

JANUARY 5, 2015

The annual reorganization meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 6:00 P.M. at the Hope Community Center with the following members present: George H. Beatty, M. John Koonz, and Timothy C. McDonough. Also present were Linda Gabel, Deputy Municipal Clerk, and Richard Wenner, Esq., representing the Township Attorney, Michael Selvaggi.

Mrs. Gabel led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Sunshine Statement:

Under the provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act", adequate notice of the meeting had been provided by publishing notice in The Express Times and The Star Gazette and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township bulletin boards all on February 14, 2014 and February 21, 2014.

OATH OF OFFICE – NEWLY ELECTED COMMITTEEMAN, GEORGE H. BEATTY

George H. Beatty was sworn in as the newly elected Committeeman by Attorney Wenner with Christine Beatty assisting her husband.

APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR FOR 2015/OATH OF OFFICE

Mrs. Gabel asked for nominations for the position of Mayor for 2015. A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to nominate Timothy C. McDonough as Mayor for 2015. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes. Attorney Wenner administered the oath of office to the Mayor with Lacey DiTondo assisting her father.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2015/OATH OF OFFICE

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by McDonough to appoint George H. Beatty as Deputy Mayor for 2015. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes. Attorney Wenner administered the oath of office to the Deputy Mayor with Christine Beatty assisting her husband.

COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

McDonough thanked Koonz and Beatty for appointing him mayor. He and the governing body members all work together for the town. They are backed up by the professionals and volunteers. The Committee is available for the Township, and they have been working together for 15 years; they know each other's strengths and weaknesses. He noted that they are a reflection of the people they serve.

The people who serve on the boards and commissions were acknowledged as well as the coaches, New Jersey State Police, Hope Volunteer Fire Department and organizations like the Fifty-Five Plus Club and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Hope Volunteer Fire Department, who are always willing to help. The Hope Food Bank was also mentioned. McDonough ended by noting that the Town goes over and above.

Beatty thanked everyone for re-electing him for another term on the Township Committee. He encouraged people to let the Township office know when their children accomplish things even after they move on to high school and college.

Koonz thanked everyone for their support and wished all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduce Ordinance #15-01, Establish CAP Bank

The following Ordinance was introduced and passed first reading on a resolution made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

ORDINANCE #15-01
CALENDAR YEAR 2015
ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP
BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 1.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2015 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Hope Township Committee hereby determines that a 1.5% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$ 13,041.59 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS the Hope Township Committee hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, in the County of Warren, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2015 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Hope shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$30,430.37, and that

the CY 2015 municipal budget for the Township of Hope be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

RESOLUTIONS

The following Resolutions were adopted on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

RESOLUTION #15-01

WHEREAS, P.L. 1983, chapter 8, Local fiscal Affairs Law, N.J.S. 40A:5-2 was amended to require that each municipality designate a Cash Management Plan for the deposit of local unit's monies.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following Cash Management Plan be adopted by the Township of Hope:

A. Designation of Official Depositories:

1. The following financial institutions are designated official depositories:

First Hope Bank and Fulton Bank
Any other banking institutions with offices in Warren County

under the direction of the Chief Financial Officer.

2. Designated Official Depositories are required to submit to the Chief Financial Officer of the Township of Hope, a copy of the State of New Jersey, Department of Banking, Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act notification of eligibility which must be filed semi-annually in the Department of Banking as of June 30 and December 31 each year.

3. Designated Official Depositories are required to submit to the Chief Financial Officer a copy of the institution's "Annual Report" on an annual basis.

B. Deposit of Funds

All funds shall be deposited within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt in accordance with State statute.

1. Operating funds shall be deposited into an interest bearing account to maximize interest earnings.

2. Trust funds may be deposited into interest bearing accounts. Non-interest bearing accounts should be regularly monitored for availability of funds for investment except where either State, Federal laws or local ordinance prohibit the earning of interest on such funds.

