

**REGULAR MEETING, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2006**

The regular meeting of the Hope Mills Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Dees. Commissioners Gorman, Legge, Luther, Smith, and Collins were present.

Others present were Town Manager Roy Taylor, Town Attorney William R. Davis, Fire Chief Chuck Hodges, Public Works Director Bruce McLaurin, Parks and Recreation Director Anita Kilgore, and Police Chief John Hodges.

Rev. Ron Godbolt, Christ Gospel Church, gave the invocation, and Mayor Pro Tem Gorman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA.**

Mayor Dees stated he would like to add to the regular agenda an update on the lake/spillway project and update on the website development.

Commissioner Legge commented that he was expecting information on some ordinance amendments which should have been on the agenda.

**Commissioner Legge made a motion to add the items to the agenda as requested. Commissioner Luther seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

2. **UPDATE ON THE HOPE MILLS LAKE/DAM PROJECT.**

Mr. Taylor reported that there was no construction or planning update at this point as the plans were still in the office of Dam Safety awaiting approval. He said it was his understanding that the engineers were working on the flood plain mapping and everything was undergoing review.

Mayor Dees commented that FEMA had been contacted regarding some possible additional funding, and there was a possibility that the lake bed would be cleared by the Department of Correction.

Mr. Taylor confirmed that he was working with the Department of Correction and this work was hopefully scheduled within the next couple of weeks, with a tentative start date of February 10<sup>th</sup>. He stated he would advise the Board as soon as he knew something definite on this project.

3. **MAYORAL PROCLAMATION: "TOWN OF HOPE MILLS PLATFORM FOR STRENGTHENING FAMILIES."**

Mayor Dees read the proclamation and urged all citizens to give assistance and support in every possible way to the youth of the community and to further acknowledge youth contributions in the development of good leadership for tomorrow.

Mayor Dees announced that he had selected students from all of the four high schools in the greater Hope Mills area to serve on the Mayor's Youth Council, and recognized members of the Youth Council present at the Board meeting.

For informational purposes, Mayor Dees distributed a list of the students who had been selected to serve on the Mayor's Youth Council.

**Mayor's Youth Advisory Council**

Inspiring youth by guiding them to take an active role in their local government - that is the foundation of the Hope Mills Mayor's Youth Council. This civic education oriented program is for interested young people from the greater Hope Mills area. The group will plan and implement community projects including a Teen Town Hall and Student Government Day.

By serving as a member of MYAC, youth of the community will have the unique opportunity to express their views and share their

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ideas on a variety of youth related issues with the Mayor and other city leaders. This will provide an excellent chance for students to become directly involved with town government. Members of this group may occasionally be appointed as representatives to standing adult committees and their view points will be considered in planning for town policies and activities.

### **Members Appointed January, 2006**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>School</u></b>
Andrea Alfano	South View High
Alexis Board	South View High
Karla Capacetti	South View High
Latoria Elliott	South View High
Liza Howle	South View High
Alicia Jones	South View High
Gretchen McLean	Douglas Byrd High
Anna McNeill	Jack Britt High
Courtney Myrick	Grays Creek High
Lindsey Roberts	South View High
Whitney Sirois	South View High
Brittany Starling	Jack Britt High
Allie Tarrant	South View High
Shaina Updyke	Douglas Byrd High
Felicia Vazquez	South View High

4. **PRESENTATION** BY VFW POST 10630 - 2006 FIREFIGHTER AND LAW ENFORCEMENT GOLD MEDAL AWARD.

Commander Bryce Swindle, VFW Post 10630, presented a Certificate of Award to Police Officer David Servie, along with a Certificate of Award to Firefighter Terry Cashwell for being selected 2006 Firefighter and Law Enforcement Officer Gold Medal Award winners.

Mayor Pro-Tem Gorman asked for a standing ovation to recognize these two outstanding employees.

