

MARCH 13, 2014

A special meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 4:45 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: Mary Pat Quinn, Municipal Clerk; Kathleen Reinalda, Chief Financial Officer; and Anthony Ardito, Registered Municipal Accountant/Township Auditor.

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 March 10, 2014.

The Township Committee continued to work on the 2014 Municipal Budget with the assistance of the auditor and the finance officer. Ardito advised that the Division is allowing municipalities to have an exception for the extraordinary costs associated with the snow storms that were declared emergencies by Governor Christie on January 1 and 21, February 3, 4, and 13, 2014. The Clerk was directed to gather the expenses for salt, liquid calcium, diesel fuel, equipment repairs, tires, over-time, and additional manpower.

All Township employees will receive a 1.5 % increase this year.

There was a discussion about capital projects that will likely be put in to a Bond Ordinance, i.e. replace the F800 truck, salt shed, replace carpet in the Municipal Building, catch basins and pipe, road compactor, DPW garage roof replacement, spreader, 0-turn mower, replace cement stairs at Grange; local share of FEMA projects (catch basins and guiderail on Osmun Road).

With regard to funding "Celebration of Public Events", the governing body previously asked if this could be done through the Christmas Market Trust Fund Account. Ardito advised that this was feasible; however, the title of the account must be revised via Resolution and approved by the Division of Local Government Services. The governing body did adopt such a Resolution at the March 12, 2014 business meeting. They will await a determination from the Division.

As the budget stands now, the municipal tax increase equates to \$41.00 per year on an assessment of \$300,000.00. Once the amount for the 2013 and 2014 Municipal Alliance Grants are confirmed as well as the Road, Other Expense exception, the budget will be ready for introduction at the next meeting.

RESCIND PRIOR SUPPORT OF MUNICIPAL MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

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

RESOLUTION #14-24

RESOLUTION OF THE HOPE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE TO RESCIND RESOLUTION #14-18 ENTITLED "RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MEMBERSHIP IN A MUTUAL AID AND ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH PARTICIPATING UNITS"

WHEREAS, the Hope Township Committee adopted Resolution #14-18, which authorized Hope Township's membership in a Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement with Participating Units"; and

WHEREAS, the corresponding agreement was executed by Mayor Timothy C. McDonough and attested to by the Municipal Clerk, Mary Pat Quinn; and

WHEREAS, the governing body reviewed and discussed the agreement with the Hope Township Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the Hope Township Committee finds that upon future review of the document there are certain provisions that would negatively impact Hope Township and its volunteer fire department, namely the "Hope Volunteer Fire Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren, New Jersey, that Resolution #14-18 is rescinded and the previously executed Mutual Aid Agreement is null and void.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Pat Quinn
Municipal Clerk