C. Designation of Allowable Investment Instruments:

The Township may permit deposits and investments in such depositories as permitted in Section 4 of P.L. 1970 Chapter 236 (C17:9-44).

D. Definition of Acceptable Collateral and Protection of Township Assets.

1. All designated depositories must conform to all applicable State statutes concerning depositories of public funds.

2. All depositories shall obtain the highest amount possible F.D.I.C. and/or F.S.L.I.C. coverage of all Township assets (Demand and Certificate of Deposit).

3. Collateral will be required for all deposits and investments of the Township, except for those in the State Cash Management Fund, collateral must have a market value of not less than 100% of all deposits and investments.

E. Reporting Procedures

The Chief Financial Officer shall prepare for the Township Committee the following investment reports:

1. Monthly reporting: A listing of all investments as part of the Chief Financial Officer's monthly report.

2. The Chief Financial Officer shall prepare a schedule of outstanding investments for the independent auditors as of December 31 each year and at other times as required by the auditors.

F. Maximum Maturity Policy:

Investments shall be limited to a maturity not to exceed one year on all operating funds unless a longer maturity is permitted within provisions of regulations promulgated by either the Federal or State governments.

G. Investment Procedures:

Bids for Certificates of Deposit will be solicited of all designated depositories only if the amount is \$100,000.00 or greater.

Telephone bids will be solicited of designated depositories by the Chief Financial Officer or his designated staff member.

The depository shall specify the principal amount of the investment bid on interest rate and number of days used to calculate the interest to be paid upon maturity.

Interest paid shall be from the date the bid was awarded to the day of maturity.

All bidders may request the results of the bid after the bid is formally awarded.

A check or wire transfer of funds will be made available to the winning bidder the same business day the bid is awarded.

Each quotation shall be documented to record the date and time of quote, the parties in the discussion, the instrument(s), maturities and rates. A bid form of the Township may be used.

H. Controls:

When possible, the internal controls should provide for a separation of the investment placement functions and the accounting activity. Controls must be designed for telephone orders, wire transfers and securities, safekeeping, only specifically designated personnel of the Department of Finance shall be allowed to conduct this part of the transactions and all activity should be subject to immediate written confirmation of the designated depository. The Chief Financial Officer shall review each day's activity.

I. Bonding:

The following officials shall be covered by surety bonds, said surety bonds to be examined by the independent auditor to insure their proper execution:

Chief Financial Officer and Tax Collector

In addition, staff members of the Department of Finance not covered by a public employee's Faithful Performance Bond in the minimum of \$10,000.00.

J. Compliance:

The Cash Management Plan of the Township of Hope shall be subject to the annual audit conducted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40a:5-4.

RESOLUTION #15-02

WHEREAS, Title 40A:4-19 known as the Local Budget Law, provides that where any contracts, commitments or payments are to be made prior to the final adoption of the 2015 budget, temporary appropriations be made for the purposes and amounts required in the manner and time therein provided, and;

WHEREAS, the total appropriations in the 2014 budget, less appropriations made for the Capital Improvement Fund, Debt Service, Relief for the Poor (Public Assistance) and Deferred Charges are as follows:

General Fund: \$1,218,742.00

AND;

WHEREAS, 26.25% of the total appropriations in the 2014 budget, less the appropriations made for Capital Improvement Fund, Debt Service, Relief for the Poor (Public Assistance), and Deferred Charges are as follows,

General Fund: \$319,919.78

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren that the temporary appropriations be made in the amount of \$319,919.78 for the General Fund and that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Chief Financial Officer for recordkeeping.

