

# Town of Vandemere

*North Carolina*



## Town Board Meeting March 2023 Minutes



**TOWN OF VANDEMERE**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 20, 2023**

In Attendance: Mayor Thaanum, Commissioners Lacy, McCotter, Wooten and Clerk Britt

Absent: TM Woodruff and Commissioners Fema and Jones

Meeting was called to order at 7PM

Mayor Thaanum offered a prayer to begin the meeting.

Visitors: David & Sandra Snipes, Max Ware & Russ Hudson

Reid Parker of Carr, Riggs & Ingram (CRI) presented the audit report for the year ending June 30, 2022. Based on their findings, no problems were found and there were no internal control violations. He passed out the performance indicator reports to the Board and indicated that the Town was in a good, strong financial state. He said the audit was as good as he could give out. He stated the audit was filed timely and will be in the future. He asked for questions from the Board and there were none at the time. He said if there were questions that come up, they have an office across the street from Mayo's Restaurant. There was a comment regarding the term and amount owed on the USDA loan. The exact information was not known, but will be looked up.

Minutes of the December 12th, 2022, meeting were read by Clerk Britt. Comm. Lacy made a motion to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Comm. McCotter. Motion passed with all yeas.

The financial reports for the months of November & December 2022 and January & February 2023 were presented by Clerk Britt. There were no questions from the Board upon their review of the reports.

Public Comments or Questions: Sandra Snipes stated her thanks for a good audit and for walking the walk for Vandemere. She gave the Board, Mayor and Clerk a binder which was labeled, "In 2023, Do Better". She stated she has learned and grown. She said she is working with Pamlico County with the Planning & Development Coordinator, Beth Bucksot. She took a grant writing class. She would like a team or group to manage grants so more than one grant can be done at a time. She is working on a project for the Rural Transformation Grant Fund. This project focuses on recreational aspects such as a fishing pier for local residents, a park and recreational center, and other uses for the Morton Building. Sandra has a copy of it included in the binder (which will be included in the Minutes book). She proposed that the Town Council bring back or reinstate a Planning Committee, which is the eyes and ears of the Board, and let them update the code of General Ordinances and Zoning maps. She commented that they have not been updated in 35 years and we could do better. Sandra completed her presentation and David thanked his wife for all the work she put into it. After much discussion, the Mayor moved the meeting forward.

Comm. Lacy requested a copy of the email from our insurance agent regarding the Snag-A-Slip contract and the insurance on the waterfront docks. Clerk Britt supplied him with a copy of the email from Jackie Ireland concerning this issue.

A discussion came up concerning the selling of the town lots. Comm. Lacy explained how the developers used the lots in place of putting up money for a bond. Mayor Thaanum stated that at the time, our town attorney said that other small towns were accepting this method. After much discussion from numerous speakers with varying opinions, Mayor Thaanum moved the meeting to the next agenda item.

Communications: None

Department reports:

- Drainage and waterways, Streets & Roads: Clerk Britt addressed the Board and explained that the RCCP (Resiliency Coastal Communities Program) engineering plans were in progress. The TRC engineering firm was hired and is processing additional surveying map information. The engineering phase should be completed by May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. After that, the project will be shovel ready. She then stated that the ARPA project (which is the sewer line extension), was also in the engineering phase with The East Group. Todd Tripp, with the East Group, is in the process of doing some field work and should be back in touch with us after that.
- Health and Sanitation: Comm. Jones was absent, no report available.
- Regulations and Compliance: Comm. Lacy stated we went over this during public comments.
- Public Safety, Flags and Banners, Maintenance and Installation: Comm. McCotter had nothing to report.
- Decorations and Social Functions: Comm. Wooten stated that the bathrooms at the waterfront park were being worked on. He said they will put in the handicap ramp last. He thanked David Snipes and Chuck Reed for their help on the project.
- Public Relations: Mayor Thaanum advised this has already been discussed.

Old Business: The East Group is in the process of doing some on-site field work and will be in touch after that.

New Business:

- Clerk Britt explained that the ARPA program requires 5 policies to be adopted if receiving ARPA funds. She stated that the Allowable Use Policy and the Eligible Use Policy were included in the project ordinance, but ARPA wants them separate from the ordinance. The policies are now individual policies and Mayor Thaanum requested a motion to adopt them. Comm. Lacy made a motion to adopt and Comm Wooten seconded the motion. Motion passed with all yeas.
- Mayor Thaanum stated that the Board was polled on 1/3/2023 regarding the renewal of the GLF contract for the year beginning 1/1/2023, and running through 12/31/2027. Board agreed to renew. Mayor Thaanum asked for a motion to accept the GFL contract. Comm. Lacy made a motion to accept the contract, Comm. McCotter seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mayor Thaanum advised the Board that Carr, Riggs and Ingram (CRI) had sent in a letter and contract requesting to do the annual audit for the year ending 6/30/2023. They did our previous year audit. The Board was sent a copy of the contract by email on 3/14/2023 to review. Comm. Wooten made a motion to approve the new contract. Comm. McCotter seconded the motion which passed with all yeas.
- Mayor Thaanum told the Board that the Eastern Carolina Council (ECC) sent a letter to the Town asking for renewal of the membership dues in the amount of \$218. This fee is based on NC population estimates. Fees are payable in June. Mayor Thaanum asked for a motion to be made. Comm. Lacy made a motion to renew the dues and Comm. Wooten seconded the motion. Motion passed with all yeas.

Being no other business, Comm. McCotter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Comm. Wooten. Motion passed with all yeas.