5. **PRESENTATION**: TOWN OF HOPE MILLS HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN (PRELIMINARY REVIEW) MS. DENISE SYKES, CUMBERLAND COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING.

Mr. Taylor reported that the documents presented for Board review were a portion of the Cumberland County Multi- Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. He reported that in late 2001 and early 2002, Hope Mills joined with Cumberland County and other municipalities to formulate this plan which was a statutory requirement of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. Mr. Taylor stated that basically this plan was required to be adopted by each governing body, reviewed each year, and updated every five years in order to be considered eligible for any state and or federal disaster grant funding, should a disaster occur in Hope Mills. Mr. Taylor stated that the review was preliminary, and the public hearing would be set for the Board's March 6, 2006 regular meeting, and at that meeting, it was anticipated the plan would be approved and formally adopted.

Mr. Taylor noted that the plan took stock of municipal inventory, identified flood prone areas, and established goals and courses of action the town should take to further alleviate damage to property and possible loss of life. Mr. Taylor stated due to the mandate and the importance of developing this plan, he recommended the Board study the document in preparation for the upcoming public hearing in March.

Mr. Taylor remarked Ms. Denise Sykes, a Planner with Cumberland County Comprehensive Planning, had been the major effort coordinator in compiling this document.

Ms. Denise Sykes asked the Town Board to review the plan, and set a public hearing for

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its adoption on March 6<sup>th</sup>. She stated all data provided was as of January 1, 2003, and the plan would be updated every five years.

In response to a question from Commissioner Legge, Ms. Sykes stated that FEMA had given tentative approval, and the next step was to get the plan adopted by all jurisdictions.

In response to a question from Commissioner Legge regarding any changes to the plan, Ms. Sykes said that the plan would include the new flood maps.

### **6. ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NATASHIA McCANTS, DEPUTY TOWN CLERK.**

Mayor Dees introduced Ms. McCants' family members, and administered the Oath of Office to Natasha McCants as Deputy Town Clerk.

The Board congratulated Ms. McCants, and Commissioner Legge remarked it had been a pleasure to work with Natasha and she was a very pleasant and positive person and he was very proud of her.

### **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

There were none.

Mayor Dees noted a memo from the Town Clerk relative to suggesting the Board develop a policy for the public comments portion of the agenda. Mayor Dees commented that the new law went into effect June, 2005, which did not allow municipalities to place restrictions on who could speak at a public meeting, (i.e. must be town resident and/or business owner).

### **8. CONSENT AGENDA:**

Mayor Dees presented the consent agenda, and asked if there were any items that needed to be moved to the regular agenda for discussion.

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

#### **A) Consideration to approve Minutes of the January 5, 2006 Special Meeting (Board Workshop) and January 17, 2006 Regular Meeting.**

**Minutes approved as written.**

#### **B) Consideration to unseal portions of Closed Session Minutes (Sealed); February 7, 2005 (Discussion #1 and Discussion #2) and February 22, 2005. (These Minutes approved by Board on June 20, 2005).**

Mrs. Register reported that pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners on June 6, 2005 the Closed Session Minutes are to be reviewed periodically by the Town Attorney and Town Clerk who shall make a recommendation to the Board regarding the unsealing of minutes or a portion thereof. Mrs. Register reported that matters relating to the subject minutes had been acted on in open session and she and the Town Attorney recommended that the Board authorize the unsealing of the Closed Session minutes as noted.

**Authorized unsealing Closed Session Minutes (sealed).**

#### **C) Consideration of request from Mid-Carolina Council of Governments Board of Directors to appoint Mr. Edwin S. Deaver as Ex-Officio member to the Fort Bragg/Pope Air Force Base Regional Land Use Advisory Commission.**

Mr. Jim Caldwell, Executive Director, Mid-Carolina Council of Governments submitted a request for the Board's consideration to appoint or designate Mr. Edwin S. Deaver as a non-

