

FEBRUARY 26, 2014

BUDGET MEETING

A special meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 4:30 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 by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township bulletin boards all on February 21, 2014.

PREPARE 2014 LOCAL MUNICIPAL BUDGET

The Department of Public Works Foreman, Don Whitmore, discussed his department's proposed budget with the governing body. To date, \$29,064.13 has been spent on rock salt; \$26,581.49 was spent last winter. There was a discussion about the possibility of starting a rock salt trust fund, which is permitted by the State. Also discussed were possible capital projects, such as replacing the zero turn mower; 1994 F-800 truck; salt shed; pipe and catch basins (not previously covered by FEMA reimbursement).

The governing body will consider the feasibility of funding those items with a bond anticipation note. Also being considered is the replacement of the carpet in the Municipal Building, interior painting in the Municipal Building; and the local share of the FEMA projects (oil/stone Kostenbader Road, catch basin replacement, guiderail on Osmun Road).

There was a review of the Celebration of Public Events. Reinalda will check with the auditor to see if the cost of all public events can be funded through the Christmas Market Trust Fund.

Budgets were submitted by the Baseball and Basketball Sports Directors. Beatty advised that the program costs will be flat.

The used pews that were purchased for the courtroom will be installed by a carpenter after new carpeting is installed.

The next budget meeting will be held on March 4 at 4:30 P.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 P.M. on a motion made by Beatty, seconded by Koonz. The motion was carried.

WORK MEETING

The monthly work meeting 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 was the Municipal Clerk, Mary Pat Quinn.

Under the provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act", adequate notice of the meeting had been provided by publishing 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.

PUBLIC

Joanne Vance, a resident of Hope and a leader of the Hope Girl Scouts, was present to express her concern about the cleanliness of the Moravian Grange Hall. After a short discussion, the governing body authorized the Clerk to hire an exterminator and to have Bedell Brothers clean the building on a weekly basis.

PUBLIC HEARING/ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #14-03, ESTABLISH JOINT MUNICIPAL COURT

A hearing on the following Ordinance was opened to the public on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

ORDINANCE #14-03

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DELETING AND REPLACING SECTION 2-6 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, JOINT MUNICIPAL COURT, IN ORDER TO CREATE A NEW JOINT MUNICIPAL COURT

There were no questions or comments from the public. The public hearing was closed on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

Ordinance #14-03 was adopted on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

APPOINT RICHARD A. RALPH, ESQ. AS MUNICIPAL COURT PROSECUTOR FOR 2014

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to appoint Richard A. Ralph, Esq. as the Municipal Court Prosecutor of the Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope for 2014. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

REVIEW LETTER FROM W.C. ENGINEER, RE: MILLBROOK ROAD/WALNUT STREET

A letter dated December 11, 2013 from William G. Gleba, P.E., Warren County Engineer, was acknowledged and discussed. The Township Committee requested that the County consider making Millbrook Road a one-way street in the northbound direction. Gleba asked that the governing body get preliminary feedback from the immediate residents, businesses and emergency services. The Township Committee will follow through with that request by personally contacting the affected parties.

DISCUSS USE OF FACILITIES FORM FOR HOPE COMMUNITY CENTER

The Use of Facilities Form was reviewed by the Township Committee. The first paragraph of the "Insurance Coverage Required" page was amended as follows on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

“Hope Township will assume no responsibility for accidents, injuries, or **property damage** (added) incurred by anyone or group using the grounds or facilities of Hope Township. As such, a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming Hope Township “additional insured” is required.”

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to require all individuals or groups unaffiliated with any Township body to complete and abide by all aspects of the application process. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

DISCUSS SPEED LIMIT ON RIDGEWAY AVENUE

The governing body determined that the speed limit on Ridgeway Avenue should be reduced from 35 MPH to 25 MPH. The Clerk was directed to place the matter on the next business meeting agenda (March 12, 2014) for introduction via Ordinance.

DISCUSS NON-DOMESTICATED ANIMALS ON SMALL, RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

This matter will be discussed with the Animal Control Officer at the business meeting on March 12, 2014.

REVIEW BID DOCUMENTS FOR CELL TOWER ON TOWNSHIP PROPERTY

The governing body reviewed the “Instructions to Bidders and Statutory Requirements” for a land lease for the construction of a self-supporting wireless telecommunications monopole and ancillary wireless telephone support equipment and structures on Block 1600, Lot 2600. The Clerk was authorized to publish a Notice to Bidders for a bid opening to take place on March 26, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.

STATUS OF MORAVIAN DISTILLERY REHABILITATION PROJECT

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to authorize the Clerk to sign the “General Form Status Inquiry” dated December 27, 2013 from Penn National Insurance of Harrisburg, PA. The project has been 90% completed by Kunzman Construction of Pittstown, NJ. The completion date is April 30, 2014. That information is recorded on the form and will be forwarded to the bond carrier. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

FOLLOW UP – 161 LAKE JUST-IT ROAD

There has been no response from the resident of 161 Lake Just-It Road to the Township Attorney’s letter of January 27, 2014 concerning the removal of an unlawful obstruction. The Clerk was directed to advise the Township Attorney that his office can follow up with a title search to confirm the Township right-of-way, and a letter to be sent to the property owner with a date certain for the removal of the obstruction by Hope Township. Hope Township will seek reimbursement from the property owner for the cost of the removal.

RESOLUTION #14-19, AMUSEMENT GAMES – LAND OF MAKE BELIEVE

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to approve the following Resolution as a letter has been submitted by Christopher Maier, owner of the Land of Make Believe, as to the State requirement for a background check. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

RESOLUTION #14-19

WHEREAS, Christopher Maier, t/a Land of Make Believe has filed applications for the following arcade and amusement games licenses:

Arcade, Cert. #2000
Gobble-Up Game, Cert. #1016
Basketball, Cert. #1003
Dog Pounder, Cert. #4044
Duck Pond, Cert. #3001
Top-Glo Game, Cert. #4023
Stop and Go, Cert. #5001

WHEREAS, the foregoing applications are complete and in conformance with the provisions of Chapter 21 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Hope.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, New Jersey that the foregoing applications be approved and that the appropriate licenses be issued by the Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission in the N.J. Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Consumer Affairs.

STATUS OF WHITE TOWNSHIP/MUNICIPAL COURT OF NORTH WARREN AT HOPE

McDonough reported that he met with representatives of the N.J. Administrative Office of the Courts, Vicinage #13, to discuss the feasibility of White Township becoming a member municipality of the Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope. Since a portion of that discussion involved personnel matters, the governing body authorized the Clerk, via motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty, to send a "Rice Notice" to the Court Administrator, Christine Rabtzow. The matter will be discussed at a special meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 4:30 P.M. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M. on a motion made by Beatty, seconded by Koonz. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Pat Quinn
Municipal Clerk

