

SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

The monthly work session 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, 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: Mr. Rodman reported Ray O'Brien is looking for ways to reduce the cost of the project, possibly changing the specifications.

Osman Road: A grant application for \$150,000 will be submitted on October 4th. The road is very narrow. Mr. Rodman is waiting to hear back from NJDOT on striping of centers and/or shoulders of the road. The grant for \$140,000 was awarded for Birch Ridge Road.

Stormwater Management: No change.

Ridgeway Avenue: Mr. Rodman received a phone call from the contractor. He is proposing to take samples from the site and have an LSRP completed. Mr. Rodman is waiting to hear back from him on the standards of the testing.

DPW Generator: The Clerk reported that the generator is in and working. The proper paperwork will be filed with FEMA so that they can make their inspection.

Moravian Grange: Mrs. Fisher reported that this is the next project that the Township has received a grant from FEMA for. She will contact Mr. Rodman to do up the "specs" and go out for quotes.

RESOLUTIONS:

2017-51 Refunding Tax Sale Certificate 2016-002 that was redeemed – Block 1000, Lot 2300

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:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope on this 11th day of October 2017 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a check payable to Joe Campolo in the amount of \$13,199.82 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate 2016-002.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be also authorized to draw a check payable to Joe Campolo in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the return of a Premium paid at Tax Sale.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the satisfied Tax Sale Certificate 2016-002 be returned to Anne Marie Mata of 161 Lake Just-It Road located in Blairstown, NJ 07825.

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to adopt Resolution 2017-51, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

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

Motion carried.

2017-52 Supporting Assembly & Senate Bills Amending the Open Public Records Law (Bill No. 4532 & 3049)

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 11th 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.

2017 - Supporting Consolidated School System

Mrs. Fisher sent the resolution to the school for their review. School board members will attend an upcoming meeting in Sussex for more information on the matter. This item was removed from the agenda until input is received from the school.

2017-53 Expressing Opposition to Legislative Proposals Regarding the Open Public Meetings Act and Open Public Records Act (Bill No. 1045 & 1046)

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee took action on Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046, which amend the Open Public Meetings Act and Open Public Records Act, respectively, on June 29, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Committee released the bills to the full Senate without recommendation because the bills are unnecessary, unpopular with the public, and would result in significant financial and administrative burdens on municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the bills fail to adequately protect taxpayers, municipalities and, especially, municipal clerks from abusive, harassing, and purposefully confrontational individuals who submit voluminous requests for no legitimate reason; and

WHEREAS, the legislation would expand the Open Public Meeting Act to create impractical and burdensome requirements with respect to subcommittees and working groups established by the entire governing body, which would effectively limit the ability of small groups of local officials discussing issues of public concern for the purposes of informing the governing body; and

WHEREAS, under the bills, the responsibilities of municipal clerks, who the Legislature has already loaded with responsibilities beyond the scope of their office, would be stretched even further than current law requires without a single dollar of additional resources provided to, or authorized to be collected by, municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the bills would impose a financial burden on municipalities that would not be offset by a revenue source other than the property tax, making the bills unfunded mandates prohibited by the New Jersey

Constitution; and

WHEREAS, some municipalities are more equipped than others to meet the burdens that would be imposed by Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046, however, without assistance of any kind from the States or the courts, every municipality would be on its own to meet the myriad new requirements of the law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope that the Legislature is strongly urged to reject Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046 and draft new legislation to modernize OPRA and OPMA while providing municipalities and clerks with the resources to effectuate these changes for the benefit of the public.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be filed with the legislative sponsors of Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046 and Assembly Bill Nos. 2697 and 2699, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the President of the Senate, and the Governor, and all parties are urged to listen to the concerns of local officials and prevent Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046 from becoming law.

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:

Draft Housing Element and Fair Share Plan:

This item was discussed at length at the last meeting. The hearing will be held on October 23rd. Mayor McDonough will attend. Mr. Beatty felt delaying the process would be too costly. Mr. Kruk felt the municipality was more protected by having the agreement in place.

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** authorizing Mayor McDonough to sign the agreement for the Fair Share Housing COAH obligation, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

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

Repairs to Rock Wall Historic District: No change in status. Mr. Beatty reached out to a landscaper for an estimate on repairing the wall. Mr. Rodman is going to reach out to the County regarding the project as additional funding may be available.

DISCUSSION:

Cell Tower:

Mrs. Fisher reported an ultrasound of the area is to be conducted this week to see what is located underground. There is still a question about the height. The Committee agreed to table this item at this time. There is a 90-day limit in which to award the bid and sign the lease. Residents were noticed verbally. Mrs. Fisher will send certified letters to those properties within 200 feet.

Jersey Central Power & Light:

Mayor McDonough asked JCP&L for a proposal to install two lights at Swayze Mill Park to help deter vandalism. Mr. Kruk was more in favor of cameras as opposed to having a light on all night. He suggested informal game cameras with night vision. He felt someone getting caught would be the ultimate deterrent. Mr. Beatty suggested contacting the State Police regarding the use of the cameras. Mr. Kruk felt photos of someone vandalizing the park placed on the town website without any legal action would be sufficient. Location of the cameras was discussed and it was agreed they could be moved around the municipality, as needed.

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** authorizing the purchase of two game cameras, not to exceed \$500, to be placed at Swayze Mill Park and other locations, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

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

Before moving forward with lighting at the park, neighbors will be consulted and motion lighting will be considered.

Mr. Kruk will contact Fred Stevens to ask him to attend the next meeting regarding the removal of a pole on his property to allow Millbrook Road to be designated a one-way. (Does this sound right?) I wasn't sure of the road they were talking about. Add to it if you think it is necessary.

ORDINANCE: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Best Practices: Due Date October 20, 2017

Mrs. Fisher reported she spoke to the auditor and the budget was adopted on time in 2016; a total of 22 points for the Best Practices Inventory.

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to file the Best Practices documentation, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

All were in favor. Motion passed.

Municipal Software: Email Services – Google Apps for Government – 2017 N/C; 2018 - \$1,320

The software is to back up all emails and have access to them remotely. Mr. Kruk reported that James Moore has a company – Software House International - that will do the same for \$34.99 per user per year, unlimited storage space for government emails. He will ask Mr. Moore to submit a proposal.

NJDOT Route 80:

The DOT is not notifying the municipality when the road is being closed. Mr. Kruk will stop there tonight to follow up. Mayor McDonough will contact NJDOT if needed.

Century Link:

Mr. Kruk reported that Hope will be getting 30,000 feet of fiber, with five new devices and one device upgrade. This is being done in the south and eastern portions of the town. A map will be available to residents depicting where the increased service is going to be located. The Census Bureau has designated where people are underserved in the internet. Service Electric users will not have increased service. BPU will work to improve service through Service Electric.

Annual Family Picnic:

The event went very well. Volunteers and organizers did a great job. Organizers are interested in bringing back availability of beer, possibly through a local business or craft beer vendor. TIPS training teaches not to overserve and age limitations. It is a family picnic, however millennials are missing from the celebration and the beer would bring them in. The community can be polled on the subject.

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

There being no 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 7:48 p.m. on a **motion** made by Committeeman Kruk, seconded by Committeeman Beatty. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Fisher RMC
Municipal Clerk