RESOLUTION #15-03

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES-MUNICIPAL AUDITOR

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope has a need to acquire a municipal Auditor as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5*; and,

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined and certified in writing that the value of the acquisition will exceed \$17,500; and,

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is one year; and,

WHEREAS, ARDITO & CO., LLP has submitted a proposal, indicating they will provide the auditor services for the anticipated fee of \$23,170; and,

WHEREAS, ARDITO & CO., LLP has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certified that ARDITO & CO., LLP has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Hope in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit ARDITO & CO., LLP from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and,

WHEREAS, the required certificate for the availability of funds has been filed by the chief financial officer providing that legally appropriated balances are available to cover the amount of the

contract as required by N.J.A.C. 5:30-14.5 and that fees for the aforementioned auditing and non-auditing services shall be made available by appropriate inclusion in either an annual municipal budget which includes current, revenue sharing and utility provisions, by budget amendments for Federal program spending or by inclusion in an appropriate bond ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, authorizes the Mayor and Clerk of the Township of Hope to enter into a contract with ARDITO AND CO., LLP as described herein as auditors on and in behalf of the Township of Hope for the year 2015; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notice of this action shall be printed once in a legally designated publication.

Political Contribution Disclosure. This contract has been awarded to Ardito & Co., LLP based on the merits and abilities of Ardito & Co., LLP to provide the goods and services as described herein. This contract was not awarded through a "fair and open" process pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq. As such, the undersigned does hereby attest that Ardito & Co., LLP, its subsidiaries, assigns or principals controlling in excess of 10% of the company has neither made a contribution, that is reportable pursuant to the Election Law Enforcement Commission pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-8 or 19:44A-16 in the one (1) year period preceding the award of the contract that would, pursuant to P.L. 2004, c.19. affect its eligibility to perform this contract, nor will it make a reportable contribution during the term of the contract to any political party committee in the municipality if a member of that political party is serving in an elective public office of that municipality when the contract is awarded, or to any candidate committee of any person serving in an elective public office of the municipality when the contract is awarded.

Exhibit "A" (Mandatory Affirmative Action Language), Exhibit "B" (Employee Information Report), Exhibit "C" (Business Registration Certificate), Exhibit "D" (Business Entity Disclosure Certification), Exhibit "E" (Political Contributions Disclosure Certification), and Exhibit F (Insurance) are attached to and made a part of this contract.

RESOLUTION #15-04

BE IT RESOLVED, that a grace period of ten (10) days for non-payment of taxes as per R.S. 54:4-67 is declared and that interest of 8% per annum on the first \$1,500.00 of delinquency and 18% on sums in excess of \$1,500.00 shall be charged, except that no interest shall be charged if payment of any installments is made within ten (10) days after the date upon which the same shall be payable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Tax Collector.

RESOLUTION #15-05

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of New Jersey has signed into law a new amendment to N.J.S.A. 54:4-67 regarding charges for delinquent taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Committee have heretofore established certain rates of interest for delinquent taxes to be assessed on such delinquencies; and

WHEREAS, the amendment to the aforesaid New Jersey statute now permits the Mayor and Township Committee to charge additional interest for delinquent accounts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-67, there is hereby assessed a penalty to be charged to taxpayers whose accounts with the Township of Hope are delinquent and are in excess of the sum of \$10,000.00, a sum equal to 6% of the amount of the delinquency in the payment of taxes if such taxpayer shall fail to make payment in full of the delinquency amount prior to the end of the calendar year in which such taxes shall have accrued and been assessed.

This resolution shall take effect immediately and as provided by law.

RESOLUTION #15-06

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Hope has been informed by the Tax Assessor of Hope Township that from time to time errors are made in computing the tax assessments governing certain property locations within Hope Township; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor of Hope Township has requested the Township Committee authorize him to file corrections of such errors with the Warren County Board of Taxation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of Hope Township that the Tax Assessor of Hope Township be and is hereby authorized to file corrective appeals and stipulations with the Warren County Board of Taxation concerning those properties wherein errors were made; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tax Assessor send copies of such corrected assessments to the individuals involved.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of Hope Township authorizes the Tax Assessor to file rollback complaints.

A copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Tax Assessor and Warren County Board of Taxation.

RESOLUTION #15-07

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, New Jersey that the Township Attorney be authorized to sign and file appeals for stipulation on behalf of the Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Township Attorney and Tax Assessor.

RESOLUTION #15-08

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, New Jersey that the following meeting calendar be adopted for the year 2015:

Business meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:00 P.M. at the Hope Municipal Building, County Route 611, Hope, NJ.

February 11, 2015
March 11, 2015
April 8, 2015
May 13, 2015
June 10, 2015
July 8, 2015
August 12, 2015
September 9, 2015
October 14, 2015
November 9, 2015 *
December 9, 2015
January 13, 2016

Work meetings will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:00 P.M. at the Hope Municipal Building, County Route 611, Hope, NJ.

January 28, 2015
February 25, 2015
March 25, 2015
April 22, 2015
May 27, 2015
September 23, 2015
October 28, 2015
December 30, 2015 at 4:00 P.M. (Year End)

The 2016 reorganization meeting will be held at the Hope Community Center on Monday, January 4, 2016 at 6:00 P.M.

All business and work meetings will be held at the Hope Municipal Building, 407 Hope-Great Meadows Road, Hope, NJ.

Formal action may be taken at both business and work meetings. Executive sessions may be called by the governing body when appropriate at both business and work meetings.

RESOLUTION #15-09

WHEREAS, from time to time checks received in payment for real property taxes or other Township charges are returned by the banks as unpayable;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of Hope Township, Warren County, New Jersey that Hope Township will charge twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars for any check payable to Hope Township that is returned for non-payment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Tax Collector and Chief Financial Officer.

RESOLUTION #15-10

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, New Jersey that the following appointments be made for the year 2015:

Mary Pat Quinn - Assessment Search Officer, Secretary to the Local Board of Health, Public Agency Compliance Officer, Treasurer, Municipal Alliance Coordinator.

Linda Gabel - Deputy Municipal Clerk, Municipal Alliance Chairperson.

Donald Whitmore -Public Works Foreman

Alfia Schemm - Secretary to the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment

Linda Gabel – Recycling Coordinator, Secretary to Environmental Commission and Historic District Commission

Glenn Carter – Zoning Officer/Driveway Official

Ralph Price – Electrical Inspector (under the Elect. Subcode Official), no compensation

Michele Adamaitis – Technical Assistant to the Construction Department

Kathryn Eger - Acting Municipal Court Administrator/Violations Clerk

Mary Patricia Pfeil – Deputy Municipal Court Administrator/Violations Clerk (part-time)

Dawn Decker – Deputy Municipal Court Administrator/Violations Clerk (part-time/temporary)

Alan DeCarolis - Animal Control Officer, Animal Cruelty Investigator

Mary Pat Quinn and Linda Gabel - Dog Licensing Clerks

Richard A. Ralph, Esq. – Municipal Court Prosecutor

Glenn Hawkswell – Municipal Court Attendant

Charles Finneran – Alternate Municipal Court Attendant

Dennis Kelley – Alternate Municipal Court Attendant

Charles O’Connell – Alternate Municipal Public Defender

Liaison to Warren County Office on Aging-Vacancy: Vacancy

Karen Bartlett-Lance, Deputy Tax Collector

John Koonz - Board of Health Chairman

Patricia Whitmore – Christmas Craft Market Coordinator/Events Coordinator

Kim Tighe – Sports Director for Baseball

Bradley Bartow, Jr. – Sports Director for Soccer

Robin Keggan – Sports Director for Basketball, Recreation Commission Secretary

Liaison to Warren County Solid Waste Advisory Council – Linda Gabel (Certified Recycling Coordinator)

Official Newspaper – The Express Times, The Star Ledger, The Star Gazette

Planning Board:

