

NOVEMBER 8, 2017

The monthly business 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, 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.

Township Engineer:

Salt Shed: 30' x 30', advertising for bids and providing plans. Bid opening will be held on December 7th at 3 p.m.

Fill on Ridgeway Avenue:

Still waiting to hear from Rafael. His son contacted Mr. Rodman and LSRP results will be provided. The Committee agreed to set a deadline for compliance by December 13th.

Stormwater Management:

Mr. Rodman put the Musconetcong Watershed Ambassadors in touch with Keith Newman at the elementary school to schedule five presentations worth five points total. Mr. Rodman received 150 activity and coloring books "free" from NJDEP to meet the handout requirements. They will be distributed at the elementary school and are worth two points. A poster displayed at the Municipal Building earned one point and the website earned one point. Currently nine points have been earned in six hours – will not exceed the \$2500.00 appropriated; six additional points are need for compliance.

Grange Generator: Generator specifications are out to bid and will be received on December 7th at 3 p.m.

Jenny Jump Overlay: A "work completed" as it is now, was issued to the NJDOT. Joe Birchenough agreed with the decision not to stripe the road. Mr. Rodman is concerned with his liability and will modify the engineer certification. Two stop bars will be installed. There will be a change order eliminating the striping and installing the stop bars. Final bills to process the change orders are needed and the final payment will be submitted for payment to the NJDOT once they are received. Tilcon is still owed \$35,000.

Member of the public asked about – Shiloh Road – The Mayor noted that there is an issue that the Zoning Officer is working on.

Municipal Alliance Coordinator - Samantha Marotta

Ms. Marotta explained that grant funding is provided by the Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Awareness (GCADA), the township matches a portion of the funds and they also work for in-kind money or donations from local groups. She provided an update on the grant program which she took over one year ago. It is a five-year grant, currently in the fourth year, and within the next six months to a year they will be re-evaluating it. The current problem area is underage drinking. Most municipalities in the community are going to be shifting their problem area to illicit drugs or opiate abuse. Most of the funding provided is being used at the elementary school to foster smart choices, prevention, keeping your body healthy, etc. Ms. Marotta felt more focus should be placed on the high school students. Most of the program tries to incorporate drug prevention in addition to alcohol prevention. She recently worked with a regional alliance to provide a program to Belvidere High School. Next week a speaker will visit several schools in Warren County and a parent meeting will be held on anti-bullying, drug and alcohol awareness, straight talk etc. Alliance is also trying to focus on early childhood traumas such as divorce, loss of loved ones, abuse, etc. The program is trying to make younger kids stronger for when they become older and are faced with drug and alcohol abuse. Funding from the grant is \$3300; the town matches \$1000 and in-kind donations total \$2500. The total budget is \$6500 used for six programs. Mayor McDonough

informed Ms. Marotta that REACH granting funding will be offered to address opioids and if she is interested he will contact her when he receives the information.

Events Coordinator - Pattie Whitmore

Mrs. Whitmore is working on the Christmas Craft Market. She stated the kitchen faucets need to be replaced at the Community Center and in the ladies bathroom at the Grange. She spoke about the janitorial service for the event and stated the fees have changed with the school for hiring the janitor. Normally it was a set fee of \$700. This year the school the school is charging an hourly fee of \$45.00/hour based on the usage form submitted. Mrs. Whitmore felt the change could result in a cost of \$900 to \$1200. She noted the janitor is necessary because they need to have someone with a black seal license. Ms. Marotta stated it may be due to a liability issue with covering worker's compensation. The Committee felt a flat fee should be charged and noted with all the shared services between the school and the township this should not be an issue. A Certificate of Insurance is provided to the school for its use, and it may be possible to add a rider for the janitor. Mayor McDonough will contact the school. The Committee noted the Halloween festivities were very successful.

Township Website:

A member from the public noted that the website is not user friendly. Mrs. Fisher will contact the webmaster to resolve any issues.

PAYMENT OF BILLS AND RECEIPTS:

Following review, Mr. Beatty made a **motion** to pay the bills, \$760,727.19, removing the bill for the Hope Township Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$22,950.00 for separate consideration, seconded by Mr. Kruk.

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

Mr. Beatty made a **motion** to pay the Hope Township Volunteer Fire Department bill for \$22,950.00, seconded by Mr. McDonough.

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

Total Receipts:

Mr. Kruk reviewed the total receipts: \$23,955.15

REPORTS:

Tax Collector:

October 2017: \$482,935.59; year to date - \$5,095,251.51

Animal Control Officer: A six-month report (April-September 2017) was submitted.

Fire Department – October 2017: Total calls – 13; man hours – 147.90; 4 work nights; average attendance -8; 96 man hours; special detail – 6; man hours 67; total hours for the month of October – 310.90 hours

Warren County Health Department:

119 Nightingale Road – Well drilled without permit (NJDEP ordered that it be sealed and a new well drilled). Currently the original well is being used. The property owner reported that it was now yielding a sufficient amount of water. The new well has not been put into operation. No change in status.

