

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF HOPE MILLS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monday, May 19, 2008 – 7:30 P.M.
Regular Meeting

Mayor Eddie Dees called the regular meeting of the Hope Mills Board of Commissioners to order on Monday, May 19, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Eddie Dees, Mayor Pro Tem Bob Gorman, Commissioners Doris Luther, Eddie Maynor, Jackie Warner, and Tonzie Collins.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Town Manager Randy R. Beeman, Town Attorney John Jackson, Assistant Town Manager/Town Clerk Connie F. Spell, Finance Director Jeff Saleeby, Chief Building Inspector Mike Bailey, Fire Chief Chuck Hodges, Parks and Recreation Director Stan Braswell, Stormwater Administrator Melanie Clerkley, Garage Supervisor Roy Howard, Public Works Director Bruce McLaurin, Kenny Bullock, Jeff Wade, Lt. Joel Acciardo.

2 and 3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Rev. Michael McGirt, Faith Walk Fellowship, gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Luther.

4. ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO CONNIE F. SPELL, MMC ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER/TOWN CLERK.

Mayor Dees administered the Oath of Office to Connie F. Spell, Assistant Town Manager/Town Clerk.

5. AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS, ADDITIONS, DELETIONS.

Mayor Dees presented the agenda and asked if there were any adjustments, additions or deletions. There were none.

6. STATUS REPORT ON HOPE MILLS LAKE/DAM PROJECT.

Mayor Dees reported they were continuing finishing the walls and completing the stone under the fish ladder slabs; continuing forming the rebar for the fish ladder walls and slabs; installing waterstop for the fish ladder; pouring fish ladder walls and slabs; and filling and grading outside the dam walls; building a crane pad on the west side for pulling diversion sheeting; started working on area for dewatering basing on west side.

He reported the water level was 86 feet and when the doors in the base of the spillway are opened it would rise up to 91 feet and remain at that level until they finish the wall, at which time it will rise to 104 feet.

Mayor Dees reported the lake/dam project was scheduled to be complete by the first or second week in August.

Mayor Dees stated the Lake Festival will be combined with Ole Mills Day and will be a two-day event, October 24-25, 2008. He reported many activities have been planned for this special occasion and there would be a dedication ceremony.

Mayor Dees reported Congressman Robin Hayes has been invited to be the guest speaker and a national recording star had verbally committed to attend and be the opening act for the festival. Mayor Dees stated the Lake Committee was underwriting the cost of the festival and there would be no cost to the town. He said the Lake Committee would be selling ads to raise funds to cover expenses.

Mayor Dees opened the floor for public comments and/or questions and there were none.

7. MAYORAL PROCLAMATION – MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 26, 2008.

Mayor Dees read the proclamation and urged all citizens in Hope Mills to observe this day in honor and memory of the thousands of American men and women who have sacrificed their lives in defense of their country.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Paul Sullivan, Brentford Drive, Fayetteville, presented a petition from the parishioners of The Good Shepherd Catholic Church requesting the Town Board investigate and hopefully change the policies concerning the neutralization of the chapel at the Fayetteville Veterans Administration Hospital. He stated due to new regulations, the chapel is no longer a place of worship, but just a room. He said the cross and the Bible have been removed. Additionally, the cross has been removed from the backs of chairs and the stained glass windows are blocked from view when the chapel is not in use. He further stated the cross also attached to the holy water font had also been removed. He said they were asking the board to rectify the issue and were looking for assistance and a resolution in this matter.

Rev. Archie Barringer, 2271 Jenna Shane Drive, Fayetteville, stated he was present to give some background information on what Mr. Sullivan had presented. He said he was the former Chief Chaplin of Veterans Affairs Hospital. He stated the reason he left the hospital was because of the neutralization of the chapel. He said he could verify the chapel was no longer a place of worship for the patients and families. He said we should not stand by and allow this to happen. He said he believed in rights for all people and all faith groups should be represented. He stated the veterans were the ones who fought to bring us freedom and we should defend the beliefs of those who now can no longer

defend themselves. He further stated the comments made by Mr. Sullivan represent the will of the people. He asked for a letter of support to be sent to the legislators requesting they consider changing these regulations.