Timothy C. McDonough, Class I	12/31/15
John Koonz, Class III	12/31/15
Vacancy, Class II	12/31/15
Steve Larena	12/31/18
Chris Maier	12/31/18
Robert May	12/31/18
Betsy Peterson, Crossover to Env. Comm.	12/31/17
Tom Toohey, Alternate #2	12/31/16

Zoning Board of Adjustment:

Brian Kathenes	12/31/18
Carol Kernoschak	12/31/18
Jan Wargo	12/31/18
Vacancy	12/31/18
Vacancy, Alternate #1	12/31/15
Vacancy, Alternate #2	12/31/16

Agriculture Advisory Board:

Robert May	12/31/15
Richard Goodbody	12/31/15
Joshua Miller	12/31/15
(2) Vacancies	12/31/15

Advisory member: John Koonz, Township Committee Liaison

Environmental Commission:

Monica Sobon	12/31/17
Jennifer Wallace	12/31/17
Betsy Peterson, Crossover to Planning Board	12/31/17
Patricia Maertens	12/31/17
Virginia Caballero, Alternate #1	12/31/16

Green Team:

Monica Sobon (Chairperson)	12/31/15
Ellen Benoit (Vice-Chairperson)	12/31/15
Christine Rusin	12/31/15
Nancy Chambellan	12/31/15
Cathie LaBar	12/31/15
Virginia Caballero	12/31/15
John Lucas	12/31/15
Betsy Peterson	12/31/15
Jennifer Wallace	12/31/15
Evan Rupff	12/31/15
Linda Gabel (Secretary)	12/31/15

Historic Preservation Commission:

Robert May	12/31/18
Mary Billow	12/31/18
Verity Fox	12/31/18
Emily Brown, Alternate #2	12/31/16

RESOLUTION #15-11

WHEREAS, the Hope Volunteer Fire Department and the Blirstown Ambulance Corp are the agencies that provide the residents of Hope Township with fire protection and emergency services; and

WHEREAS, both agencies need to conduct fund raisers from time to time in order to maintain the integrity and level of these vital services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren, New Jersey that the Hope Volunteer Fire Department and the Blirstown Ambulance Corps are authorized to conduct fund drives on any roadway within the Township of Hope during the calendar year 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Clerk is hereby directed to provide a certified copy of this resolution to these agencies.

RESOLUTION #15-12

APPOINT BLAIRSTOWN AMBULANCE CORP AS THE PRIMARY AMBULANCE SERVICE FOR CY 2015

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope requires emergency services from time to time; and

WHEREAS, the Blirstown Ambulance Corp can effectively and efficiently provide emergency services for the Township of Hope;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren, New Jersey, that the Blirstown Ambulance Corp is hereby appointed as the primary ambulance service for Hope Township for calendar year 2015;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk is hereby directed to provide a certified copy of this action to the President of the Blirstown Ambulance Corp.

RECOGNITION OF HOPE TOWNSHIP YOUTH

Beatty read the accomplishments of four sports teams and the Chess Club while recognizing the respective coaches. He then went through the individual names calling each child up. McDonough and Koonz handed out hats to each child.

In addition to the names in the booklet, Riley and Ryder Pennucci were recognized for their achievements in BMX Racing. Both won the National Championships for their age groups in 2014.

PUBLIC

During the public portion of the meeting, Carol D'Ottavio, a resident of Hope, mentioned that she had a stack of petitions to Century Link signed by Hope residents requesting that internet service be made available in other sections of the Township that are now without it. McDonough noted that right now the Township is stuck with Service Electric for cable service; however, the governing body has been

in contact with Comcast to see if there are any other options available to Hope. Koonz added that the residents should also contact Century Link to see about getting the internet through their phone lines. McDonough assured D'Ottavio that the governing body is working on the problem.

Prior to adjournment, Koonz asked all present to take a moment of silence to thank all veterans for their service to our country.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M. on a motion made by Beatty, seconded by Koonz. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Pat Quinn
Municipal Clerk

