

**TOWN OF HOPE MILLS
CLOSED SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2019**

Mayor Warner called the Closed Session to order at 8:58 p.m.

Mayor Jackie Warner, Mayor Pro Tem Kenjuana McCray, Commissioners Jessie Bellflowers, Pat Edwards, Jerry Legge and Bryan Marley were present.

Others present were Town Manager Melissa Adams, Town Clerk Jane Starling and Town Attorney Dan Hartzog Jr. Stormwater Administrator Beth Brown joined the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

PURPOSE: Closed Session was called pursuant NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(3) to consult with the Attorney on matters within the attorney-client privilege pertaining to existing litigation with American Uniform Sales, Inc.

Town Clerk Jane Starling indicated she was having difficulty turning on the recording. Town Attorney Dan Hartzog Jr. commented to the Commissioners that his advice is not to record closed session meetings. The last Board of Commissioners insisted on the practice due to later disagreements regarding what was said. Discussion ensued.

Consensus was to discontinue recording closed session Board of Commissioner meetings.

1. Town Attorney Dan Hartzog, Jr. commented he spoke with H. Terry Hutchens, Managing Partner of Hutchens Law Firm on October 10, 2019 and was copied on a letter to Stormwater Administrator Beth Brown related to an agreement for the transfer of the American Uniform Stormwater Infrastructure and Stormwater Easement from American Uniform Sales, Inc. copies were provided to the Commissioners. Stormwater Administrator Beth Brown joined the meeting at 9:05 p.m. and commented that she has reservations related to the acceptance of responsibility for the infrastructure and easement related to the construction of the system. Attorney Hartzog explained that the settlement agreement and mutual release signed by the Town in 2016 is binding and requires the Town to accept. Discussion ensued.

Consensus was to accept the Fox Meadow stormwater systems and allow the Mayor to sign the acceptance.

Mayor Warner closed the session at 9:22 p.m. with no action taken.