329 High Street – Expansion of use beyond the approved septic capacity. No change in status.

34 Ridgeway Avenue – Truckloads of fill. No change in status.

252 Shiloh Road – House demolition; (The septic abandonment was witnessed and found to be satisfactory); a letter was sent requiring the abandoned well to be decommissioned.

419 Mt. Hermon Road – High grass, garbage and animals. A reinspection was conducted. A few ripped bags of garbage were still outside. File closed.

Hope Kennels, 416 Silver Lake Road – A complaint was received concerning possible sanitation issues due to boarded dog getting ill both times it was boarded. An inspection was conducted. The owner was advised of the complaint. No violations were found at that time. File closed.

Route 80E, MM 12.4 – Warren County Communications requested a response to a tractor trailer leaking diesel fuel. Upon arrival, it was reported that the tank has been damaged by a piece of metal in the roadway. The remainder of the fuel was pumped out of the damaged tank and absorbent materials were used to contain the spill. NJDEP was notified. NJDOT also spread sand on the roadway. A reinspection was conducted. The final mitigation had not been completed. When contacted, the responsible party reported 6-8 drums of contaminated soil had been removed since the last inspection. File closed.

Rabies Report: One dog bite was reported. The dog was quarantined and released after the required 10-day period.

Food Establishment: Hope Township Fire Company, Swayze Mill Park Fieldhouse and Westbrook Park Fieldhouse were inspected and received satisfactory ratings.

Kennels: No activity.

Recreational Bathing: No activity.

Youth Camps: No activity.

Campgrounds: No activity.

Septics/Wells: One septic repair application was approved; two septic alteration applications were approved; one septic repair was installed; one septic alteration was installed; one septic/well for new construction was installed; one well was installed.

Commissions and Boards:

Mr. Kruk reported the Environmental Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission held a joint meeting that was well attended. They are in the process of compiling a living history of Hope and are requesting photos, videos, etc from residents.

Mr. Beatty reported that the new language added to the Open Space ordinance that passed on referendum should help promote more applications before the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Municipal Court of North Warren:

Mayor McDonough will speak to the CFO regarding discrepancies in the Municipal Court budget.

Use of Township Facility Request:

The Committee agreed to approve the request for the Chess and Technology Club to meet January 20 through March 24, 2018, 7-10 p.m. at the Community Center.

Mayor McDonough:

Mr. McDonough referred to a letter included in the meeting packet from Congressman Gottheimer, Hardwick Mayor Perry, Blairstown Mayor Shoemaker, Knowlton Mayor Starrs and Mayor McDonough that will be sent to SECTV to improve service. Not really sure what the letter said – does this work?

Mayor McDonough reported on the Fair Share Housing agreement with the court and the process of putting together the paperwork. The Planning Board will be reviewing it and a public hearing will be held.

Committeeman Kruk:

Mr. Kruk reported on the 250th Anniversary celebration which is about a year and a half away. He asked for direction from the Committee. He would like to have a representative from each organization in town, non-profit, sports, school, etc. to meet and provide input. Mr. Kruk suggested an extended celebration with a parade rather than just one event. The festivities will be held during the summer and a coordinator will be needed. A date will be set for a meeting to initiate the process.

Mr. Kruk noted the Open Space referendum passed, however concern was expressed that specific funding percentages were not dedicated for farmland preservation, maintenance of facilities, recreation, etc. He asked the Committee to consider addressing this in the future.

Municipal Clerk: Correspondence on file in Clerk's Office

RESOLUTIONS:

2017-56: Refunding Tax Sale Certificate 2017-007, Redeemed, Block 4000, Lot 2600, \$2,617.28

WHEREAS, the property owned by Debra Bell known as block 4000 lot 2600 located at 53 Ridgeway Avenue had unpaid 2016 property taxes and was sold at a Tax Sale held on 02 February 2017 by the Hope Township Tax Collector; and

WHEREAS, Arthur Frustaci of 712 Rugby Road located in Phillipsburg, NJ 08865 was the successful bidder of the above stated property. The amount of the Tax Sale consisted of unpaid 2016 property taxes, interest, and other costs, and totaled \$1,056.46 and is represented by Tax Sale Certificate 2017-007; and

WHEREAS, Matawin Ventures REO 2016-2, the new supposed owner of the property, paid \$2,217.28 on 27 June 2017 to the Hope Township Tax Collector to satisfy the outstanding Tax Sale Certificate and subsequent taxes:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope on this 8th day of November 2017 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a check payable to Arthur Frustaci in the amount of \$2,217.28 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate 2017-007.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a check payable to Arthur Frustaci in the amount of \$400.00 for the return of a tax sale premium paid at the tax sale.

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to adopt Resolution 2017-56, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

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

Motion carried.

2017-57: Supporting NJ Assembly Bill 3512 & Senate Bill 2827 which requires the installation of Video Cameras on certain School Buses

Mr. Kruk was concerned with forcing additional costs on the school. Mayor McDonough felt it was a school issue and more information is needed. Mr. Beatty was concerned with the wording of the resolution. The Committee agreed to remove the resolution from the agenda.