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voting member of the Fort Bragg/Pope Air Force Base Regional Land Use Advisory Commission. Mr. Caldwell noted that such an appointment was authorized in accordance with the bylaws of RULAC. Further, Mr. Caldwell noted that Mr. Deaver had previously served as a member of RULAC, and he was willing to serve if appointed. In addition, Mr. Caldwell noted that Mr. Deaver had previously served as a member and past chair of RULAC, and was currently involved with BRAC. Mr. Caldwell stated that Mr. Deaver was a member of the Military Affairs Council and served as a member of the Veteran Affairs Committee for Congressman Robin Hayes and Congressman Mike McIntyre. It was also noted that Mr. Deaver had been recently appointed by Mayor Dees as Military Liaison to Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base for the Town of Hope Mills.

**Mr. Deaver appointed Ex-Officio RULAC.**

**D) Consideration to authorize expenditure of funds from Police Department drug forfeiture account.**

Mr. Taylor reported that he had been working with Chief Hodges and his staff to create more office and interview space within the Police Department, and Chief Hodges proposed the construction of a wall with a door to divide the squad room which would provide space for the interview room. Mr. Taylor noted there would be furniture to be replaced, and the old interview room would become the Sergeant's Office. In addition, Mr. Taylor stated that they also proposed placement of new carpet in the Sergeant's Office. Mr. Taylor stated that the furniture, chairs, carpet, and the construction materials required were estimated to be no more than \$6,000.00, and since these changes were unanticipated in the current budget, the Chief requested Board approval to accomplish this using drug forfeiture money.

Mr. Taylor recommended, along with Chief Hodges, that this request be approved so that this project could be accomplished as soon as possible. Mr. Taylor stated that the carpet laying, wall/door construction, and painting would be done by town staff, and there were no electric or plumbing issues involved.

**Authorized expenditure of drug forfeiture funds.**

**E) Consideration to adopt Resolution accepting report of unpaid taxes from the current fiscal year and authorizing the Tax Collector to advertise the tax liens.**

Mr. Aaron Donaldson Tax Administrator, reported that NCGS 105-369 required the Tax Collector to report unpaid taxes for municipalities for the current fiscal year that were liens on real property by the second Monday in February. Mr. Donaldson stated that the purpose of the reporting was to allow the Town Board to order the Tax Collector to advertise the liens, and upon receipt of the Board's directive, he would advertise the tax liens by publishing each lien at least one time in one or more local newspapers having general circulation in the county. Mr. Donaldson reported that the statute required that advertisement period occur during the period of March 1 - June 30, and it was his intention to deliver the list of delinquent taxes to the newspaper in the latter part of March for advertisement in April.

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

WHEREAS, N. C. General Statute 105-369 requires the Tax Collector to report unpaid taxes for the current fiscal year that are liens on real property by the second Monday in February; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the reporting is to allow the Board of Commissioners to order the Tax Collector to advertise the tax

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liens; and

WHEREAS, upon receipt of the Order of the Board of Commissioners, the Tax Collector will advertise the tax liens by posting notice at the Town Hall, or by publishing each lien at least one time in one or more newspapers having general circulation in Cumberland County; and

WHEREAS, the N. C. General Statute requires that the advertisement period occur during the period of March 1st through June 30th; and

WHEREAS, the uncollected ad valorem taxes and fees for the Town of Hope Mills that are delinquent and a lien on real estate as of January 19, 2006 is \$139,509.31.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS that the report from the Cumberland County Tax Administrator of unpaid taxes for the current fiscal year that are liens on real property is hereby accepted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cumberland County Tax Collector is hereby charged to advertise the tax liens pursuant to the N. C. General Statutes.

ADOPTED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2006.

