

MAYOR
Jessie Bellflowers

MAYOR PRO TEM
Hope Page

TOWN MANAGER
Chancer McLaughlin



TOWN BOARD
Cynthia Hamilton
Grilley Mitchell
Bryan Marley
Lisa Tremmel

TOWN CLERK
Ashley Wyatt

TOWN OF HOPE MILLS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Meeting Agenda – January 5, 2026
7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

Mayor Bellflowers called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed those in attendance.

ABSENT: Commissioner Lisa Tremmel

STAFF PRESENT

Town Manager Chancer McLaughlin, Town Clerk Ashley Wyatt, Deputy Town Clerk Coronda Regan, Police Chief Stephen Dollinger, Director of Planning Emily Weidner, Town Planner Xavier Robinson, Public Works Director Don Sisko, Parks and Recreation Director Lamarco Morrison, and Town Attorney Dan Hartzog.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bellflowers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

The agenda was approved by unanimous vote of the board.

OFFICIAL COMMENTS

Town Manager Chancer McLaughlin presented the manager's report, which included:

- A message outlining priority for the new year.
- Introduction of town staff from all departments
- Updates on the NCDOT Golfview/Rockfish Road widening project, which was progressing ahead of schedule
- Information about the town's capital improvement program
- Announcement of the upcoming Hope Mills land use area plan public meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 8th
- Update on the annual lake lowering for required dam maintenance

Commissioner Mitchell asked if the staff information would be posted on the town website, which the Town Manager confirmed it would.

Mayor Bellflowers acknowledged the dedicated town employees who work tirelessly for the community's betterment and thanked the Town Manager for highlighting them.

- Commissioner Mitchell expressed thanks to the community for attending and looked forward to an amazing 2026.
- Commissioner Hamilton thanked everyone for coming and hoped for a prosperous new year.
- Commissioner Marley welcomed everyone and congratulated the officers being promoted.
- Mayor Pro Tem Hope Page thanked everyone, including virtual attendees, and appreciated the department presentations.
- Mayor Bellflowers mentioned the upcoming electronics recycling event on January 10th at Ann Street Landfill, highlighted positive feedback about the benches on the golf course track, and reviewed the schedule for upcoming special meetings.

PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation Recognizing Martin Luther King Jr, Day

Mayor Bellflowers read the proclamation recognizing Monday, January 19, 2026, as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Police Officers Promotions

Officer Kress and Officer Locklear were promoted to Sergeant.

Lake Survey Results Presentation - Lamarco Morrison

Parks and Recreation Director Lamarco Morrison presented the results of the Lake Park master plan survey and public input process:

- The town received 502 responses to the survey over a 30-day period.
- Option 3 of the three design concepts received 46% of votes and was the preferred design.
- Key priorities identified in the survey included safety (85%), permanent restroom facilities (79%), improved parking and traffic flow (70%), shade and comfort (68%), play and recreation features including ADA equipment and a splash pad (65%), and park experience amenities (53%).
- The estimated cost of the project was approximately \$1.5 million, which would be implemented in phases.
- Mr. Morrison explained that funding options would include grants such as PARTF, LWCF, and CDBG.
- The board discussed the importance of grant writing for funding these types of projects.

Commissioner Mitchell emphasized the importance of moving forward with the project rather than "kicking it down the road."

Commissioner Hamilton inquired about matching grants, and Mr. Morrison explained there were ways to match grants with other grants.

Commissioner Marley requested that Morrison bring a formal recommendation to a future meeting for the board to vote on.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ron Gosniak commented on the need for barriers around trash cans at the golf course to prevent them from being knocked over by wind. He also inquired whether the town had recovered funds

from what he alleged was a fraudulent contract. Town Manager McLaughlin responded that the town would have the parks and recreation department look into the matter.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included:

Approval of minutes from December 15, 2025 Special and Regular meetings

Resolution R2026-001 fixing date of public hearing for annexation

Resolution R2026-002 accepting streets in Valley End Phase 3

Budget Amendment #16 for the Police Department

Committee appointment of Dr. Kenjuana McCray

Approval of 2026 meeting schedules for various committees

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented was made by Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Page, and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration and Approval of Budget Amendment #16 for the Police Department

Police Chief Dollinger presented Budget Amendment #16 for \$26,750 using asset forfeiture funds.

Commissioner Hamilton asked questions about the authorized uses of forfeiture funds and sought clarification on travel costs mentioned in the background information.

Chief Dollinger explained that the travel costs were for speakers, not officers, and provided information on appropriate uses of forfeiture funds.

Mayor Bellflowers noted that using forfeiture funds saved money in the department's operating budget.

Chief Dollinger mentioned that over the past two years, the department saved approximately \$200,000 by using asset forfeiture funds for equipment and initiatives.

Motion to approve Budget Amendment #16 for \$26,750 was made by Commissioner Marley, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, and unanimously approved.

Consideration and Approval of Budget Amendment #17 for the Police Department

Chief Dollinger explained that this budget amendment for \$40,425 was related to a previously approved expenditure of \$297,000 for a server project. The funds were approved in July 2025 but not all spent at once, as the project extends into the current fiscal year and is billed in installments as benchmarks are reached.

Motion to approve Budget Amendment #17 for \$40,425 was made by Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Page, and unanimously approved.

Discussion on the current status of the NCDOT Golfview/Rockfish Road widening construction project

Town Manager McLaughlin provided clarification on the NCDOT Golfview/Rockfish Road widening project in relation to Crenshaw Drive and the Hope Mills Golfview Greenway site:

- The project involves installing a 42-inch storm drain line along Crampton Road, crossing Crenshaw Drive and out falling at the former golf course property
- No new roads were being constructed or planned related to Crenshaw Drive or the greenway site
- The work being done is solely part of the NCDOT project by contractor Fred Smith and Company
- The trench for installation is 15-18 feet deep, requiring heavy equipment
- The cleared area is for an easement, not a road connection

ADJOURNMENT

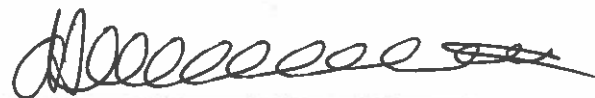
Seeing no additional business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Motion by Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

ADOPTED this 20th Day of January 2026.


Jessie Bellflowers, MAYOR

ATTEST:



Ashley Wyatt, MMC Town Clerk

