

JANUARY 13, 2016

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 John Koonz. Also present were: Ted Rodman, Township Engineer, and Mary Pat Quinn, Municipal Clerk.

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 January 14, 2015 and January 23, 2015.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The following minutes were approved as circulated on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty: business meeting on December 9, 2015; executive session on December 9, 2015; and reorganization meeting on January 5, 2016. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

The following minutes were approved as circulated on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by McDonough: special meeting on December 15, 2015; executive session on December 15, 2015; and year-end meeting on December 30, 2015. Committee polled: Beatty-abstain; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

RECEIPTS

Koonz noted the receipts for December, 2015. The total receipts were \$177,155.19.

BILLS

The bill list was noted by Beatty. A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty authorizing the payment of the bills. The total bills as of the date of the meeting were \$340,036.66. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

REPORTS

Chief Financial Officer

No report submitted. The Township Committee is working with a temporary budget for the first three months of the year.

Zoning Officer

The following report was submitted by the Zoning Officer. A total of 15 zoning permits were issued during CY 2015 (9-accessory structures, 4-sign permits, and 2-other).

Warren County Health Department

The following complaints were investigated:

458 Delaware Road – Bread used for feed attracting rats and birds. Complainant affected is to call when the nuisance is occurring. No calls were received in December.

Route 80W, MM 11.3 – Warren County Communications requested a response to a truck with an active fuel leak due to a collision. Upon arrival, a pool was placed under the leaking tank. Approximately three gallons was collected. Absorbent material was also placed on the highway shoulder to collect the spilled diesel. The responsible party hired an environmental firm to mitigate the site. No further action was necessary. File closed.

Rabies – Rabies testing was requested for one raccoon. The raccoon was transported to the NJDOH lab for testing. The test results were negative for rabies.

There was no activity for food establishments, kennels, childcare centers, recreational bathing, youth camps, or campgrounds.

Septics/Wells – One septic repair application was approved. Five septic alternation applications were approved. One septic alteration was installed.

Township Engineer

Rodman reported that his office prepared documents that will be submitted to FEMA for the DPW garage generator project.

The salt shed specifications are still under advisement.

With regard to the catch basin project, Rodman contacted the five references that Riverview Paving, Inc., the apparent low bidder, provided in their bid documents. Smith-Sondy was the primary contractor for four of the references, and Tilcon was the primary contractor for the fifth reference. Both companies gave a good review of the company. Rodman asked Riverview for references where they were the primary contractor. The City of Bergen and the County of Morris were given as references, and they responded favorably. The second low bidder, Consolidated Maintenance Solutions, LLC., also gave them a good reference.

Riverview Paving, Inc. has 32 field employees and 6 office employees. They feel that they can handle traffic control. The Township Committee will instruct the DPW Foreman to supervise the work.

A memo from Katrina Campbell, Esq. (for the Township Attorney, Michael Selvaggi, Esq.) dated January 11, 2016 was acknowledged. Ms. Campbell reviewed the bid documents from Riverview and determined them to be in order. She did note that a “Disclosure of Investment Activities in Iran Form” is required now in all bid documents, so pending Riverview’s completion of the form, the bid could be awarded to them.

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to award the bid for the Repair and Reconstruction of Catch Basins for Hope Township, NJ to Riverview Paving, Inc., 13 Eagle Rock Avenue, East Hanover, NJ 07936 in the amount of \$21,600.00 pending the completion and submittal of the Disclosure of Investment Activities in Iran Form. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

Rodman left the meeting at this time.

Road Department

The Public Works Foreman submits weekly reports which are available for review in the Municipal Clerk's office.

Fire Department

No report submitted.

Blairstown Ambulance Corp

No report submitted.

Tax Assessor

No report submitted.

Tax Collector

December, 2015 Tax Collection:

Current Year Taxes	\$93,921.36	\$6,094,497.16 Y-T-D
Prepaid 2016 Taxes	31,275.85	62,985.82
Delinquent Taxes:		
Taxes – 2014	.00	31,682.80
Municipal Tax Lien Redemption	14,492.45	21,505.72
Outside Tax Lien Redemption	.00	8,464.54
Attorney Fees	2,081.49	2,081.49
Cost of Sale Fees	539.92	1,040.60
Tax Sale Premiums	.00	4,000.00
Interest and Costs	<u>15,414.30</u>	<u>24,521.96</u>
Total Receipts	\$157,725.37	\$6,250,780.09