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EDDIE DEES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Phyllis C. Register, MMC, Town Clerk

**Resolution adopted.**

**"END CONSENT AGENDA"**

9. CONSIDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR GRANT RESEARCH/WRITER.

Mr. Taylor presented a draft agreement and resume for Ms. Angela M. Connor, a town resident, who had expressed a desire to assist the town in securing available grants the town may have need for. Mr. Taylor stated that currently the town did not have any staff member dedicated to searching for and preparing grant submission, and that staff members that did devote time and applying for such funding did not have the capability or expertise to assemble required information to be considered viable competitors in applying for and securing grant funding for projects. Mr. Taylor stated at this point and time when grant dollars were fewer and the demand for them was greater, to be successful, submitting a polished and professional product was required.

Mr. Taylor indicated that Ms. Connor preferred to work as a contractor for the town based on hourly rates in lieu of traditional percentages of monies secured, and she would be paid for work accomplished whether or not a particular grant submission was approved or denied. He stated Ms. Connor's rates varied from \$75.00 to \$120.00 per hour. Mr. Taylor noted that depending on the amount of the secured grant, being paid a percentage could mean much more money, however, she felt that an hourly rate was fair for her and the town. Mr. Taylor pointed out that most grant awards came in some form of matching funding split, and depending on the size of any particular grant, the town must be prepared to match anywhere from 10% to 20%, and some times more.

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Mr. Taylor stated if the Board approved this agreement for Ms. Connor's services, she would work closely with department heads to determine goals and needs for the town. Mr. Taylor stated that Ms. Connor would be asked to seek funding that fit well with the goals of the town in the hopes of success, and he would require staff to be very prudent in their request for Ms. Connor's assistance and to work with Ms. Connor in determining the best and most reasonable grant funding to be applied for. Further, Mr. Taylor noted that this process would allow employees to continue doing their primary jobs while assisting Ms. Connor when necessary.

Mr. Taylor recommended the Board approve the professional services agreement with Angela Connor.

Commissioner Smith said he had some questions regarding the hourly range that was quoted instead of a set rate. Mr. Taylor stated that some projects were more complicated and detailed and that was why Ms. Connor had submitted an hourly range.

Commissioner Luther said that she could not see the hourly range plus other expenses, and asked if staff had contacted anyone else for a quote. Mr. Taylor confirmed that staff had contacted others, and most grant writers obtained a percentage basis as their fee. Commissioner Luther expressed concerns if the town was really in a position at this time to enter into this type of agreement, especially in lieu of matching funding that would be required if the town was successful with any grants. Commissioner Luther stated the town was facing a lot of costs relative to the restoration of the dam, the new recreation center, and asked if the town was really in a position now to move forward with this. Mr. Taylor responded that staff would make sure that the project was workable before proceeding with any grant application, and only the grants that the town felt would be obtainable would be applied for.

Mayor Dees posed the question of the success rate of Ms. Connor securing grants. A brief discussion ensued, and Mr. Taylor basically stated that the town would be paying for her expertise.

Commissioner Gorman asked how would the town know the number of hours that was actually required to prepare a grant for submission, and Mr. Taylor stated that Ms. Connor would submit an itemized statement of all time and costs involved.

Commissioner Legge stated he had some problems with a fee range and also concerns that this was a non-budgeted item.

**Commissioner Legge made a motion to table this matter for additional discussion and information. Commissioner Luther seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

### 10. CONSIDERATION OF FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER PROPOSAL FOR WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT.

Mayor Dees reviewed the following website proposal as submitted by the Fayetteville Observer:

#### **Website development**

- The Observer will develop a website for The Town of Hope Mills at no charge to the town.
- The Observer will work with the town in planning, maintaining and updating the website.
- The Observer will handle maintenance requests from the town in accordance with normal maintenance procedure, which is a 3 day turnaround.
- In areas requiring a faster turn around, The Observer will work with Town officials to identify Town personnel that can access and update sections of the website. The Observer will provide training for this.

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- The Observer will make every effort to ensure fast turnaround in emergency situations.
- The Town will have final approval on all design, sponsorships and content.

### **Website sponsorships**

- In order to recoup costs for development, training, maintenance and monthly fees associated with hosting the site, The Observer reserves the right to sell sponsorships on the Town website. Prior to implementing any sponsorship sales plan, The Observer will clear all details through the Town.

