

## OCTOBER 11, 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, Ted Rodman, P.E. Township Engineer and Don Whitmore, DPW Supervisor.

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.

### **PAYMENT OF BILLS AND RECEIPTS:**

Mr. Kruk reviewed the receipts for September 2017 - Total: \$14,100.89

Following review of the bill list, Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to pay the bills, \$352,097.40, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

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

### **REPORTS:**

**Tax Collector:** September 2017- \$49,475.47; year to date - \$4,612,315.92  
August 2017- \$1,220,671.95; year to date \$4,562,840.45

Mr. Rodman arrived at the meeting at this time and proceeded with his report.

### **Township Engineer:**

**Salt Shed:** Mr. Rodman provided a report on the salt shed, dimensions of 30' x 30'. The best option is the concrete bin block. Mr. Rodman provided an overview on the larger shed project (50' x 50') being done in Knowlton, comparing specifications and costs. The Committee discussed the roof, stacking the block and reducing the cost of the overall project. Completing the project in-house would be difficult with only Mr. Whitmore doing so; laborers would need to be hired to assist with footings, setting block, roof etc. Prevailing wage would still have to be paid; threshold of \$15,444. Mr. Beatty felt it would be difficult to get a contractor if they were not controlling the entire project. Mr. Rodman recommended re-bidding the project using the same specifications. The Committee will contact Mr. Selvaggi for advisement on the best way to proceed. Mrs. Fisher stated if the Committee chooses to rebid the project, the initial bids must be rejected. Mr. Rodman noted the completion date must be moved back. The Committee agreed to October 1, 2018.

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to reject the bids submitted for the salt shed project, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

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

**Fill on Ridgeway Avenue:** The owners have indicated soil samples of the fill would be taken this week; however the rain may cause this to be postponed. Mr. Rodman requested information on the parameters of the testing; to be provided.

### **Stormwater Management:**

The Musconetcong Watershed Association will be conducting five presentations at the Hope Elementary School, worth five points. Activity books have been ordered free from the NJDEP and handouts to meet the requirements. Currently nine points have been earned in five hours – will not exceed the \$2500.00 appropriated.

**State Aid:** State aid application was submitted on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Osman Road is being considered for next year – overlay for \$139,650. Jenny Jump guiderail has been ordered - \$4750.25. It has to be coordinated with the striping.

The grant requires a yellow line to be installed on portions of the road that are at least 16 feet wide. Many residents have expressed concern with the narrowness of the road and the danger of installing the yellow line. The town must meet all requirements of the grant to ensure future funding. The township is still waiting for an engineer of the NJDOT to visit the site to determine the areas to be lined.

**2017-55 Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the overlay of Osman Road project**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Council of Hope formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as MA-2018-Overlay of Osman Road-00586 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of Hope Township.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized on behalf of Hope Township and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to adopt Resolution 2017-55, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

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

PUBLIC: Lisa Iulo– regarding signs. She had map and design – I think Mayor took it to NJDOT. I have no idea what they were talking about. . . . I'm sorry - installing a sign not sure where Installation could coincide with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Village of Hope

There was a question from the public regarding street signs. Mr. Whitmore noted that signs have been ordered and we are just waiting for they to be delivered.

Another resident asked about the Internet. Mayor McDonough noted that they are working with Century link on this but that at this time, some of the information is confidential.

**Warren County Health Department:**

119 Nightingale Road – Well drilled without permit. (NJDEP has ordered that it be sealed and a new well drilled) Currently using the original well. 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); well status pending.

419 Mount Hermon Road – A complaint was received concerning high grass, garbage and animals. An inspection was conducted. High grass and ripped bags of garbage were observed. A violation notice was issued. A reinspection was conducted. The grass has been cut. A few ripped bags of garbage were still onsite. A reinspection is scheduled.

**Rabies Report:** No activity

**Food Establishment:** Long Meadow Farm was inspected and received a satisfactory rating.

**Kennels:** No activity.

**Recreational Bathing:** No activity.

**Youth Camps:** No activity.

**Campgrounds:** Triplebrook was inspected.

**Septics/Wells:** One septic repair application was approved; one septic repair was installed.

**Mayor McDonough:**

Mr. Kruk noted that he spoke with the fire department regarding their monthly reports. Proof of the reports having been emailed were provided, however the Clerk has not received them. For some reason they are not going through. Mrs. Fisher stated there has also been a delay in the receipt of other emails. This item will be addressed further in the agenda under email services – SHI.

The Historic Preservation Commission is holding a joint luncheon and will need approval for the use of the room. The event will be held on a Sunday.

Mayor McDonough questioned the generator quotes for the Grange. Mrs. Fisher is working with Mr. Rodman's office on an advertising date and date for the bid opening. She is addressing the documentation trying to get this completed prior to the end of the year.

Mayor McDonough referred to the information received from the rate payer with regard to the energy aggregation. The approval process has begun early in order to go to bid. Due to the mild end of summer, rates may tumble before spiking again. BPU has already approved it and now the rate payer has to so. This is only done if all the towns involved agree to it. If there is a dip in the market a new agreement would be offered for the next 24 months.

A member of the audience spoke about a neighbor who built a shed on his property. Committee recommended he contact the Zoning Officer

**Committeeman George Beatty:**

Basketball director interviews will be conducted with Mrs. Fisher, Ms. Keggan and Mr. Beatty, with a recommendation provided to the Committee. Mr. Beatty suggested a shining star for appreciation letter be provided to Ms. Keggan for her time and assistance.