Mayor Dees stated he had spoken with Congressman Hayes about the problem at the VA Hospital and Congressman Hayes stated this was a Federal issue. Mayor Dees said Congressman Hayes was trying to resolve this issue and he thinks this will be rectified.

The Mayor and all Commissioners spoke in favor of writing letters to the legislators showing their support of the veterans who have given so much for our country and have fought for the freedoms we enjoy and opposing the removal of the Christian religious items in the chapel.

After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Collins made a motion for the town to write a letter of support to the Federal and State legislators to reinstate the Christian religious artifacts in the Chapel at the Veterans Administration Hospital located in Fayetteville. Commission Luther seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Lisa Gregory, 855 McArthur Road, Fayetteville, encouraged the town to lift the ban it has on skateboards. She said there were kids who were not big on football and baseball, but enjoy skateboarding.

Stephen Waters, 4342 Dominique Street, Hope Mills, had concerns with the town not allowing skating in neighborhoods. He said he did not see the big problem. He stated he did not think kids should get arrested for skating on property that is not town property. He said the property they were skating on, has been verified with the owner. He requested the town change the ordinance to allow skating.

In response to Mr. Waters, the Mayor stated the police were enforcing the town ordinance.

Commissioner Collins suggested Mr. Waters obtain a letter from the property owner who had given them permission to skate on their property; after he receives the letter give the letter to Lt. Acciaro and he will distribute the letter to the other police officers. He said he was in support of the youth and he knew they needed a place to skate. He further stated the police will not harass anyone as long as you are not breaking the law.

David Taylor, 3713 Damion Drive, Apt. 126, Hope Mills, stated the town needed a skate park. He said all they needed was a concrete slab. He said skating was a way to keep the kids out of trouble.

Mayor Dees stated the town has been working with the Parks & Recreation Department about the possibility of a skate park and he introduced Mr. Stan Braswell, Director of Parks & Recreation.

Mr. Braswell said he would like to obtain a list of names of all the youth in attendance to have as contacts. Mr. Braswell stated the biggest problem was a location for the skate park. He said he had met with the advisory board and discussed the problems the town was having. He further stated these young people needed to meet with them and discuss what kind of park they want and give input. He stated the town did not have adequate space for a skate park and location was the big problem.

Mayor Dees stated he realized there was an issue with supervision. He said if the parents would volunteer to help supervise, this would help because the town does not have fund to pay employees to supervise the existing programs – tennis courts, basketball court, walking trails, etc.

Mayor Dees and the Commissioners encouraged those in attendance to submit names and phone numbers to Mr. Braswell. Mr. Braswell will contact you and see if something can be worked out. He stated \$25,000 had been allocated to purchase land for a skate park, but the town has not been successful with finding land. Other issues of concern that needed to be addressed were location, supervision and liability.

9. CONSENT AGENDA.

Mayor Dees presented the consent agenda, and asked the Board if there were any items they wished moved to the regular agenda. There were none.

Commissioner Luther made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Collins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

a. Consideration of appointments to the Stormwater Advisory Committee.

Ronald Starling and Jason Hope

Appointments approved.

b. Consideration to adopt Contract to Audit Accounts FY 07-08, Haigh, Byrd & Lambert, LLP.

Finance Director Jeff Saleeby presented the Contract to Audit Accounts for fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, received from Haigh, Byrd and Lambert. He stated the cost for the audit is \$27,000.00 and recommended approval.

Contract to Audit Accounts adopted.

c. Consideration to declare 1997 Ford Crown Victoria (Police Department) surplus and adopt Resolution authorizing sale of same to NC League of Municipalities, Risk Management Services.

Finance Director Jeff Saleeby reported Police Officer Sheila Merriman's patrol car was totaled by the insurance company and Board approval was required to dispose of property.

