
Minutes
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners
March 27, 2001, 6:30 p.m.
Special Meeting with Hope Mills Town Board
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
 Members, Hope Mills Town Board
 James Martin, County Manager
 Cliff Spiller, Assistant County Manager
 Amy H. Cannon, Asst. County Manager
 Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
 Barry Warren, Planning Director
 Hope Mills Staff
 Rhonda C. Raynor, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION: Billy R. King

Chairman Warren and Mayor Deaver called their respective Boards to order.

Mayor Deaver thanked Chairman Warren for arranging the joint meeting. He then noted the importance of comprehensive planning and the town's participation in many planning projects. He noted the various groups and commissions he and other board members served on. He noted the positive things resulting from the town's development of their own planning department. He noted several projects the town is currently involved in and appreciates the cooperation Hope Mills receives from the County.

Chairman Warren stated Hope Mills is important to the County just as all the other municipalities are. The Commissioners scheduled these joint meetings during December 2000 to give the board an opportunity to create an open line of discussion that would allow municipalities to bring particular situations to the Commissioners' attention. The Commissioners want to have an open line of communication with its municipalities as they feel it helps to better serve all citizens.

- 1. Update on discussions with the Institute of Government and their assistance in conducting a feasibility study of countywide comprehensive**

planning.

County Manager, James Martin advised the Board of Commissioners asked that the Institute of Government be contacted to perform a feasibility study on countywide comprehensive planning. He noted they want to involve all municipalities in this study process. The Institute has met with the County and the City of Fayetteville. The details of the study are still being worked on. He advised he would make a presentation to the Commissioners of how the plan is to evolve, then the Board will decide if the project is to move forward. The study will look at many of the land use items mentioned by Mayor Deaver but will also look at education, health, and civic life and transportation issues. The areas being looked at will be broader than they have been in the past. If the Commissioners decide to move forward they want Hope Mills to be involved if they would like to be.

Commissioner Edge stated he believes that they must all share the philosophy that what is good for Cumberland County is good for all municipalities and what is good for all municipalities is good for the County. He would encourage everyone to support this effort.

Mr. Martin noted they were not saying that Hope Mills had to rejoin the Joint Planning Board, even though that would be ideal. However, they do want to be able to work together.

Town Commissioner Roy Stallings noted the need to update the 2010 Plan.

Commissioner Baggett noted the fine work done by the Hope Mills Town Board and noted that Cumberland County wants to be partners with them and not competitors. Commissioner Henley noted the need to plan together. The 2030 Plan is now being worked on and it is critical to have adequate feedback. He noted it would be wonderful to have all the municipalities back in the Joint Planning Board. The Commissioners want to have good open discussions with the Hope Mills Board.

Mayor Deaver noted his disappointment that the change in the Municipal Influence Area was done so rapidly. The Hope Mills Board felt the action was in retaliation to their pulling out of the Joint Planning Board.

Town Commissioner Eddie Maynor noted they must work together for the wellbeing of all citizens. He also felt Hope Mills was punished with the change in the MIA.

Chairman Warren stated the perception of the Commissioners' action taken with regard to the MIA may have seemed retaliatory, but it was not. The timing was the problem with the perception of their action on that issue.

Commissioner Baggett stated that if the vote on the MIA issue had come before Hope Mills had pulled out of the Joint Planning Board, he is sure it would have been the same.

Town Commissioner Bill Luther stated he would like to have met with the Commissioners

before the vote on the MIA was taken.

Commissioner Council stated she hoped the members of the Hope Mills Board would feel free to contact her or any Commissioner at any time they feel the need.

Commissioner King stated he would like Hope Mills to reconsider their decision and rejoin the Joint Planning Board. He feels the need for partnership in planning issues.

Commissioner Blackwell stated there is nothing that prevents Cumberland County from doing something different than anyone else in the State. Just because things were done a certain way several years ago does not mean it can't be changed. He would like Hope Mills to list the things that would bring them back into the Joint Planning Board. He does not mean the same Planning Board that they were in before. Things can be different and he feels Hope Mills should keep their independence. There is nothing preventing them from changing the way things are done now. If everyone is not at the table and discussing these issues, everyone loses. He noted the County has a new Planning Director and the Joint Planning Board will soon have new members. The Institute of Government won't choose sides in this study. He believes when all is said and done there will be something good and everyone will be equal partners.

2. Other Matters of Concern.

No other matters were discussed.

The meeting was recessed at 7:20 PM to prepare for the Public Hearing to be held at 7:30 PM.

Deputy Clerk