

APRIL 12, 2017

The monthly business meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 7:05 P.M. at the Hope Township Municipal Building with the following members present: Mayor Timothy McDonough, Deputy Mayor George Beatty, and Committeeman Christopher John Kruk. Also present were Municipal Clerk, Judith Fisher, RMC, Township Engineer, Ted Rodman, P.E., Don Whitmore, DPW Supervisor and Rich Motyka, Tax Assessor.

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 and The Star Gazette and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township bulletin boards. The flag was saluted and roll call taken.

Engineer Report: Ted Rodman, P.E.

Salt Shed: Seven bid packets were requested; the date of the bid opening has been changed to Friday, April 21, 2017 at 11 a.m. at the Municipal Building.

Repairs to the Wall Historic District: Summer project.

Union Brick Road: Mr. Rennspies has spoken with the Zoning Officer about removing the pipe and eliminating the pond; this would not fall under the jurisdiction of the town. The County Board of Health has visited the site and the neighbor has indicated the screened area is cleaned out weekly.

Ridgeway Avenue: An inspection was conducted by Mr. Rodman, County Health Inspector, and Mr. Boesze. Photographs were taken, no additional material is coming in. The report detailing what was done when the material was removed will be reviewed. More soil testing may be required on the site based on review of the report. There are 50 loads of fill at the property and no permit was issued. Trees will be lost due to the fill being too high. It was questioned whether there is a Certificate of Occupancy on the house. There is no septic system but there is a well. The exterior of the home is complete, apparently the inside is only framed. There are chickens and ducks on the property. Enforcement will be difficult due to the location of the property. The owner is aware he must obtain a permit.

Warren County Soil Conservation District: They are seeking information on the location of detention basins maintained by the township. Mr. Whitmore and Mr. Rodman are not aware of any. There are two basins located in Hope; one at the school and the other at Birch Ridge, neither is maintained by the township.

Rich Motyka – Tax Assessor:

Mr. Motyka reported he spoke with Patty Wright and there is no issue with doing an in-house reassessment. It will be a full-on inspection process. Forms need to be completed and approval granted by the Township Committee and the Warren County Tax Board. The cost estimate including the appraiser, computer consultant, inspector and Mr. Motyka's needs will be approximately \$41,000. Mr. Motyka further explained the process indicating it would take two months to complete and would be online by January 1, 2018. There are currently 65 appeals and Mr. Motyka reviewed the appeal process. He will file the appropriate forms for the reassessment and obtain a contract from the appraiser. If a resolution is required, the Committee can do so at the next meeting.

Greg Misale referred to the discussion at a previous meeting regarding the need for internet service. He felt the lack of the service should be taken into consideration when assessing the market value of a property. Mr. Motyka explained the assessment process, indicating value is based on comparable sales within Hope Township. It would be very difficult to separate out those with the service as opposed to those without.

A resident expressed concern with trucks speeding through the center of town and it has become very dangerous. The Mayor indicated he meets with the State Police monthly and will refer her concerns. She will take photographs and obtain license plate numbers, and she will follow-up with the State Police. There are two new graduating classes and there should be additional officers to assist with the issue.

Greg Misale expressed concern with proper signage on County roads and asked if there has been any follow up, specifically on Delaware Road. Mr. Whitmore will address the matter. Mayor McDonough asked the resident to report any unmarked roads and recommended addressing signage where it is missing.

Payment of Bills:

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to pay the bills as read, \$346,087.06, removing the COAH bill for \$665.00, Check # 541, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Beatty, yes, Mr. Kruk, yes, Mayor McDonough, yes
Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Tax Collector: February 2017 \$1,053,918.93

Animal Control: Alan DeCarolis – quarterly report on complaints

Fire Department: March 2017 – 14 calls, 6 MVAs, 1 brush fire, 1 wire down, 3 structure, 1 standby, and a vehicle fire - average attendance 10, man hours 178.51 - 4 work nights – 96 man hours, special detail (2) with total man hours 8 – total of all man hours 282.51

Board of Health: April 5, 2017

458 Delaware Road – bad odor complaint

119 Nightingale – well drilled without permit; no change in status

329 High Street – expansion of use beyond the approved septic capacity; no change in status

8 Locust Lake South –leaking septic tank; reinspection conducted; another scheduled

34 Ridgeway – truckloads of fill being brought to property; joint inspection is scheduled with Hope Township Construction Official and Engineer.

