

FEBRUARY 21, 2017

A Budget Work meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 4:00 P.M. at the Hope Township Municipal Building with the following members present: Mayor Timothy McDonough, Deputy Mayor George Beatty, and Committeeman Christopher Kruk. Also present were Municipal Clerk Judith Fisher, Chief Financial Officer Kathleen Reinalda, and Township Auditor Anthony Ardito.

Under the provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act", adequate notice of the meeting had been provided by publishing notice in the New Jersey Herald by posting notice in the Hope Post Office and on the Township bulletin boards and the Township Web Site.

Preparation of the 2017 Local Municipal Budget

Discussion continued on the preparation of the 2017 Municipal Budget. Preliminary budget work sheets were given to the Committee to review. These budget work sheets were prepared by the Auditor.

The Construction Department was discussed and since Mr. Price has resigned and taken a full time job, the Committee talked about going with the Department of Community Affairs. Mayor McDonough has contacted the Township Attorney to draft the Ordinance for Hope to join. This will be presented at the next business meeting for first reading. The salt shed was next and the Committee agreed to go out for bid. The Township received \$45,000 from the insurance company that they can use for towards this project. Various options were discussed, noting that an architects drawing and bid specs were needed. The Township Engineer, Ted Rodman was working on this.

The Committee talked about starting a fund for a new truck, replacing the windows at the Community Center, COAH, Capital Improvement Fund and Debt Service.

Salaries were reviewed and the Committee discussed giving a 2% increase across the Board to the Employees.

The Township is under Self Examination this year. Reviewing dates, the Auditor will prepare the 2017 Municipal Budget for first reading on March 22, 2017, it will be advertised in the Star Gazette with second reading and public hearing on April 26, 2017. Copies of the budget will be made available for the public at this meeting.

Seeing there was no other questions for the Auditor or Chief Financial Officer, this meeting adjourned at 5:31pm on a motion made by Committeeman Kruk, seconded by Committeeman Beatty. The motion was carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Fisher, RMC
Municipal Clerk