Mayor Dees reported that the sales department had some problems with how to sell sponsorships for the town, therefore, Mr. Bius spoke with Mr. Charles Broadwell, Publisher, and Mr. Broadwell said he would like to do this for the town at no charge as a public service, but reserved the right to sell sponsorships in the future. Mayor Dees stated that the Observer had no plans to sell sponsorships at this time however.

Mayor Dees stated the Observer asked that the town draft and execute the contract and deliver to them. Further, Mayor Dees commented Mr. Bius had Mr. Broadwell's guarantee to sponsor the website for free contingent on a contract renewable annually. Mayor Dees said he was very impressed with this generous offer, and asked the Board to accept the proposal, authorize the Attorney to draft the contract, and authorize Mr. Taylor to sign the contract on behalf of the town. Additionally, Mayor Dees stated that the Observer said upon execution of the contract, they would begin immediately on website development.

In response to a question from Commissioner Gorman, Mayor Dees stated that the Observer had verbally said this would be a one year contract renewable annually.

Commissioner Luther asked if there would be any problem with the contract the town had with the other company and could it be voided immediately. Mayor Dees stated it was his understanding that this was an open ended contract and it could be canceled.

**Commissioner Collins made a motion to authorize the Fayetteville Observer to develop the Town's website and to accept their proposal, authorize the Town Attorney to draft the contract, and authorize the Manager to sign the contract on behalf of the Town. Commissioner Gorman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

### 11. INFORMATION ITEMS:

- a) Hope Mills Cemetery.

Mr. Taylor provided a copy of the recorded deed transferring ownership of the Hope Mills Cemetery to the Town for the Board's information. Mr. Taylor reported that during the next week, he planned to set up a time and date for a meeting between Town staff and Mr. Franklin Faulkner, Trustee, to finalize the transfer of accounts for the perpetual care of the cemetery. Mr. Taylor stated that when the discussion ended, he would inform the Board as to the amount and how the Town would account for these funds on an ongoing basis.

- b) Hope Mills Cultural Resources Grant.

Mr. Taylor provided information as a result of e-mail correspondence with Ms. Donna Rosefield, Cultural Resources in Raleigh, and stated that basically the request for the preservation and enhancement of the cemetery would fall within the parameters of the grant, however, the request to frame and install photographs and information on all previous Hope Mills Mayors did not meet the intended goal of historic preservation of the Town.

In response to a question from Mayor Dees, Mr. Taylor said there was no time limit at this time on the grant, and Mayor Dees commented that he did not want the Town to lose this money.

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Mayor Dees noted that since the framing of the pictures of former Mayors would not be an approved use of these funds, then he stated the Board would need to approve a different funding source for this project.

**Commissioner Gorman made a motion to proceed with the framing of the pictures of the former Mayors. Commissioner Smith seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

### 12. OLD BUSINESS:

- a) Ordinance Amendments - Town Committees, Commissioners, and Board Established (clarification of membership, residency requirements, etc.)

Mayor Dees commented that it was important for the Board to make some decisions in preparation of formalizing its committee appointments:

1. Residency requirements.
2. Clarifying policy on applicants permitted to only serve on one committee at a time.

Mayor Dees stated it was his opinion that the Board must be consistent with its policies and if it allowed non-residents on one committee, then it should allow non-residents on all committees, and if not, then none.

Commissioner Luther remarked that personally she would like to see the voting members be residents as these were the ones that were paying town taxes, and if members were non-residents, then she thought they should be a non-voting member.

Mayor Dees commented that he could see certain non-resident members serving on a committee due to their expertise in a certain area, but that they should not vote.

Commissioner Gorman stated that he felt the committee members should be residents, and thought the Board should decide one way or the other.