252 Silo – home demolition; well status pending

108/310 Union Brick Road – concerns with runoff from blocked pond with possible environmental consequences. Inspection conducted; no action by health department. File closed.

37 Swayze Mill Road – pallets of spoiled produce along driveway – inspection conducted, complaint valid – message left for property owner

Rabies – one dog bite; dog quarantined for 10 days

Food Establishment – Country Liquors, Hope Pizza – Satisfactory ratings

Septic – 1 alteration, 1 renewal, 1 new construction

Kennels, Recreation Bathing, Youth Camps and Campgrounds: all no activity.

Agriculture Advisory Committee: Mr. Beatty reported two difficult inquiries were reviewed. Sandy Urgo of the Land Conservancy will try to guide the owners. There are no active applications at this time.

Environmental Commission:

The Green Fair was an absolute success. He commended all those involved on their work. People were very impressed and vendors were great. A larger venue will be needed next year due to the event's success.

North Warren Municipal Court:

A discussion was held on who would conduct the interviews. Mayor McDonough stated Mr. Selvaggi recommended a member of the Township Committee, Clerk or Deputy Clerk and the CFO. The resume deadline was April 7th, there are three applicants. Mrs. Fisher will coordinate the interview date. Recommendations will be sent to the AOC.

Community Police Officer:

Mayor McDonough discussed the traffic issues, speeding and truck problem in the township. A meeting has been requested with the DOT and the State Police to revisit the matter and rerouting the truck traffic. He reported the interchange will be paved and stop signs have been installed without stop bars or warning signs resulting in vehicles flying through the stop.

The Committee discussed the installation of calming devices and speed signs on County roads.

It was noted how well the emergency services work together.

An issue at Swayze Mill Park was discussed. Vehicles are causing destruction during varied hours.

Information on a vehicle was provided to the officer. There has been increased negative activity at the park.

Committeeman Kruk:

Congressman Gottheimer will be in Allamuchy at the Municipal Building on 4/19/17 at 9 a.m. to discuss grant funding. Mr. Kruk will attend.

Mr. Kruk asked if the President of the Board of Education has ever provided a presentation to the Committee. He felt one should be provided to keep the public informed. An invitation will be provided to the Board President.

PROCLAMATION: National Day of Prayer – May 4, 2017

PROCLAMATION

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

WHEREAS: *The 66th observance of the National Day of Prayer will be held on Thursday, May 4, 2017, with the theme “For Your Great Name’s Sake, Hear Us, Forgive Us, Heal Us” based on Daniel 9:19, “O Lord listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For you Sake, O my God”; and*

WHEREAS: *A National Day of Prayer has been part of our national heritage since it was declared by the First Continental Congress in 1775 and the United States Congress in 1952 approved as a Joint Resolution, “That the President shall set aside and proclaim a suitable day each year, other than a Sunday, as a National Day of Prayer, on which the people of the United State may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups and a individuals” and*

WHEREAS: *The United States Congress, in 1988 by the Public Law 100-307, as amended, establishes, “An act to provide for setting aside the first Thursday in May as the date on which the National Day of Prayer is celebrated”, and*

WHEREAS: *Leaders and citizens of our communities, cities, state and nation arte afforded the privilege of prayer with the joy of seeking divine guidance, strength, protection and comfort from Almighty God; and*

WHEREAS: *Recognizing the love of God, we, citizens of the Township of Hope, treasure the freedom to gather in prayer, exercising reliance on God’s power in the face of present challenges and treats, asking for His blessing on every individual of our city; and*

NOW, THEREFORE, I Timothy McDonough, Mayor of the Township of Hope, do hereby proclaim, May 4, 2017, as a

DAY OF PRAYER

Throughout the Township of Hope and I commend this observance to all of our citizens.