Remarks:

Current Year Tax Collection Comparison:

December 2015 to December 2014	-\$ 20,217.74
Year to Date 2015 to Year to Date 2014	+\$105,323.14
December 2015 to December 2013	-\$ 6,090.38
Year to Date 2014 to Year to Date 2013	+\$335,687.23

(Unaudited)	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Y-T-D Collection %'s	98.32	98.05	98.68	98.08	98.35	98.35	98.44	97.78	98.42	98.31

Construction Code Official

The following permits were issued during December, 2015: 9-Building, 4-Plumbing, 4-Electrical, 3-Fire, and 1-Certificate for a total income of \$1,166.00.

Mayor McDonough

Nothing to report.

Deputy Mayor Beatty

Nothing to report.

Committeeman Koonz

Nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following communications were received during the month:

1. Thomas d. Norkevich Wetland & Soil Investigation. Re: Block 1200, Lot 2300 (Locust Lake Road) Application for Letter of Interpretation.
2. Richard A. Ralph, Esq. Re: Letter requesting his reappointment as the Municipal Court Prosecutor for CY 2016.
3. Michael Selvaggi, Esq. to Michael P. Meliti, Esq., attorney for Service Electric Cable T.V. of New Jersey. Re: A certified copy of Hope Township Ordinance #15-08 was forwarded, which renews Hope's participation in the regional franchise for cable television.
4. Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope. Re: November, 2015 Municipal Court Disbursements. A copy was given to the Chief Financial Officer.
5. Frelinghuysen Township. Re: Notice that Ordinance #2015-16 providing for the establishment of a carbonate rock area, was adopted by the Frelinghuysen Township Committee. A copy was given to the Hope Planning Board and the Hope Environmental Commission.
6. N.J. Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Water Quality, Office of Permit Management. Re: Notice of FY2016 NJPDES.

7. N.J. Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Land Use Regulation to Peter Jonsson. Re: Permit for Block 100, Lot 1700 – 150 Lake Just-it Road. A copy was given to the Hope Zoning Board of Adjustment.
8. N.J. Department of Transportation. Re: Final approval of the Smith Street and Green Street Overlayment Project.
9. USDA. Re: Notice of solicitation of applications for the Section 533 Housing Preservation Grants for FY 2016.

APPOINTMENTS

The following vacancies were noted: Agriculture Advisory Committee – two vacancies, terms expire 12/31/16 and Alternate #2 on the Historic Preservation Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Status of Sanitary Landfill

McDonough reported that he has a meeting scheduled with the NJDEP to discuss this matter on February 1, 2016.

Status Purchase of Development Rights on Almeida (former Scorp) Farm

The Clerk will get back in touch with the Land Conservancy of N.J. for guidance on this matter.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #16-13, Cancel Tax Sale Certificates #11-02, #11-03 & #11-04

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

RESOLUTION #16-13

RESOLUTION CANCELING TAX SALE CERTIFICATES 11-02, 11-03 & 11-04

WHEREAS, the property of Last Frontier, Inc. known as Block 200, Lot 600 located at 29 Swayze Mill road had unpaid 2010 property taxes and was sold at Tax Sale on February 3, 2011 by the Hope Township Tax Collector; and

WHEREAS, as there were no outside bidders for the abovementioned property, the Hope Township Tax Collector struck off the property to the Township of Hope for the amount of \$1,530.47. The amount consists of unpaid 2010 property taxes, interest, and other costs, and is represented by Tax Sale Certificate 11-02; and

WHEREAS, the property of Last Frontier, Inc. known as Block 200, Lot 602 located at 19 Swayze Mill Road had unpaid 2010 property taxes and was sold at Tax Sale on February 3, 2011 by the Hope Township Tax Collector; and

WHEREAS, as there were no outside bidders for the abovementioned property, the Hope Township Tax collector struck off the property to the Township of Hope for the amount of \$938.28. The amount consists of unpaid 2010 property taxes, interest, and other costs, and is represented by Tax Sale Certificate 11-03; and

WHEREAS, the property of Last Frontier, Inc. known as Block 200, Lot 603 located at 23 Swayze Mill Road had unpaid 2010 property taxes and was sold at Tax Sale on February 3, 2011 by the Hope Township Tax Collector; and

