

MARCH 11, 2015

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 and Deputy Mayor George Beatty. Committeeman John Koonz advised of his absence prior to the meeting. Also present were Municipal Clerk Mary Pat Quinn and Township Engineer Ted Rodman.

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 minutes of the business meeting and the executive session meeting on February 11, 2015 and the work meeting on February 26, 2015 were approved as circulated on a motion made by McDonough, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-absent; McDonough-yes.

RECEIPTS

The receipts were read by McDonough, who noted those amounts over \$100.00. The total receipts during February, 2015 (less the tax collection, which was unavailable) were \$14,942.68.

BILLS

The bill list was read by Beatty, who noted those amounts over \$100.00. A motion was made by Beatty, seconded by McDonough to authorize the payment of the bills. The total bills were \$361,472.81. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-absent; McDonough-yes.

REPORTS

Chief Financial Officer

The Township Committee is operating with a temporary budget at this time.

Zoning Officer

No report submitted.

Warren County Health Department

The following complaints were investigated:

416 Main Street – Garbage on the lawn and in the storage shed at the bank-owned property. The court clerk reported that a warrant has been issued for the responsible party. No change in status.

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 February.

Route 521 (exit 12 from Route 80) – Solid waste trucks going through Hope. No change in status.

Inn at Millrace Pond – Noise from music during events at the Inn. No change in status.

Food Establishment – Country Liquor Store was inspected and received a satisfactory rating.

Rabies – No activity.

Kennels – No activity.

Childcare Centers – No activity.

Recreational Bathing – No activity.

Youth Camps – No activity.

Septics/Wells – No activity.

Township Engineer

Rodman reported that Schifano will extend the contract pricing from 2014 for the Far View Road and Honey Run Road overlayment projects. The local aid office of the N.J. Department of Transportation approved the extension, and the Township Attorney agreed that if the contractor is willing to extend the contract award to 2015, that is allowable. Rodman will follow up with Schifano and schedule the work when the weather clears.

There is no word yet from the NJDOT on the Township's grant application for overlaying Smith Street and Green Street.

Rodman was contacted by Wayne Porter, a Project Management Director of W. D. Wright Contracting, Inc, Beaver Falls, PA regarding a permit to install underground fiber optic cable along a short section of Koeck Road. The cable will be extended from the high tension wires in Knowlton Township in to Hope Township along the shoulder of Koeck Road. Rodman did not know the purpose of the cable, but he will obtain that information before the next meeting. He is using the Warren County regulations and checklist for this type of work in both Knowlton and Hope.

With regard to the salt shed, Rodman will prepare the specifications.

There was a discussion about the lack of snow removal on the sidewalk adjacent to the sideyard of the former Udell Real Estate office. The new owner is not willing to remove snow from the sidewalk, and Warren County is not obligated to do so. For the safety and convenience of the public, the governing body is asking the Township Attorney to prepare a sidewalk maintenance ordinance.

Road Department

The Public Works Foreman prepares weekly reports which are available for public inspection in the Clerk's office.

Fire Department

No report submitted.

Blairstown Ambulance Corp

No report submitted.

Tax Assessor

No report submitted.

Tax Collector

No report submitted.

Construction Code Official

The following permits were issued during February, 2015: 2-Building, 1-Plumbing, 1- Electrical for a total income of \$734.00.

Mayor McDonough

McDonough spoke with a representative of the NJDEP about fracking. The representative advised that the opposition to fracking is due to the fracking taking place in Pennsylvania, and fracking would not move to New Jersey due to its geology.

McDonough recommended that the governing body work on revising the Open Space Ordinance at the next work meeting.

Deputy Mayor Beatty

Nothing to report.

Use of Facility Request – Erin and David Costa

Erin and David Costa requested the use of the Hope Community Center on Sunday, March 22, 2015 from 12:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. for a child's birthday party. The rental fee has been paid, and proof of liability insurance has been provided with the application. A motion to approve the use was made by McDonough and seconded by Beatty. The motion was carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following communications were received during the month:

