

**TOWN OF HOPE MILLS
CLOSED SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 20, 2015**

Mayor Warner called the Closed Session to order at 9:20 p.m.

Mayor Jackie Warner, Mayor Pro Tem Bob Gorman, Commissioners Pat Edwards, Bryan Marley, Edwin Deaver and Jerry Legge were present.

Others present were Town Manager John W. Ellis, III, Town Clerk Melissa Adams and Town Attorney T.C. Morphis.

PURPOSE: Closed Session was called pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3) to consult with the attorney and maintain the attorney-client privilege and NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6) to discuss personnel Matters.

Item 1.

Redacted.

Item 2.

Town Manager John Ellis announced that he had recently had a surprise visit from Neil Smith. Mr. Smith had let him know that he would not be as cordial about the lake level as he was previously. Mayor Warner remarked that if the land had previously been under water or in the flood area and had been for 100 years, she does not understand why Mr. Smith would have an issue. Town Attorney T.C. Morphis remarked that on the deed to the lake that we have a metes and bounds description for the lake, but there is no map. Mr. Morphis informed the Board that he has asked Mark Landis to plot out the legal description onto a map. Mayor Warner remarked that possibly Wilbur Dees may have a map.

Item 3.

Mr. Morphis began discussion concerning the attorney fees within the budget for the dam. Mr. Morphis asked for guidance from the Board concerning what he should be authorized to do concerning the work related to the dam and researching. Discussion among the Board members was to have Mr. Morphis work within the amount in the FY 2015-2016 Budget with a consensus of the Board to transfer \$19,000.00 from attorney fees general fund to legal and admin fees in the dam project fund. A motion will be made in open session to make this transfer of funds. Discussion pursued among the Board in reference to the costs for Kevin Lugo and instructed the Town Manager to keep close watch on the budget.

Item. 4.

Town Manager Ellis spoke concerning the letter from Brooks, Peirce, Attorneys at Law concerning Sweepstakes Privilege License Fees that were charged in FY 2012-2013 for Palace Sweepstakes. Mr. Morphis commented he has not done any research on this as yet, and reviewed available options for the Board. Consensus of the Board is to just wait and not respond at this time.

Item 5.

There was a brief discussion concerning the letter from Terry Hutchens concerning the Fox Meadow Stormwater retention pond issue. After discussion by the Board, the consensus of the Board is to not respond to the letter at this time.

Mayor Warner closed the session at 10:29 p.m. The consensus was to not take any action at this time.

JACKIE WARNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Melissa P. Adams, MMC Town Clerk