WHEREAS, as there were no outside bidders for the abovementioned property, the Hope Township Tax Collector struck off the property to the Township of Hope for the amount of \$724.09. The amount consists of unpaid 2010 property taxes, interest, and other costs, and is represented by Tax Sale Certificate 11-04; and

WHEREAS, Steven Secaras, a member of Swayze Mill Estates, LLC., the new owner of the properties, paid \$28,101.38 on December 31, 2015 to redeem the said Tax Liens 11-02, 11-03 & 11-04 together with accrued interest, other charges, delinquent taxes, prepaid taxes, and township incurred attorney fees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope on this 13th day of January 2016 that the Mayor of the Township of Hope be authorized to sign Tax Sale Certificates 11-02, 11-03 & 11-04 as being satisfied; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tax Collector return the executed satisfied tax Sale Certificates to Swayze Mill Estates, LLC. of 7400 River Road, Apt. 120 located in North Bergen, NJ 07047.

Resolution #16-14, Appoint Emergency Management Coordinator & Deputy EMC

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

RESOLUTION #16-14

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT
AN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR AND
A DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR
IN THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren, New Jersey that Timothy C. McDonough is appointed for a three-year term (beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2018) as the Emergency Management Coordinator; and Donald Whitmore is

appointed as the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for a three-year term (beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2018);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this action to Warren County Public Safety, Office of Emergency Management.

Resolution #16-15, Cancel Tax Sale Certificate 12-03

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

RESOLUTION #16-15

RESOLUTION CANCELING TAX SALE CERTIFICATE 12-03

WHEREAS, the property of Imperial Billiards Corporation known as Block 2700, Lot 1300 located at 2 Sandy Lane had unpaid 2011 property taxes and was sold at Tax Sale on January 31, 2012 by the Hope Township Tax Collector; and

WHEREAS, as there were no outside bidders for the abovementioned property, the Hope Township Tax Collector struck off the property to the Township of Hope for the amount of \$7,103.48. The amount consists of unpaid 2011 property taxes, interest, and other costs, and is represented by Tax Sale Certificate 12-03; and

WHEREAS, Craig L. Levinsohn, Esquire, of the firm Aronsohn, Weiner, Salerno, Bremer & Kaufman, PC, representing Redicap, the mortgagee of the property, paid \$50,639.40 on January 11, 2016 to redeem the said Tax Lien 12-03 together with accrued interest, other charges, delinquent taxes, and township incurred attorney fees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope on this 13th day of January 2016 that the Mayor of the Township of Hope be authorized to sign Tax Sale Certificate 12-03 as being satisfied; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tax Collector return the executed satisfied Tax Sale Certificate to Craig L. Levinsohn, Esquire, of the firm Aronsohn, Weiner, Salerno, Bremer & Kaufman, PC of 21 Main Street, Suite 100 located in Hackensack, NJ 07601.

Discuss criteria for Annual Youth Recognition

Koonz suggested that the Township Committee designate a committee to determine the criteria for recognizing Hope Township children at the reorganization meeting each year. He discussed the topic with the interim principal of the Hope Township School, and she suggested that a school board member and a teacher would be good candidates for that committee. Koonz recommended the new School Board President, Doug Tighe, and Bradley Bartow, the Physical Education teacher who is also the Hope Soccer Director. Beatty and McDonough supported the idea and asked Koonz to serve on that committee as well. The Clerk was directed to share the information with the interim principal.

Discuss Municipal Alliance Grant

Quinn suggested that the administration of this grant should be passed on to someone else now. The focus of the grant is prevention, specifically underage drinking. Most of the programs are targeted for school age children; therefore, she felt that an educator, guidance counselor or the school nurse would be more appropriate. The governing body supported looking for another grants coordinator.

PUBLIC

Christine Rusin, a resident of Hope, advised the governing body that she, through her business, Parashoot Productions, was contacted by a subsidiary of the History Channel about the history of Hope Township. They are in the research phase at this point. She thought it would be an opportunity for the town to promote its history. She will keep the governing body informed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION, RE: PERSONNEL & PENDING LITIGATION

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a public body to go into closed session during a public meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Hope has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the public,

WHEREAS, the regular meeting of this Committee will reconvene.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Hope will go into closed session for the following reason as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12: Pending litigation and personnel.

The executive session was concluded on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

Prior to adjourning the meeting, the Annual Appreciation Dinner was set for Saturday, February 20 with a bad weather date of February 21.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M. on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Pat Quinn
Municipal Clerk