1. Hardwick Township. Re: Resolution supporting, recognizing and honoring the service of law enforcement officers.
2. N.J. Department of Transportation. Re: Route 80 Thin Surface Treatment Project. A copy was given to the Historic Preservation Commission, Environmental Commission and the Public Works Foreman.
3. Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope. Re: January 2015 Municipal Court Disbursements. A copy was given to the Chief Financial Officer.
4. Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Re: Notice of informational forum on the Highlands to be held in the Freeholders meeting room on March 9 at 7:00 P.M. This information was also given to the Planning Board.
5. N.J. Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Land Use Regulation to Peter Jonsson. Re: Letter of Interpretation: Footprint of Disturbance Determination regarding Block 100, Lot 1700. It was determined that freshwater wetlands and/or State open waters are not present within the subject area of disturbance; however a part of the area of disturbance occurs within a transition area or buffer. A copy was given to the Construction Code Official, Zoning Officer, Township Engineer, and Zoning Board of Adjustment.
6. Warren County Mosquito Control Commission. Re: Information packet about the adult mosquito control program. This information was given to the Hope Environmental Commission.
7. Frelinghuysen Township. Re: Notice of adoption of Land Use Amendment Ordinance #2015-06. A copy was given to the Hope Planning Board.
8. N.J. State League of Municipalities. Re: February 2015 Legislative Bulletin.

APPOINTMENTS

The following vacancies were noted: Planning Board – Class II member, term expires 12/31/14; Zoning Board of Adjustment – full member, term expires 12/31/14; Alternate #1, term expires 12/31/15; Alternate #2, term expires 12/31/14; Historic Preservation Commission – Alternate #2, term expires 12/31/14; Agriculture Advisory Committee – 2 vacancies, terms expire 12/31/14.

OLD BUSINESS

Public Hearing/Adoption, Ordinance #15-02, Establish Salary for Judge

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

ORDINANCE #15-02

AN ORDINANCE FIXING AND DETERMINING THE SALARIES, WAGES OR COMPENSATION TO BE PAID AND BENEFITS TO BE PROVIDED TO THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2015

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren, New Jersey that the following salary shall be established for the Municipal Court Judge effective February 1, 2015:

AA. Municipal Court Judge \$300.00 per court session

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

Ordinance #15-02 was adopted on a motion made by Beatty, seconded by McDonough. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-absent; McDonough-yes.

Non-Household Animal Ordinance

No change in status. The Township Attorney is to prepare an ordinance for introduction.

Status of Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope

The Administrative Office of the Courts is requiring the Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope to redo the advertising process in order to fill the Municipal Court Administrator position. Presently, Kathryn Eger, is the Acting Municipal Court Administrator. The Clerk was directed to prepare an ad for the governing body's review prior to forwarding same to Acting Judge William Mennen.

Status of Hope Sanitary Landfill

McDonough is still waiting for the NJDEP to set up a meeting on this matter.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #15-25, Cancel Tax Sale Certificate 2015-06

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

RESOLUTION #15-25

RESOLUTION CANCELING TAX SALE CERTIFICATE 2015-006

WHEREAS, the property of Walter W. and Margaret Bobula known as Block 5000, Lot 300 located at 433 Silver Lake Road had unpaid 2014 property taxes and was sold at Tax Sale on January 29, 2015 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 \$6,834.37. the amount consists of unpaid 2014 property taxes, interest, and other costs, and is represented by Tax Sale Certificate 2015-006; and

WHEREAS, Ocwen Loan Servicing, the mortgagee of the property, paid \$7,195.50 on February 10, 2015 to redeem the said Tax Lien 2015-006 together with accrued interest, other charges, and current taxes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope on this 11th day of March 2015 that the Mayor of the Township of Hope be authorized to sign Tax Sale Certificate 2015-006 as being satisfied; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tax Collector return the executed satisfied Tax Sale Certificate to Ocwen Loan Servicing of 1661 Worthington Road, Suite 100 located in West Palm Beach, FL 33409.

Resolution #15-26, Transfer Reserve Appropriations

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

RESOLUTION #15-26

RESERVE TRANSFER RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that there are insufficient funds to meet the demands necessary for the 2014 Reserve Balances in Buildings and Grounds, O/E, Telephone O/E and Fuel Oil O/E;

WHEREAS, the following account has sufficient excess funds to meet such demands: Road Maintenance S/W;

BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 40A:4-59 the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to make the following transfers:

TO:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Buildings and Grounds O/E | \$2,494.60 |
| Telephone O/E | 23.59 |
| Fuel Oil O/E | <u>1,483.04</u> |
| Total | \$ 4,001.23 |

FROM:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Road Maintenance S/W | \$ 4,001.23 |
|----------------------|-------------|

Hope Township Environmental Commission Application for 2015 Open Space Stewardship Grant

A motion was made by Beatty, seconded by McDonough to support an application to be submitted by the Hope Township Environmental Commission under the 2015 Open Space Stewardship Grant Program for restoration of the walking trail at Swayze Mill Park. McDonough will submit a letter in support of the grant application. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-absent; McDonough-yes.

PUBLIC

There were no questions or comments from the public.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M. on a motion made by Beatty, seconded by McDonough. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Pat Quinn
Municipal Clerk