**Commissioner Luther made a motion that all committees would be composed of residents only with voting status, and all non-residents or liaison members would have non-voting status. Commissioner Collins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

Commissioner Legge expressed concerns if a committee had liaison members and they were residents and did not have the right to vote. He said he could concur if the liaison members were non-residents and had no vote.

Commissioner Luther stated it was her idea that the Board was trying to get away from any conflicts, and all committee members were invited to bring their ideas to the committees for discussion. A brief discussion ensued, and a clarification was offered that the motion stood as stated.

Commissioner Gorman stated that he thought it was a good option to allow residents to serve on more than one committee at a time.

Mayor Dees stated that there were some retired citizens that had the time to serve on more than one committee.

Commissioner Smith asked if there had been a problem in the past with this. Following brief discussion, Attorney Davis said basically the Board should adopt a policy that it no longer limited people serving on only one committee at a time.

**Commissioner Luther made a motion to allow residents to serve on more than one**

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**committee. Commissioner Smith seconded, and motion carried unanimously.**

On another matter, Mayor Dees stated it was his understanding there were other ordinance amendments that the Board had discussed that were to be brought to the Board at this meeting; wrecker towing fees, personnel ordinance relative to employment of relatives, smoking policy, and terms of office for elected officials. Mayor Dees asked when the Board could expect these for review, and asked if staff needed further direction in this matter.

Mr. Taylor stated it was his understanding that at this point priority should be placed on the ordinance amendments relative to committees. He stated that the personnel ordinance, the smoking ordinance, wrecker towing fees, cemetery, would be fairly simple to draft and present to the Board, however, the terms of office was a legislative issue. Mr. Taylor said he was hopeful to have these for the Board at its next meeting in February.

Commissioner Legge commented that he still had concerns regarding resident liaison committee members not being allowed to vote. Mayor Dees stated if a liaison member was a resident, then they could apply as a regular member and have voting status and the organization that they originally represented could appoint someone else to serve as liaison.

b) Upcoming Lease Renewal consideration for Bragg Mutual Credit Union.

Mr. Taylor reported as directed by the Board he and Mr. Stafford had met with Ms. Jean Stultz, Bragg Mutual Federal Credit Union, to discuss the renewal of their lease with the Town which ends on February 28, 2006.

Mr. Taylor stated the town recognized Bragg Mutual as a good tenant, and they had been well managed and professional in keeping with the governmental environment. Further, he commented that the credit union had not made any demands upon the town during their tenancy, and the town and the credit union had quietly enjoyed and respected each others presence in the building.

Mr. Taylor stated that Bragg Mutual paid a monthly rent to the Town of \$900.00, and the Town provided utilities. He stated that Bragg Mutual had shared the cost with the Town in the design, construction, and installation of the entrance sign from Rockfish Road, and Bragg Mutual was also sharing the cost of upgrading repairs to the Diebold drive-thru teller window.

Mr. Taylor noted in an informal canvass of real estate appraisers (Cumberland County Tax Assessor and independent realtors that specialize in office space), the overall consensus was that the Town was doing very well on the arrangement. He stated that office space, as opposed to commercial or retail space, did not generate the same amounts of rent. Mr. Taylor stated that apparently office rents range upward from one dollar per square foot, in most places including utilities, but highly dependant on the same factors used to determine value in commercial. Mr. Taylor stated values to be considered were prime location, traffic counts, visibility from the main road, parking, and surrounding demographics.

Mr. Taylor reported that the Bragg Mutual Federal Credit Union was willing to do the following to remain a tenant:

- Extend the current lease agreement to the end of this fiscal year (June 30, 2006);
- Renew the lease on July 1, 2006 to coincide with the fiscal year accounting (run the term of the lease agreement from fiscal year to fiscal year, renewable annually);
- Rent amount remain at \$900.00 per month;
- Include an "early-out" option to notify of intent to terminate lease by either party (either 30, 45, 60, or 90 days notice)

Mr. Taylor reported that all other provisions of the lease would remain unchanged.