The Environmental Commission is getting students involved with environmental activities. They will be painting the dumpsters and will work together on projects in the future.

**Agricultural Board:** No applications.

**Christmas Craft Market:** Quite a celebration is planned. Anyone interested in assisting should contact the town hall.

**Trunk or Treat** will not be held at the bank on the 31st due to its business hours and will now be held at Cedar Street and the church. Extra candy is available at the town hall for those inundated.

**Baseball Program:** Joint Little League will be formed and winter pitching program at the Community Center will be promoted.

**Committeeman Christopher John Kruk:**

Mr. Kruk spoke about the two township owned houses (Silver Lake Road and ??) – he suggested auctioning them off as both are a liability. There is an issue with a tenant in one of the properties. Mr. Beatty will provide figures on removing one of the homes to install additional town off-street parking. Mayor McDonough would contact Mr. Selvaggi.

Mr. Kruk noted concerns with the open space referendum – no provision dedicated to farmland. If it passes, the language may be able to be tweaked in the future to address this item. Barbara Davis of the Land Conservancy may be able to assist with this matter.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month – October 2017: Mr. Kruk stated a close friend of his asked him to caution the Committee when they are speaking and the unintended consequences, to please keep that in mind.

**Municipal Clerk: Correspondence on file in Clerk's Office**

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**2017-52 Refunding Tax Sale Certificate 2016-002 that was redeemed (2016 Subsequent Tax Payment)**

WHEREAS, the property owned by Anne Marie Mata known as block 1000 lot 2300 located at 161 Lake Just-It Road had unpaid 2015 property taxes and was sold at a Tax Sale held on 04 February 2016 by the Hope Township Tax Collector; and

WHEREAS, Joe Campolo of 1055 Dark Moon Road located in Newton, NJ 07860 was the successful bidder of the above stated property. The amount of the Tax Sale consisted of unpaid 2015 property taxes, interest, and other costs, and totaled \$6,333.61 and is represented by Tax Sale Certificate 2016-002; and

WHEREAS, Anne Marie Mata, the supposed owner of the property, paid \$13,199.82 on 19 September 2017 to the Hope Township Tax Collector to satisfy the outstanding Tax Sale Certificate and subsequent taxes; and

WHEREAS, Joe Campolo presented proof after the Mata redemption payment was received that he made a partial second quarter 2016 tax payment in the amount of \$535.02 on 12 May 2016; and

WHEREAS, Anne Marie Mata, the supposed owner of the property, paid \$671.18 on 28 September 2017 to the Hope Township Tax Collector to satisfy the outstanding subsequent tax payment:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of October 2017 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a check payable to Joe Campolo in the amount of \$671.18 for the redemption of a second quarter 2016 subsequent tax payment made on Tax Sale Certificate 2016-002.

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to adopt Resolution 2017-52, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

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

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Status:**

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

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

#### **Repairs to Rock Wall Historic District:**

Mr. Beatty presented a proposal from Drake Landscaping to repair the rock wall. The contractor asked if the Committee would consider a day rate, which may lower the overall cost.

Mr. Beatty made a **motion** to hire Drake Landscaping to repair the rock wall from the Toy Chest to the Hickory Road crossing, not to exceed \$5,343.75, seconded by Mr. Kruk.

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

The Committee discussed prohibiting through traffic from Mt. Hermon across on to Route 521 and also prohibit trucks from that area. They also discussed installing a speed bump at the County road. The Committee agreed to have Mr. Rodman review the matter.

The Committee discussed the landscaping and flag pole project in front of the Municipal Building.

### **DISCUSSION:**

**Cell Tower:** Status (90-days to sign lease – November 22, 2017)

The cell tower company was at the site today, running an exercise for 130, 150 and 175 feet, using an antenna throughout the town to determine the best tower height for reception.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Raffle Application:** 2017-12 Hope Volunteer Fire Department, December 5, 2017, 65” Smart LED TV

Mr. Beatty made a **motion** to approve Raffle Application 2017-12, seconded by Mayor McDonough.

Mr. Beatty, yes, Mayor McDonough, yes, Mr. Kruk, abstain

Motion carried.

**Raffle Application:** 2017-13 Hope Township PTA, November 3, 2017 – 50/50

**Raffle Application:** 2017-14 Hope Township PTA, November 3, 2017 - Bingo

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to approve the Raffle Applications 2017-13 and 2017-14, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

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

Motion carried.

#### **Municipal Software: Email Services – SHI - \$34.99/email address**

Mr. Kruk provided information to the Clerk from Mr. Moore. The Clerk will contact Municipal Software regarding the matter. She will also research if SHI will be able to meet the needs of the office.

**Public Participation: This portion of the meeting was opened to the public for any questions or concerns. Jim Perry, Hardwick Township Mayor** discussed the Century Link maps distributed to the Committee. He expressed concern with page 7, noting the green area speed did not seem accurate. He referred to the white area, guessing there is no coverage in that area. The overlay of the areas on page 9 indicate that area is still white and not covered. Mr. Kruk stated they have indicated that area is covered by Service Electric, which it is not. Mr. Perry felt before going public with this issue, the maps and coverage areas need to be accurate. The maps are depicting areas with service that do not have service. Mayor McDonough would contact the BPU regarding Service Electric. Mr. Perry will follow up with Century Link.  
**There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed.**

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Business Meeting: September 13, 2017**

**Work Meeting: September 27, 2017**

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

All were in favor; motion passed.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 8:41 p.m. on a **motion** made by Committeeman Kruk, seconded by Committeeman Beatty. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Fisher RMC  
Municipal Clerk