2017-58: Chapter 159 Special Item of Revenue Generator

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount, thereof, was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation for equal amount,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township White, County of Warren, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2017 in the sum of \$12,500.00, Hope Township Municipal Building Generator Grant, which is now available from the 'Energy Allocation Program, HMGP-DR-4086-342'.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a like sum of \$12,500.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption 'Hope Township Municipal Building Generator Grant'.

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to adopt Resolution 2017-58, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

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

Motion carried.

Community Police Officer:

Trooper Jordan Siegel appeared before the Committee. He has been assigned to Hope, Allamuchy, Frelinghuysen, Hardwick, Knowlton and Belvidere High School. He is very familiar with the community, is available to address any issues in the school and to be in attendance as needed for events.

PROCLAMATION: Radon Action Month: November 2017

WHEREAS, radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is the second leading cause of lung cancer; and

WHEREAS, prolonged exposure to radon can kill as many as 500 people in New Jersey each year; and

WHEREAS, families who reside in homes with elevated radon levels are at risk of developing serious health problems; and

WHEREAS, any home could have high levels, even when neighboring homes do not; and

WHEREAS, radon testing can be done with great ease at a relatively low expense to the homeowner, with the cost of reducing radon concentrations being comparable to a home repair; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the United States Environmental Protection Agency are collaborating during the month of January to promote the need for radon testing in an effort to protect the lives of our State's residents; and

WHEREAS, if all New Jersey homes with radon concentrations at or above 4 pCi/L were mitigated, about 78 lives could be saved this year.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **Timothy McDonough**, Mayor of **Hope Township**, on behalf of the **Hope Township Committee** and residents of Hardwick Township, do hereby proclaim the month of November 2017, as

RADON ACTION MONTH

in the Township of **Hope** and call upon all residents who have not yet tested to test their homes for radon and to reduce radon levels if elevated levels are found, to protect their families from the serious health risk of radon.

OLD BUSINESS:

Status Sanitary Landfill: Still waiting to hear back from the NJDEP.

Status: Wastewater Management Plan – Grant Search: The DCA has identified a grant; waiting for the information.

Rock Wall: Nancy Treible addressed the rock wall with Mr. Beatty again noting that she is considering installing a baluster. Mr. Beatty talked to her about the Cedar Street becoming a one-way and she agreed. She was not receptive to the idea of a double one-way when exiting the road. She mentioned that there is an ordinance in effect that prohibits parking on the southern side. The Committee will research the ordinance so the State Police can enforce it. Signage will be ordered indicating no trucks are permitted on Hickory Street; and no trucks are permitted on Cedar Street except for local deliveries.

DISCUSSION:

Cell Tower:

There has been no contact from Verizon. There is a 90-day limit to act on the bid. If the 90-day limit expires, the project can be re-bid. Mr. Beatty suggested contacting Verizon to inform them that the Committee is ready to sign the lease agreement for 150 feet.

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** authorizing the Mayor to sign the lease agreement between this date and November 22, 2017, once all the information needed is obtained, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Work Meeting: Scheduled for November 22, 2017. If needed, request to change date and time
Following a brief discussion, the Committee agreed to cancel the November 22, 2017 meeting. The next meeting will be held on December 13, 2017.

Email Service:

Mrs. Fisher received a quote from SHI and reported SHI requires a subscription license for five users which is cheaper than purchasing it for the two needed. The cost is \$547.00. Mrs. Fisher needs clarification on whether this is a one-time charge or annually. The Committee needs to make a decision before December 31, 2017 as service will be terminated after that date. There may be several hidden charges with SHI.

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to rescind the contract approval with SHI granted in October 2017, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

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

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to authorize John Paul Reese to do the migration service and the storage for the emails, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

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

Public Participation: This portion of the meeting was opened to the public for any questions or concerns.

Mr. Urfer asked if it would be possible to license dogs at the rabies clinic. Mrs. Fisher stated it is difficult to do so as it is very busy the day of the clinic. He was frustrated with the procedure in place and felt it would be more convenient for residents. Mrs. Fisher stated the applications can be placed in the outside drop box at the Municipal Building and applications can be made available at the rabies clinic. Mr. Urfer felt it would be more reasonable to have and accept the applications at the clinic. The Committee would consider his concerns.

Samantha Marotta referred to a bank-owned property she just purchased where the bank opted out of the electricity co-op. She would like to opt back in but was not sure if there was a specific time period in which to join. She tried to join over the summer completed the appropriate procedure to do so but has not received a response. Mayor McDonough asked for her contact information and address, and he will look into the matter.

Ms. Marotta asked what the fire code capacity is for the community center. The Mayor will confirm the number with the DCA.

There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. on a **motion** made by Committeeman Kruk, seconded by Committeeman Beatty.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Fisher RMC, Municipal Clerk