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
TOWN OF HOPE MILLS, NORTH CAROLINA**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN PERSONAL
PROPERTY BY PRIVATE SALE**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Hope Mills, North Carolina desires to dispose of certain surplus property of the Town;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Hope Mills Board of Commissioners that;

- (1) The following described property is hereby declared to be surplus to the needs of the Town; 1997 Ford Crown Victoria, VIN 2FALP71W9VX121161, Fixed Asset Number 510-026.
- (2) The Town Manager is authorized to direct the salvage disposition of the described property to the Town's fleet insurance carrier, North Carolina League of Municipalities, Risk Management Services, for the sum of \$3850.00.
- (3) The Town Clerk shall publish notice summarizing this Resolution in accordance with G. S. 160A-267.
- (4) The sale may be consummated not earlier than ten (10) days from the date of publication.

ADOPTED and effective this 19th day of May, 2008.

EDDIE DEES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Connie F. Spell, MMC, Town Clerk

Resolution Adopted.

"END CONSENT AGENDA"

10. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE HISTORIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO NAME THE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE IN HONOR OF MR. ALFRED BRAFFORD.

Mrs. Pat Hall, Chairman of the Hope Mills Historical Advisory Committee first commended the brave action of the board on the subject of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

She stated that on behalf of the Historical Advisory Committee she was present to make a recommendation to the town board to name the new pedestrian bridge, to be constructed over the John T. Henley spillway, in honor of Mr. Al Brafford.

She stated there was no one more deserving of this recognition. Mr. Brafford had given over fifty years of service to the Town of Hope Mills. No one loved the Hope Mills Lake more than he did and he had taken hundreds of photographs which he shared with everyone. She stated he was like a walking history book and this special recognition should be bestowed on him. Mr. Brafford has spent his life as a public servant for the town.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Historic Advisory Committee to name the new pedestrian bridge in honor of Mr. Alfred Brafford. Commissioner Gorman second, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Dees stated a Resolution of Intent would be prepared and presented to the family at the next regular meeting.

11. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO NAME BALLFIELDS #1 AND #2 IN MEMORY OF LACY "PAT" CAULDER.

Mr. Gary Dove, Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee, recommended naming Ballfields No. 1 and No. 2 in memory of Lacy "Pat" Caulder. He stated Pat Caulder was an outstanding citizen of Hope Mills, coach, husband and father. Mr. Dove said that many of those who Mr. Caulder coached, went on to play baseball at the high school and college level and two of his former players, Calvin Coonce and Ted West went on to play at the professional level.

Mr. Dove stated Mr. Caulder was the Hope Mills Recreation Department in the 40's and 50's and he was the custodian at Hope Mills School for many years and was like a grandfather to everyone.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory committee recommended the board name Ballfields No. 1 and No. 2 the "Pat Caulder Complex" on behalf of his family, friends and former players.

Commissioner Maynor made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Collins and carried unanimously to name the ballfields #1 and #2 the “Pat Caulder Complex”.

Mayor Dees stated a Resolution of Intent would be prepared and presented to the family at the next regular meeting and he asked Mr. Dove and Mr. Smith to invite the families and the former ballplayers to attend.

12. CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT DOT MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT FOR THE WIDENING, PAVING AND RESURFACING CAMDEN ROAD BETWEEN HOPE MILLS ROAD AND THE HOPE MILLS BYPASS.

Mr. Beeman presented the transportation improvement agreement between the Department of Transportation and the Town of Hope Mills. The project consists of widening, paving and resurfacing of Camden Road – SR 1003, between Hope Mills Road and Hope Mills Bypass.

In response to a question from Mayor Pro Tem Gorman, Mr. Beeman stated there were no municipally-owned utilities and there would not be any cost to the Town.

Commissioner Luther made a motion to approve the DOT Municipal Agreement for Project U-2810A as presented. Commissioner Warner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the agreement is filed in the Book of Agreements in the Clerks Office.

13. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE PROPOSED AMENDED PARKS & RECREATION FEE SCHEDULE.

Mayor Dees stated part of the budget process the town was looking at the fees charged by the Town.

Mr. Kenny Bullock, Program Supervisor, Hope Mills Parks & Recreation Department presented a list of proposed fees changes and increases for this department.

Commissioner Maynor had concerns with the proposed After-School fee. In response to a question from Commissioner Maynor, Mr. Bullock stated he had done a comparison with others who provide after school care and the town fee was considerably less than what others charged. Town fee \$25.00 per week/Primetime \$47.00 per week.

