

**TOWN OF HOPE MILLS
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2018 6:00 P.M.
WILLIAM “BILL” LUTHER, JR. & DORIS LUTHER MEETING ROOM**

Mayor Jackie Warner called the Special Meeting of the Hope Mills Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at 6:01 p.m.

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Jackie Warner, Mayor Pro Tem Mike Mitchell, Commissioners Jessie Bellflowers, Meg Larson and Jerry Legge.

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Commissioner Pat Edwards.

STAFF PRESENT

Town Manager Melissa Adams, Admin Assistant/Acting Deputy Town Clerk Tiffany Gillstedt, Parks & Recreation Director Kenny Bullock, Deputy Public Works Director Don Sisko, Police Chief Joel Acciardo and Town Attorney Dan Hartzog, Jr.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was led by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Mitchell, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Jackie Warner.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Motion made by Commissioner Bellflowers, seconded by Commissioner Larson and carried unanimously, to approve the agenda as presented.

2. Discussion of the Board of Commissioners elected roles, Rules of Procedure and decorum during meetings.

Commissioner Larson commented when first elected, she contacted Planning & Development Administrator Chancer McLaughlin in regard to a zoning case and quickly learned not to address staff directly. Commissioner Larson felt her opinion was challenged during recent Board of Commissioners meetings when discussing the Lake Park.

Commissioner Larson expressed her concern for the Board not being privy to information and tours concerning future development of the Lake Park. Commissioner Larson referenced Rule 20 from the Rules of Procedure regarding a presiding officer being active in debate.

Discussion pursued regarding Mayor Warner and Town Manager Adams touring a local

residents property which is situated along the backside of Little Rockfish Creek and features access to Butler Nature Preserve.

Commissioner Legge inquired the procedure for addressing issues with Town staff. Attorney Hartzog responded the Board must forward their issues to Town Manager Adams so she may direct them to Town staff.

Commissioner Legge expressed his concern for not being up to date on matters taking place within the Town. Mayor Warner responded she did not engage in any conversation regarding development when touring the Nature Preserve. Mayor Warner remarked the personal invitation was to participate in an informative nature walk.

Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell commented the abovementioned resident visited his office to share his vision for the future which involved a Mixed-Use Plan and offered a piece of property off George Owen Road if the Town ever wished to expand.

Commissioner Bellflowers remarked when sharing information with Town Manager Adams, he includes his fellow Board members as he encourages shared response. Commissioner Bellflowers remarked the Board needs to respect their difference of opinions.

Discussion pursued regarding Rule 20 in the Rules of Procedure in which a presiding officer becomes active in debate which may be detrimental to the cause.

Mayor Warner remarked she is passionate about the Town but very knowledgeable of the Rules of Procedure, Rule 20 in particular, and apologized if it was perceived otherwise. Mayor Warner commented on one occasion in the past, she had turned her responsibility over to the Mayor Pro Tem when she had a strong opinion on the matter at hand.

Commissioner Legge inquired what steps the Board needs to take to ensure each member is on the same page. Town Attorney Hartzog responded the Board advocates for the Town and must act in the Town's best interest and use discretion when determining what to share with the entire Board. Attorney Hartzog commented any direction given to Town Manager Adams must be given by the Board as a whole and is best brought up at Board meetings.

Mayor Warner commented according to the Rules of Procedure, each Board member must be given a chance to speak and her role as a facilitator is to ensure each Board member does so.

Commissioner Legge inquired the procedure for the Board to remain up to date on all future businesses coming to Town. Attorney Hartzog responded the Town becomes aware when we receive official notice through the form of zoning requests.

Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell commented Mayor Warner is well aware of decorum as she had

given up the gavel to him twice during his previous terms as Mayor Pro Tem. Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell remarked Town Manager Adams serves the entire Board and is not to be micromanaged.

Town Attorney Hartzog commented Rule 20 in the Rules of Procedure does not prohibit the Mayor from participating in debate.

3. **ADJOURNMENT.**

Motion made by Commissioner Legge, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell and carried unanimously, to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Warner adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Jackie Warner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tiffany Gillstedt
Admin Assistant/Acting Deputy Town Clerk