looking for a motion to elect Rheajean Benge as a member of the board. Commissioner Reece makes that motion, with Commissioner Porter second to the motion. All say aye in a 3-0 vote.

Rheajean Benge comes before Judge Donna L. Shumate and is sworn in as Commissioner of the Board.

Commissioner Benge takes a seat with fellow members of the board. Commissioner Nelson thanks the judge for her time and duties swearing in the new members of the board.

Commissioner Porter asks if the judge should not leave yet but remain for the mayor vote as listed on the agenda. Commissioner Nelson acknowledges that while that is the next action on the agenda, he respectfully asks that they do not vote on a mayor until they have a full board present and time to discuss options. Mr. Sink asks if Commissioner Nelson would like to postpone that for another specific date and time. Commissioner Nelson states that he cannot until they have a full board. Mr. Sink then advises Commissioner Nelson that he will need to take an official vote from the board to remove that action from today's agenda.

Commissioner Nelson asks for a motion to amend the agenda and have that action removed. Commissioner Benge makes that motion, and Commissioner Reece seconds. All say aye in a 4-0 vote.

Commissioner Nelson moves on to next agenda action of selecting a Mayor Pro-Tem, to serve in place of the mayor. Commissioner Reece makes a motion to nominate Commissioner Rheajean Benge as Mayor Pro-Tem. Commissioner Nelson asks if he is allowed to second that motion and then seconds the motion for Commissioner Benge. All say aye in a 4-0 vote.

Commissioner Nelson moves to the next action of selecting check signers. Commissioner Nelson states that he is a bit confused because the town currently has Commissioner Porter as a check signer and Commissioner Munsey, who is not present

as a check signer. Commissioner Nelson begins to ask if he is to only select a third check signer, Commissioner Bengé politely interrupts and states that the policy that is on the books goes as follows: Financial Officer, Mayor and then third signature. Commissioner Nelson then acknowledges that per policy and by default, with Commissioner Bengé as appointed Mayor Pro-Tem, Commissioner Bengé is a check signer, making 3 check signers in total. All say aye in a 4-0 vote.

Motion to adjourn was never made. All Commissioners just got up from the table and assumption was made that the meeting was over.

*Rachel DeGroat*

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Rachel DeGroat, Town Clerk