Kenny Bullock also stated due to the high risk involved with 15 passenger vans, the North Carolina League of Municipalities had requested the town discontinue use of these vans. He said transportation will no longer be provided for the after-school program. He stated the parents had been made aware of this.

Mayor Dees stated other recommendations for fee changes within the department would be addressed at a later date.

After discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Gorman to approve the proposed amended Parks & recreation fee schedule as presented. Commissioner Warner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

14. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE INFORMAL BIDS FOR VARIOUS FIRE DEPARTMENT IMPROVEMENTS.

Finance Director Jeff Saleeby submitted the following informal bids received for Fire Department Improvements and recommended approval:

1. Bay Doors – Custom Overhead Door - \$21, 716.00.
2. Concrete – WJ Jackson Construction - \$57,450.00.
3. Roof – Danny Odom Roofing - \$47,100.00.

Commissioner Warner made a motion to approve the bids for the Fire Department Improvements as presented. Commissioner Collins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

There was discussion that funds were allocated in the current 07-08 budget for these improvements.

15. CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT BUDGET AMENDMENTS.

- a. Stormwater Department Budget Amendment 2008 #17 -\$16,822.
- b. Legal Department Budget Amendment 2008 #18 - \$5,000.
- c. Fire Department Budget Amendment 2008 #19 - \$15,766.

Finance Director Saleeby presented the budget amendments and reported Budget Amendment #17, Stormwater Department, represented additional funds to remove roots and root balls from the storm drain line that runs in front of and next to the Town Hall; and

Amendment #18, Legal Department, represented additional funds the Town had incurred for the Neil Smith agreement; and

Amendment #19, Fire Department, represented additional funds for added expense for repairs.

In response to a question from Commissioner Collins, Ms. Clerkley stated the drain line is not at correct grade and the work proposed would alleviate the flooding that occurs on Rockfish for the present time. She stated the town was always going to have problems because of the trees in the area. She stated further work on the storm drain line and overall site is being considered for a future in-depth drainage plan.

Ms. Clerkley stated Tarheel Underground Camera, Inc. performed the initial cleaning and camera inspection of the storm drain line that runs in front of and next to the Town Hall building. During their investigation, the company discovered an extremely large amount of root infiltration and several large root balls within the storm drain that were completely blocking the line, not allowing water to flow through, and causing flooding.

She stated the cost to remove the roots from the storm drain was estimated at \$16, 822. This estimate was for 5 days of work due to the large amount of roots found within the line. She stated funds were not available within the Stormwater Department Budget and would require a budget amendment.

There were concerns that only one bid had been obtained to do the needed work. It was recommended the town obtain more bids.

Commissioner Gorman made a motion to approve the Legal Department budget amendment #18, Fire Department budget amendment #19 and table the Stormwater Department budget amendment #17.

Commissioner Maynor stated the town had already paid \$5700 for engineering services on this project and citizens were beginning to ask questions concerning the \$36.00 per year they were paying; when is the water problem going to be corrected on Rockfish Road.

After receiving comments from Attorney John Jackson, Commissioner Gorman amended the motion to approve budget amendment #18 and #19 as presented and reject the bid received for the storm drain repairs and request additional bids. Commissioner Luther seconded. The motion carried 4-1.

Ayes: Commissioner Luther, Collins, Gorman, Warner

Noes: Commissioner Maynor voted no.

16. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Manager's Updates

Mr. Beeman submitted the following written report for the record:

Fire Department. Fire Chief Chuck Hodges has quotes for the projects and will be providing copies to the Board of Commissioners.

Railroad Crossing – Johnson Street. The placement work by CSX railroad is costing approximately \$1,000.00 per foot of crossing width and per track. Street Department along with Public Works Director is acquiring estimates of paving costs for the approach to the crossing.

Viper Radio System – 800 Mega Hertz System. Chief Hodges and Captain Smith informed me the department is utilizing the radio system. There are problems with portables and the consulate and police department staff has been in contact with Motorola to resolve the poor and lack of adequate communication.

Skate Park. Mr. Braswell has no further update.

Pier Construction Information – Lake Number One. Mr. Jackson, Town Attorney will be asked to research the information concerning property ownership and liability concerns.

