
Minutes
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners
March 27, 2001, 7:30 p.m.
Special Meeting: Town Hall Meeting for
Residents in the Town of Hope Mills
Hope Mills Town Hall

PRESENT: **Chairman J. Lee Warren, Jr.**
 Vice Chairman, Breeden Blackwell
 Commissioner Talmage Baggett
 Commissioner Jeannette Council
 Commissioner Kenneth Edge
 Commissioner John T. Henley
 Commissioner Billy R. King
 James Martin, County Manager
 Cliff Spiller, Assistant County Manager
 Amy H. Cannon, Asst. County Manager
 Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
 Barry Warren, Planning Director
 Rhonda C. Raynor, Deputy Clerk

Chairman Warren reconvened the meeting to begin the Public Hearing.

County Manager James Martin advised that the purpose of this meeting was for the Board of Commissioners to receive comment from citizens in the Hope Mills area relative to any issue or concern they wish to bring to the attention of the Board.

SPEAKERS:

1. Brooks Adcock: Noted he was not from the Hope Mills area. He has concerns about property taxes. He suggested cutting the salaries of high-ranking County Officials such as the School Superintendent, Hospital CEO and Register of Deeds. He supports a lottery. He believes annexation should be voluntary. He feels churches should be required to pay taxes on property used for businesses such as daycare centers. Only worship areas and parsonages should be tax exempt.

2. Larry Iverson: He is concerned about recycling in the County. It will take everyone working together, but it must be done. He noted the expense to operate the container sites in the County. There are no container sites in Hope Mills. He is concerned that household waste is collected at the container sites. Private companies should be used to pick up household trash and the container sites should be converted to recycling centers. He noted the Parker container site should be relocated into the Town of Hope Mills as it would be more accessible to County

residents.

3. David Stafford: He is concerned that County Fire Departments are pulling out of mutual aid and the Commissioners are not getting involved. The recent situation could have resulted in a tragedy. He asked to whom the County Fire Chiefs report. He would like to see a Recreation Center in Hope Mills. Each time Hope Mills wants to participate with the County in a recreation project more funds must be committed by Hope Mills residents. He suggested that the County purchase Fantasy Lake and the other half of the golf course that Hope Mills owns 50% of. He would like to see countywide recycling. He would also like to see improvements to the E-911 system in Hope Mills.

4. Phyllis Register: Would like to see countywide recycling.

5. Carlene Miller: The library system is wonderful and she does not want to see any of them closed any time they don't have to be. Children need the libraries to be open and they are particularly needed for home-schooled children. The libraries cater to senior citizens and provide many wonderful programs. She asked that the Commissioners think carefully about cutting library funding.

6. Al Brafford: Make recycling a priority. He also mentioned power needs and the fact that local lakes and streams are not being utilized in this area. He is also concerned about the Town of Cary taking water out of our basin and not returning it.

7. Neil Smith: He shares the sentiments of everyone who has spoken before him. Hope Mills is user friendly. The County needs to be user friendly and needs better utilization of its resources. He noted the dumping of toxic waste into Rockfish Creek. There are many possibilities for parks along the County's waterways but they cannot be accessed. He noted the problems with obtaining present use valuations for properties. The scrutiny is too great and a great deal of work has to be done by the citizen in order to get a piece of property into a present-use valuation. He was told by a tax office employee that when the ruling for a piece of property to go into present-use valuation is 50/50, they are told to rule in favor of the County rather than the property owner. He has a problem with that. He also has a problem with the amount of fees paid to TMA to perform audits and discoveries of unpaid taxes. He wants the County to be user friendly in all ways.

8. Julia Smith: She is concerned with library cutbacks and the elimination of school nurses. Rockfish Elementary and Southview are severely overcrowded. Public transportation is a problem. She would like to see countywide recycling and higher pay for law enforcement officers, especially in Hope Mills.

Chairman Warren thanked everyone that spoke and attended the meeting. He noted the board would take all the suggestions and recommendations and consider them all and work on them. They cannot fix all the problems, but will explore ways to increase services in the areas mentioned. He noted the level of funding for schools has

dramatically increased since 1992. Recycling continues to be something that he hopes they will be able to accomplish. He noted a study was done about the market for recyclables. There may be a need to look at the current market again. He stated the Board will work hard to address all the concerns expressed and they will continue to work with the Hope Mills Town Board.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Deputy Clerk