

MAY 24, 2017

The monthly work meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 7:00 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, Don Whitmore, DPW Supervisor and Township Engineer, Ted Rodman, P.E.

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.

RESOLUTIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Ted Rodman, P.E., Township Engineer:

Salt Shed: Mr. Rodman reported the proposal has been signed and returned to O'Brien - \$2,570.00. Mr. Whitmore reported on concrete block as opposed to stick built – the Committee discussed specifications for clarification. Specifications need to show grade. When the specs are drawn up they will be provided to Mr. Whitmore for his review; any changes will be made at no charge. Asphalt or concrete pad to be added to drive into the shed. Concrete can be extended from the shed. Mr. Whitmore will contact Mr. O'Brien with his concerns.

Generator: Lowest bid received was from Wire's Electric - \$12,687.00

The size of the propane tanks has to be addressed. The documentation was sent to the Attorney for review, all is in order.

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to award the generator bid to Wire's Electric in the amount of \$12,687.00, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

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

Fill on Ridgeway Avenue: An email was sent to Tony Gomes – JTG Construction – he has until tomorrow to provide certification for the soils. Zoning violations will be issued if no action is taken.

Status of Sanitary Landfill: No update.

Status of Wastewater Management Plan – Grant Search: Mr. Rodman provided suggestions for addressing this matter. The Committee will review the information and this item will be discussed at the next meeting.

Status of the Draft Housing Element and Fair Share Plan: Waiting to hear back on the plan that was submitted.

Status of Repairs to Rock Wall Historic District: Mr. Rodman is waiting for direction on the grant. If the Committee chooses to proceed he needs more information. Three formal estimates are required to be submitted. Mr. Beatty was concerned with the short time period in which to obtain the quotes and recommended patching and repairing wall. He felt the County could address the wall when they re-pave Hope Road as they own it, not the township. He felt the wall replacement project should be postponed until next year when the process could be done properly and the grant application could be made in March. The Committee agreed only patching would be done at this time.

Striping on Route 521: There have been problems with the striping; and Nick Paola are aware of it and it will be addressed. There has been an issue with trucks parking in front of the fire department bays now that it is paved; Mr. Rodman will contact Mr. Paola to resolve the issue.

Route 519 from Routes 46 to 521 and from Route 609 from 46 to 519 – on schedule for 2018. Mr. Kruk asked if the rumble strips could be removed from Great Meadows Road as there has been an increase in accidents since they were installed.

2017 July 4th Celebration and Fireworks Display:

John Hauck was present on behalf of the Blairstown Rotary Club. The event costs approximately \$11,000 and is paid through donations. It is open to all surrounding towns. Mr. Hauck asked for Hope's support for the event.

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to approve \$750.00 towards the Blairstown Rotary celebration and fireworks display, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

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

Historic Preservation: (2) Open Positions

George Decker, unexpired term of Gerry Manger – 12/19

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to appoint Mr. Decker to the Historic Preservation Commission, term expiring 12/31/19, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

All were in favor, motion passed.

Sally Rausa, unexpired term of Mary Billow – 12/18

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to appoint Ms. Rausa to the Historic Preservation Commission, term expiring 12/31/18, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

All were in favor, motion passed.

The Committee agreed to present a plaque to Ms. Billow for her service.

Review Personnel Policy: Update/Special Meeting in 2017

Mrs. Fisher is currently obtaining personnel policies from other municipalities and a special meeting will be scheduled for this matter.

DISCUSSION:

Salt Shed: Discussed under Engineer report.

Cell Tower: Review of Bid Documents

Mrs. Fisher reported she has spoken with the Attorney and she has the notice to bidder. The bid opening will be held on June 23, 2017.

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to go to bid for the cell tower project, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

All were in favor. Motion passed.

The Committee discussed the installation of the nodes and their location. Silver Lake has requested that one be installed in that area. Mayor McDonough will contact Kathryn Windsor from Verizon for further information on the nodes.

ORDINANCE: None

NEW BUSINESS:

2016 Audit Report: Review of Comments and Recommendations

Resolution 2017-37 and Group Affidavit

Mayor McDonough spoke to Mr. Ardito for clarification on the court.

Audit Findings:

-\$190,000 tax liens – this item is being addressed

-Assurety bond of \$95000 required to be \$95,558; Mrs. Fisher addressed the issue and it is now \$96,000

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to adopt Resolution 2017-37, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

All were in favor. Motion passed.

Appointment: Court Administrator, Effective Date, Salary

Ms. Eger was approved by Judge Ciccone and will have five, one-year periods of re-appointment until she is full status.

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to appoint Kathryn Eger as the Court Administrator, seconded by Mr. Beatty; effective May 24, 2017.

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

Following review of salary comparisons, her salary will be determined and will be retroactive.

2017-009 Raffle Application: Hope Volunteer Fire Department, June 27, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Beatty made a **motion** to approve raffle 2017-009, seconded by Mayor McDonough.

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

Board Appointments:

Environmental Commission: Annette Mores, unexpired term of Jennifer Wallace – 12/2017

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to appoint Annette Mores to the Environmental Commission, term expiring 12/31/17, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

All in favor. Motion passed.

Reassessment:

Rich Motyka, Tax Assessor, received approval from Attorney Selvaggi for the professional service agreement for the reassessment.

After Committee review. Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to approve the professional agreement with Brian D’Aconti for appraisal services at a fee of \$25,000, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

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

County Five-Year Plan:

Mrs. Fisher provided the County five-year plan to the Committee; noting a copy was also provided to Mr. Whitmore.

Land Conservancy of New Jersey:

Mrs. Fisher sent the agreement between Hope Township and the Land Conservancy of New Jersey for the Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) to Mr. Selvaggi for his review and received his approval. The Environmental Commission obtained a \$10,000 Sustainable Jersey grant for the project.

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to authorize the agreement, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

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

Ridgeway Avenue Complaints:

Mr. Kruk received a public complaint about overgrowing grass on Ridgeway Avenue, with ticks and insects, etc. The property is vacant and is still under the owner’s name. The Committee discussed having an outside contractor address the issue. Mr. Kruk would provide the property owner’s information to Mr. Boesze to send a violation notice.

Dawn Decker questioned who owns the “V” at the end of Ridgeway Avenue. The Committee indicated it is township owned although there may be a County right-of-way. The property needs to be cut and will be addressed by Mr. Whitmore.

Union Bridge Road: The end of two driveways on Union Bridge Road will be patched.

Summer Hours: Mrs. Fisher had a resident inquire if the Municipal Building will be opened on Fridays during the summer months.

The Mayor stated the building used to be closed during the summer months as the Clerk took her vacation on Fridays rather than taking it in weeks. The Committee left the determination up to Mrs. Fisher. She felt the building should be open at least until noon. She would speak to the Deputy Clerk and post the change.

Swayze Mill Road Complaint:

A home on Swayze Mill Road is rented out and there are problems with an ATV club on weekends. Mayor McDonough viewed the site and took photos. Mr. Boesze met with the tenant who was argumentative and the State Police needed to be called.

The Mayor said there were at least 100 people at the property and according to Mr. Boesze it is in the farm zone and is in violation. The noise alone is a nuisance. The owner is ultimately responsible and is trying to remove the tenants and move back to the property.

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.

Executive Session: If needed.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 7:51 p.m. on a **motion** made by Committeeman Kruk, seconded by Committeeman Beatty. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Fisher RMC
Municipal Clerk