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Commissioner Luther remarked that the credit union had paid the same rent for the past five years and further the town was furnishing all utilities, parking, alarm system, etc. Commissioner Luther expressed concerns why the town would be sharing costs to repair a teller window. Commissioner Luther stated that the outside Sprint tower rented for \$1,200.00 a month, and the inside office space was only renting for \$900.00 a month.

Commissioner Collins stated he felt the rent needed to be raised.

Commissioner Gorman stated that he agreed that the rent should be increased now, and suggested \$100.00 to \$150.00 a month because utility costs were increasing more each year.

Mayor Dees asked if the Town could use this space as additional office space, and Mr. Taylor stated that the space could be used, or it could be rented out.

Commissioner Collins stated that he knew of another company in town who had expressed an interest in renting this office space.

Commissioner Legge commented that he felt that the space could be used by the Town Hall, and agreed that the rent should be raised due to the cost of utilities increasing.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the terms of the proposed lease renewal.

Mayor Dees commented if the Board felt that more rent would be required and if the credit union chose to leave, then the town should give them time enough to find another location.

Commissioner Luther stated this was an inside facility and she felt that they should pay the same rent as outside space rented. She stated if they would not agree with these terms, then they should find another location.

**Commissioner Legge made a motion to increase the lease by \$100.00 a month, and if the credit union did not agree with these terms, then give them 60 days to find another location, and this lease extension would be through June, 2006. Commissioner Gorman seconded the motion.**

Following additional discussion, Mayor Dees suggested renegotiating the contract at the end of April.

Commissioner Collins stated he would like to set the rent now and finalize the matter and stated he thought it should be increased between \$300.00 to \$500.00 a month.

**The vote on the motion was as follows:**

**Ayes: Commissioner Legge, Commissioner Gorman, Commissioner Luther, and Commissioner Smith**

**Noes: Commissioner Collins**

### 13. WORKSHOP TOPICS:

a) Police Department motorcycle lease.

Commissioner Legge stated that he had requested discussion regarding the possibility of leasing motorcycles for the Police Department, and asked if there was any information available.

Police Chief Hodges stated that he had contacted Harley Davidson as well as Kawasaki, and they reported they had never heard of a program leasing motorcycles for \$1.00 a year.

Mr. Taylor briefly reviewed information he had obtained from the City of Fayetteville

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relative to leasing motorcycles and stated that the county purchased its motorcycles. Basically, Mr. Taylor stated it would cost \$10,000.00 per motorcycle for a lease.

Commissioner Luther suggested that the Town table this matter at this time.

Commissioner Legge commented that he felt that motorcycles would help speed up response time to calls, and he would like to reserve the right to discuss this again in the future.

### b) Spirit "Pride" Items.

Mayor Dees commented that he would like the town to have apparel items with the town logo, i.e. tee shirts, caps, jackets, for sale in Town Hall as well as at various events. He stated this would be an opportunity for people to purchase an item with the town logo in order to show their pride. Mayor Dees suggested that the money from proceeds of the sale of these items be earmarked for historical purposes.

Commissioner Smith stated that he felt this was a good idea, and the town could advertise this on its website as well.

Mayor Dees commented that he was hopeful that perhaps some of the businesses could sell these items as well.

**Commissioner Smith made a motion to authorize the sale of pride items with the funds being earmarked for historical purposes. Commissioner Collins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

## 14. STAFF CONCERNS.

Mr. Taylor reported as follows:

1. Stated he would be attending video interviews on February 9<sup>th</sup> for the new County Planning Director, and stated he felt this was a cooperative effort with the county.
2. Stated that BRAC discussions were continuing and there would be a meeting next week in Spring Lake.
3. Stated that he was proceeding with interviews for various position openings, and informed the Board that Mrs. Kimberly Foust had resigned effective February 17<sup>th</sup> in order to devote more time to her husband's business and devote more time to her family. Mr. Taylor stated he was saddened by this decision, however, he supported Mrs. Foust in this decision and very much appreciated all the assistance she provided to him and to the town, and she would be greatly missed.

