

FEBRUARY 25, 2015

The monthly work 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 Municipal Clerk Mary Pat Quinn and Chief Financial Officer Kathleen Reinalda.

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.

#### REVIEW PROPOSED "WELL CHECK PROGRAM" DESIGNED BY ST. LUKE'S CHURCH

Sarah Grub, office assistant, of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, forwarded information about a proposed program that they would like to offer Hope Township senior citizens. Under the program, members of their congregation will reach out to seniors during extreme weather or other occurrences to see if the individual requires possible assistance. The program will be entirely voluntary.

The proposed information form was reviewed. The governing body asks that it be stressed to senior citizens that the program is voluntary. The reference to Hope Township on the second page shall be omitted. Otherwise the program was acceptable to the governing body.

#### HOPE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION, RE: REQUEST RESOLUTION TO PROHIBIT FRACKING

A memo dated February 23, 2015 was received from the Hope Environmental Commission as a follow up to the information that they provided to the governing body on January 21, 2015. Koonz expressed a concern about the wording in the proposed Resolution as it may or may not interfere with interstate commerce. McDonough suggested that the Commission be invited to a meeting of the governing body so that their concerns could be discussed. He will reach out to the NJDEP to get their perspective on fracking.

#### PREPARE 2015 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

The governing body discussed various capital projects that are needed this year and how they could be funded. There was a discussion about the Township's bond anticipation note. McDonough advised that he spoke with the Township's bond counsel about the possibility of permanently bonding the new capital projects and the balance on the existing bond anticipation note. This matter will be discussed with the Municipal Auditor at the next budget meeting, which is scheduled for Monday, March 9, 2015 at 4:00 P.M.

The court budget was also discussed. The continuing problem of receivables has contributed to the need to future pare down expenses; therefore, the Acting Judge and Acting Court Administrator will be asked to attend the next budget meeting as well.

Don Whitmore, the Public Works Foreman, was present to go over his budget. There was a discussion about repairing/replacing the salt shed which experienced a partial roof collapse last February. The Township received \$48,877.69 from an insurance claim submitted to Selective Insurance.

The process for the repair/replacement will be discussed with the Municipal Auditor at the next budget meeting. Whitmore noted that he has already spent \$32,000.00 on rock salt this year. The 1994 F-800 needs to be replaced, and an estimated cost for a new truck is \$150,000.00. Beatty spoke in favor of doing oil and stone on some Township roads.

PUBLIC

There were no questions or comments from the public.

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