PROCLAMATION: Older Americans Month – May 4, 2017

Older Americans Month

MAY 2017

Whereas, the month of May is traditionally designated Older Americans Month by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and

*Whereas, the theme for Older Americans Month 2017 is “**Age Out Loud**”, emphasizing the ways older adults are living their lives with boldness, confidence and passion while serving as an inspiration to people of all ages; and*

Whereas, Township of Hope includes older Americans who richly contribute to our community; and

Whereas, Township of Hope is committed to supporting older adults as they take charge of their health, explore new opportunities and activities, and focus on independence; and

Whereas, Township of Hope can provide opportunities to enrich the lives of individuals of all ages by: involving older adults in the redefinition of aging in our community; promoting home- and community-based services that support independent living; encouraging older adults to speak up for themselves and others; and providing opportunities for older adults to share their experiences.

*Now **therefore**, Township of Hope does hereby proclaim May 2017 to be Older Americans Month. Residents of all ages are encouraged to take time during this month to acknowledge older adults as influential and vital parts of our community.*

OLD BUSINESS:

Status of Sanitary Landfill: No report.

Status of Wastewater Management Plan – Grant Search: The Mayor spoke to the DCA, grant funding may be available.

Status of the Draft Housing Element and Fair Share Plan: Mr. Selvaggi is working on this item.

Status of Repairs to Rock Wall Historic District: Summer project; Mr. Beatty will reach out to Jason May who did the stone wall in front of the cemetery for ideas.

Status of Empire Telecom - Possible Cell Tower on Municipal Property: Information provided needs to be reviewed. This item will be added to the April 26th agenda.

Status of Salt Shed: Discussed under Engineer’s report.

Status of Stormwater Management: No update.

Review Personnel Policy: Update/Special Meeting in 2017 (after Budget Adoption)

ORDINANCE: 2nd Re-Introducing /First Reading

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND AND REVISE CHAPTER XXVI TITLED “EMERGENCY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL FEE EXEMPTION” ORDINANCE 26-1.2 TITLED “LICENSE AND PERMIT FEE EXEMPTIONS” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE

2017-03

WHEREAS, the Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, has determined that Chapter 26, “Emergency Service Volunteers and Military Personnel Fee Exemption,” Ordinance 26-1.2 “License and Permit Fee Exemption” of the Code of the Township of Hope must be amended and revised to include additional exemptions.

WHEREAS, the Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, believes that the amendment and revision of the aforesaid ordinance is in the best interests of the Township and will protect the public health, safety and welfare of its citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that Chapter 26, “Emergency Service Volunteers and Military Personnel Fee Exemption,” Ordinance 26-1.2 “License and Permit Fee Exemption” of the Code of the Township of Hope shall be amended and revised to read as follows:

26-1.2 License and Permit Fee Exemptions.

Residents who are 1) active emergency service volunteers, as confirmed by the volunteer fire or rescue squad with which they are members, and/or 2) on active duty or were honorably discharged from any of the service branches, including the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Merchant Marines, Coast Guard, and National Guard, shall be exempt from the municipal fees established in the following subsections of the Code of the Township of Hope:

- 20-26.1 Zoning Permits
- 3-29 Garage Sale Permit
- 4-1.8 Peddlers, Solicitors and Transient Merchants Licenses
- 2-4.8 Fees and Deposits for Use of Community Center and Municipal Facilities

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to introduce Ordinance 2017-03, seconded by Mr. Beatty. All were in favor. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE: 2ND Reading/Public Hearing

**ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY PETITIONING THE CLERK OF WARREN COUNTY TO PLACE ON THE BALLOT A REFERENDUM TO INCLUDE ACQUISITION, DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF LANDS FOR RECREATION AND CONSERVATION PURPOSES; HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND ACQUISITION OF FLOOD LANDS AS PURPOSES OF OPEN SPACE TAX
2017-04**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:12-15.7 allows a municipality to create a Municipal, Open Space, Recreation, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund to fund projects that meet the requirements of the statute; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:12-15.7 provides for seven (7) purposes for which the funds may be used; and

WHEREAS, the municipality, by referendum, must determine the amount of tax to be raised and which of those seven purposes the municipal open space monies can fund; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope previously conducted a referendum in 2004, wherein the voters permitted the Township to only raise funds annually at a rate not to exceed \$.05 per \$100.00 of assessed value for the funding of farmland preservation purposes and ancillary purposes related thereto and to pay the debt service on any indebtedness incurred for the aforesaid purpose; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of the 2004 referendum, the Township of Hope currently only allows for the funding of projects related to two of the seven purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope wishes to amend its Municipal, Open Space, Recreation, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund to allow for the funding of additional projects as set forth in N.J.S.A. 40:12-15.7(e) and is desirous of placing this issue on the ballot to be voted upon by the voters of Hope Township;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, that it does hereby petition the County Clerk of the County of Warren to place on the ballot in the next general election the following referendum and interpretive statement:

REFERENDUM: Shall the use of open space tax of the Township of Hope be for the following purposes:

- (a) acquisition of lands for recreation and conservation purposes;

- (b) development of lands acquired for recreation and conservation purposes;
 - (c) maintenance of lands acquired for recreation and conservation purposes;
 - (d) acquisition of farmland or easements on farmland for preservation purposes;
 - (e) historic preservation of historic properties, structures, facilities, sites, areas, or objects, and the acquisition of such properties, structures, facilities, sites, areas, or objects for historic preservation purposes;
 - (f) payment of debt service on indebtedness issued or incurred by a municipality for any of the purposes set forth in subparagraph (a), (b), (d) , (e) or (g) of this paragraph ; or
 - (g) Flood lands acquisition projects.
- [] Yes [] No

INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT:

The purpose of this referendum is to determine whether or not the Municipal Open Space Trust Fund which is currently limited to uses associated with farmland preservation and debt payments related to farmland preservation, may also be used for acquisition of lands for recreation and conservation purposes, development of lands acquired for recreation and conservation purposes, maintenance of lands acquired for recreation and conservation purposes, historic preservation, and flood land acquisitions and debt service associated with all listed purposes. These purposes would be added to the two already approved uses set forth in in the Open Space Ordinance.

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to open the meeting for public comment on Ordinance 2017-04, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

All were in favor. Motion carried.

In response to public questioning, the Committee provided clarified the proposed ordinance. Public concern was expressed on a lack of funding for farmland preservation if the funding is used for other purposes.

There being no further public comment, this portion of the meeting was closed.

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to close the meeting for public comment on Ordinance 2017-04, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to adopt Ordinance 2017-04, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Beatty, yes, Mr. Kruk, yes, Mayor McDonough, yes
Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Warren County 911: Interlocal Agreement

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to enter into the 10-year interlocal agreement with Warren County 9-1-1, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Beatty, yes, Mr. Kruk, yes, Mayor McDonough, yes
Motion carried.

Public Participation: This portion of the meeting was opened to the public for any questions or concerns. There being no further public comment, this portion of the meeting was closed.

Minutes:

January 11, 2017 and Executive Session

January 25, 2017 and Executive Session

February 2, 2017 Budget Meeting

February 8, 2017 Business Meeting

February 21, 2017 Budget Meeting with Auditor

March 8, 2017 Executive Session

March 22, 2017 and Executive Session

March 25, 2017 Hope Forum

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to approve the minutes as listed, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Beatty, yes, Mr. Kruk, yes, Mayor McDonough, yes

Motion carried.

Executive Session: If needed.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 8:13 p.m. on a **motion** made by Committeeman Kruk, seconded by Committeeman Beatty. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Fisher RMC
Municipal Clerk