Professional Services. The RFP for professional engineering/architectural services are in the mail. A total of 21 mailings and the deadline for this service is April 30, 2008. The town received 12 responses and I will be establishing a review committee. The finance director is developing the RFP for professional auditing services.

Pay Plan and Classification Study. Mr. Dillman is to appear at the June 2, 2008 board meeting to present the study and the board will receive a copy of the findings at that time. Mr. Dillman will be available to answer any questions.

Mr. Beeman recommended a budget work session to discuss in detail the proposed budget.

It was the consensus of the board to schedule a budget work session for Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

b. Town Attorney Memorandum Opinion concerning Operating Agreement between Cumberland County and the Town regarding Recreation Center

Town Attorney John Jackson reported he had reviewed the agreement and it was his opinion that the agreement was a legally binding and enforceable contract.

He stated the contract was not ambiguous about the “providing of service to non-Hope Mills residents” as to any fee differential that the Town might ordinarily apply to offset operating cost. He further stated the term of the contract was enforceable through June 30, 2014. The agreement also precludes fees to be charged to Hope Mills residents as well.

17. DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS.

The Board was provided a written report for the month of April, 2008 from the following departments:

- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Sanitation Department
- Inspections
- Parks & Recreation.

18. STAFF COMMENTS.

Town Clerk Connie Spell thanked the Mayor and Board of Commissioners for the opportunity they had given her to be a part of the Town of Hope Mills. She stated it was truly an honor and she looked forward to working with each of them, the staff and the citizens of Hope Mills.

19. OFFICIAL COMMENTS.

The Mayor and Commissioners welcomed the newly appointed Town Attorney John Jackson and Assistant Town Manager/Town Clerk Connie Spell.

The Mayor and Commissioners thanked everyone for attending the meeting. A special thank you was extended to those who spoke during the Public Comment time. The Board thanked the Historic Advisory Committee and the Parks & Recreation Committee for their work and recommendations to honor Mr. Pat Caulder and Mr. Al Brafford.

Commissioner Maynor had concerns with the church that was utilized as a polling place for the recent election. Commissioner Maynor stated the campaign workers and others were denied use of the bathroom facilities. He recommended that the Mayor and management discuss these concerns with the Cumberland County Board of Elections. He stated if people were going to be denied use of the bathroom facilities at the church, he would suggest looking into securing another location as the polling place.

Mayor Dees commented as follows:

1. Thanked everyone for coming and especially thanked those who came in support of Pat Caulder and Al Brafford. Stated Hope Mills would not be what it is today if it were not for those two men and he was glad that they are going to get some recognition they deserve.
2. Thanked all those responsible for helping with the special guest visit from former President Bill Clinton on April 30th. He said he was proud of the employees who worked hard to help coordinate the event and the citizens. He stated workers for the campaign said the Hope Mills event was the most organized and the best attended event of the day.
3. Thanked everyone for helping make VFW Loyalty Day and the National Day of Prayer successful events.
4. Extended special belated Happy Mother's Day wishes to Commissioner Luther and Commissioner Warner and to all the mothers present.
5. Stated he had attended a couple of Senior citizens events this month, one at Campbellton Nursing Home on Legion Road and one at South View High School. He reminded everyone that May is Older Americans Month.

6. Thanked Chief Hodges, officers Lee Sumners and Mark Phillips for representing the town at the Police Officers memorial in Rocky Mount on May 9th. He also thanked these men and Officer Matt Jean for representing the town at the National Police Officers Memorial ceremony in Washington DC last week.
7. Thanked Town Manager Randy Beeman and Finance Director Jeff Saleeby for all their hard work on the budget. He stated he knew both have worked many hours on this and he wanted them to know how much it is appreciated.
8. Reminded everyone that Monday, May 26th Memorial Day is a town holiday and the Town Hall will be closed and there will be no garbage pickup.
9. Reminded everyone that a special meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, May 21, 2008.

20. ADJOURNMENT.

At 9:31 p.m., upon a motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Luther and unanimously carried the meeting was adjourned.

Eddie Dees, Mayor

Connie F. Spell, MMC, Town Clerk