

TOWN OF BAILEY MEETING MINUTES  
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING – 3/23/2026

This Regular Public Meeting of the Bailey Town Board of Commissioner was held at Bailey Town Hall on March 23, 2026 at 6:30 PM.

The following Board members were present: Mayor Owen H. Strickland II, Mayor Pro Tempore/Commissioner Walter Wells, and Commissioners Richard Wilson and Dillon Bissette.

Also present: Town Administrator/Town Clerk/CFO Joel Killion, Lt. Andy Cone, and Town Attorney Nick Berry.

Commissioner Ervin Powell, Commissioner David Evans, and Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcer Shawn Lucas were absent.

Mayor Strickland called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He advised that this meeting was a rescheduled session, as the March 16 meeting had been postponed due to inclement weather.

**Invocation**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Adoption of Agenda:**

Commissioner Bissette made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, and Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioner Bissette: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Wells: Aye.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

Commissioner Wells made a motion to approve the regular public meeting minutes from February 16, 2026, and Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioner Wells: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Bissette: Aye.

**Acceptance of Financials:**

The Board of Commissioners accepted the Accounts Summary from KS Bank, the Budget vs. Actual Report, and the KS Bank Statement for the General Funding Checking Account for February 2026.

**Public Hearing:**

None

**Public Comments:**

**Mrs. Kaye Folsom** – In light of the upcoming 26/27 budget season, Mrs. Folsom commented that there are some citizens who are upset about the \$.12 tax increase last year and cautioned the Board against doing this again. She said that she realized that the Board was having to play catch-up because since past Boards failed to raise taxes the way it should have been. She explained that the Town cannot grow with such a burden and stated that if the Board has to increase taxes then it should not be an astronomical figure. She also stated that, while the public is proud of the employees for the good job they do, the 5% pay raise to the employees was excessive.

Administrator Killion explained that the Town employees received a 3% cost of living adjustment, not 5%.

**Mrs. Donna Boswell** – Mrs. Boswell commented regarding a noise ordinance violation and the possible abuse of animals on their street and asked that these matters be addressed.

**Mr. Harold Boswell** – Mr. Boswell echoed his wife's concerns and added that other neighbors share their concerns. He then discussed issues with the local USPS with Mayor Strickland, who provided a brief update on that matter.

**Administrative Reports:**

**Sewer & Water Department – Envirolink** – No representative was present.

**Cemetery & Landscaping Department – Mr. John Thompson, Owner/Operator of Top Notch Lawn Care** – Mr. Thompson was absent due to a family matter.

**Regulatory Department – Mr. Shawn Lucas, Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcer** – Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcer Lucas was absent.

**Police Department** – Lt. Cone provided a brief law enforcement update. He then mentioned hiring two part-time officers and asked for a decision from the Board.

Commissioner Bissette made a motion to approve the hiring of two part-time officers upon completion of their background checks and certifications, and Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioner Bissette: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Wells: Aye.

**Administration – Mr. Joel Killion, Town Administrator/Town Clerk/CFO** – Administrator Killion presented the 25/26 FY Budget Amendment #3 to the Board for their review and vote.

Commissioner Bissette made a motion to approve 25/26 FY Budget Amendment #3, and Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioner Bissette: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Wells: Aye.

**Committee Reports:**

None

**Old Business:**

**Review of Fee Schedule** – Mayor Pro Tempore/Commissioner Wells shared that the Rate Study from the Rural Water Association should be provided to the Board soon, providing the Board with some direction on the sewer/water portion of the Fee Schedule.

**GFL Letter Draft** – After reviewing the letter drafted by Administrator Killion per the request of the Board during the Commissioner meeting in February, it was suggested that a sentence be included in the letter stating that the Board would be happy to have Mr. Patrick Luce (the Government Contracts Manager for GFL) come and speak with the Board during one of its monthly meetings.

Commissioner Wells made a motion to approve the sending of this letter to GFL regarding service performance concerns with the addition of verbiage indicating that the Board is willing to have Mr. Luce attend a monthly Board meeting to discuss this matter pending the approval and signature of the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem. Commissioner Bissette seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioner Wells: Aye, Bissette: Aye, Wilson: Aye.

**New Business:**

**ADA Sidewalk Modifications Letter to NCDOT** – Mayor Strickland explained that he received an email from the NCDOT regarding some sidewalk modifications they are planning to complete on Main Street. The Mayor and Board then reviewed this email and the NCDOT design plans included in the Board packets. They also reviewed the letter to the NCDOT from Mayor Strickland requesting these modifications to be completed.

Commissioner Bissette made a motion to approve having the Mayor sign and mail the letter of request to the NCDOT concerning the Transportation Alternatives Program changes in the Town of Bailey, and Commissioner Bissette seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioner Wells: Aye, Bissette: Aye, Wilson: Aye.

**Annual Street Closure Requests** – Commissioner Bissette directed the Board's attention to a document included in their packets regarding street closure requests for Bailey Chamber of Commerce events (i.e. Easter on Main Street, the N.C. Sweetpotato Festival, Halloween on Main Street, and Christmas in Bailey) coming up in 2026.

Commissioner Bissette made a motion to approve the street closure requests, and Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioner Bissette: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Wells: Aye.

**Commissioner's Remarks:**

**Dillon Bissette** – No remarks.

**David Evans** – Absent.

**Ervin Powell** – Absent.

**Richard Wilson** – He remarked that Top Notch Lawn Care serviced the Bailey Cemetery the previous week and looks good.

**Mayor Pro Tempore/Infrastructure and Sewer & Water Commissioner's Remarks:**

Mayor Pro Tempore/Commissioner Wells provided an update on the upcoming DEQ inspection of the WWTP and summarized the recent DEQ inspections of Wells 1 and 2. He also noted a letter from the Upper Coastal Plains Council of Government regarding Bailey's 2026–2027 membership and dues of \$518.65.

Commissioner Wells made a motion to approve the renewal of the Town of Bailey's membership with the UCPCOG and the payment of its corresponding dues, and Commissioner Bissette seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioner Wells: Aye, Bissette: Aye, Wilson: Aye.

**Mayor's Remarks:**

Mayor Strickland directed the Board's attention to a proposal from Kevin Creech Roofing Inc. included in their packets for the repair of a leak in the metal roof of the Bailey Chamber of Commerce building owned by the Town of Bailey.

Commissioner Bissette made a motion to approve the roof repair proposal from Kevin Creech Roofing Inc. for \$1,200, and Commissioner Wilson seconded. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioner Bissette: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Wells: Aye.

Mayor Strickland announced that a Southern Nash Wastewater Treatment Plant project status meeting is scheduled for April 7. He also briefly reported on his attendance at the 2026 Future Forward Water Infrastructure Symposium in Morehead City, NC, and summarized his participation in a UCPCOG meeting held the previous week.

Mayor Strickland displayed a new American flag purchased for the Bailey Pharmacy and explained that it would be presented, along with a card, the following day. The flag will replace the worn flag previously flown at the building and is intended as a gesture of appreciation to a business that remained in Town and invested in the community.

**Closed Session:**

None

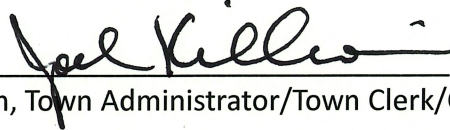
Commissioner Bisette made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Wilson seconded. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioner Bisette: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Wells: Aye.

Meeting adjourned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Owen H. Strickland II" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Owen H. Strickland II, Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Killion" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joel Killion, Town Administrator/Town Clerk/CFO