## 15. OFFICIAL CONCERNS.

Commissioner Luther thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and said she greatly appreciated everyone's interest in what was going on in the town. She asked that the citizens give her a call with their ideas and she was open to all citizens. In addition she stated that the town needed volunteers and that was what made the town what it was.

Commissioner Smith commented as follows:

1. Thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
2. Congratulated Natasha McCants, and Police Officer Servie and Firefighter Cashwell on their awards. He stated it was good to recognize employees.
3. Stated he would be attending the Essentials of Municipal Government School in Asheville Wednesday - Friday.

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Commissioner Gorman commented as follows:

1. Stated he also would be attending the school in Asheville and there was a lot of good information to be obtained at these schools.
2. Congratulated Ms. McCants on the Deputy Clerk position and stated this was a promotion well deserved.
3. Stated he was looking forward to hearing the ideas from the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council.
4. Stated he was very glad to see that progress was going to be made on the development of the Town's website, and he looked forward to getting some good information out to the citizens.
5. Stated that there was a hole near the railroad tracks on Johnson Street that needed attention.

Mr. Taylor stated that the railroad had not coordinated its work with the town. He stated that the town needed some hot asphalt to do this repair work, and staff was working with the railroad to determine when the project would be completed. He said that the town had received numerous complaints about this area.

Commissioner Legge commented as follows:

1. Thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
2. Congratulated the Youth Council on their appointment by Mayor Dees, and stated the Youth Council would be good for the area youths.
3. Congratulated Natasha McCants, Police Officer Servie, and Firefighter Cashwell, and stated he was very pleased with these employees.
4. Inquired regarding the status of the speed bumps on Labonte Street.
5. Suggested the town may want to consider placing magnets under the bumpers of trucks to pick up nails, screws, etc. in the streets, and suggested tightening restrictions for better maintenance of truck loads.

Commissioner Collins asked when the town audit was going to be completed. He said he had spoken to Raleigh and the auditors, and the town could not borrow any money without an audit. Commissioner Collins said this must be done.

Mr. Taylor reported that he would be meeting with the auditors and the Audit Committee next week.

Mayor Dees commented as follows:

1. Expressed condolences to the Jim McLean family. He stated that discussions were ongoing relative to ways to honor Mr. McLean, and he would be missed.
2. Reminded everyone that the Senior Citizens Valentine's party would be on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Youth Association building at Brower Park.
3. Stated he was excited about the Youth Council and the great response he had received. He said he would be meeting with the Youth Council soon.

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4. Reported he would be meeting with the CEO of Cape Fear Valley Medical Center to discuss the need for primary care physicians for the Hope Mills area.
5. Stated that on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m., at the Hope Mills Police Department, there would be a swearing in ceremony for the new Police Captain.
6. Asked the Commissioners to volunteer to serve on an Applications Review Committee and asked that they meet sometime during the week of February 13-17, in preparation of making committee appointments at the February 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting.

Mayor Dees asked Commissioner Luther and Commissioner Smith to serve together; Commissioner Gorman and the Mayor serve together; and Commissioner Collins and Commissioner Legge serve together. He asked that everyone look over the committee applications and be prepared to come back with recommendations.

7. Congratulated Natasha McCants on the Deputy Clerk position, and expressed appreciation to Police Officer Servie and Firefighter Cashwell and said he was very proud of their accomplishments.
8. Stated that the Board needed to establish another workshop date, and asked that the Board be prepared to discuss this at its next meeting.
9. Stated that the next regular Board meeting would be Tuesday, February 21, 2006.

Commissioner Luther commented that she understood there was a new doctor coming to Hope Mills in March.

16. ADJOURNMENT.

At 9:30 p.m., upon a motion by Commissioner Legge, seconded by Commissioner Collins and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

EDDIE DEES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Phyllis C. Register, MMC, Town Clerk