

TOWN OF BAILEY MEETING MINUTES

EMERGENCY MEETING – 3/15/2023

A Emergency Meeting of the Bailey Town Board was held in the Bailey Town Hall on March 15, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

The following members of the Bailey Town Board were present: Mayor Thomas Richards, Mayor Pro Tem/Commissioner Allen Daniels and Commissioners, Dillon Bissette, Richard Wilson, and Walter Wells.

Also in attendance: Joel Killion, Town Administrator, and Ryan King, Town Attorney.

The following member(s) of the Bailey Town Board were absent: Commissioner Ervin Powell.

**Called the meeting to order:**

Mayor Richards called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Daniels made a motion to go into closed session under G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) for Attorney/Client Privilege. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Richards: N/A, Commissioners Daniels: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Bissette: Aye, Wells: Aye.

Commissioner Dillon made a motion to go into open session. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Richards: N/A, Commissioners Dillon: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Daniels: Aye, Wells: Aye.

Commissioner Daniels made a motion to accept Ms. Eatmon's settlement proposal of \$5,000 plus moving costs. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Richards: N/A, Commissioners Daniels: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Bissette: Aye, Wells: Aye.

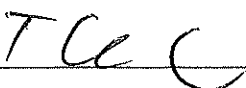
Commissioner Wells made the following motion: In order to maintain the public's confidence in the administration of Town services and in accordance with N.C. G.S. § 160A-168 (c)(7) I make a motion that the Board provide an official response to the March 12, 2023 article that ran in the Spring Hope Enterprise.<sup>1</sup> Commissioner Bissette seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Richards: N/A, Commissioners Wells: Aye, Bissette: Aye, Allen: Aye, Wilson: Aye.

Commissioner Daniels made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Richards: N/A, Commissioners Daniels: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Bissette: Aye, Wells: Aye.

Meeting Adjourned.



Thomas Richards, Mayor



Joel Killion, Town Administrator

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A March 13, 2023 article in the Spring Hope Enterprise contained confidential personnel information from a Town of Bailey file. The disclosure of this information was done without the knowledge or authorization of the Town. Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 160A-168 (c) (7) the Town Board believed it was essential to maintaining public confidence in the administration of Town services to respond to that article.

The Town Board voted to approve the following statement as the Town's response:

The Town of Bailey hired an outside investigation firm to conduct an independent investigation into complaints made regarding its police chief. Based on the findings made in the report by the independent investigation firm, the Town elected to terminate the employment of the police chief. Thereafter, the police chief stated she wished to submit a grievance and have a name clearing hearing. The Town had been working to schedule the grievance and the name clearing hearing with the police chief and her attorney when someone released an executive summary of the investigation report to the news media without authorization. Because the police chief's grievance process and name clearing hearing had not concluded, the Town does not consider her termination or the findings in the report to be final. It is the Town's understanding that the police chief disputes the substance of, and findings in the report. The findings in the report were not made by the Town, but by the independent investigator. Since the grievance process has not concluded, the Town has not officially adopted the findings in the report. The Town intends to allow the police chief to refute and respond to the allegations before concluding the grievance process.