

MARCH 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, Chief Financial Officer Kathleen Reinalda, and Township Auditor Anthony Ardito.

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.

#### Prepare 2015 Municipal Court Budget

William Mennen, Acting Municipal Court Judge, and Kathryn Eger, Acting Municipal Court Administrator, were present to discuss their budget requirements for CY 2015. Mennen advised that the ticket volume so far this year is up 50% largely due to the tickets being written by the State Police in White Township. He would like to continue to review the ticket counts on a rolling basis. For now, he deemed three court sessions per month to be needed if this trend continues, and it appears that it will.

Mennen did recommend having two court attendants at each court session to help people get processed to enter the courtroom. He will follow up on this matter with the present court attendant to see what would be a reasonable hourly rate for two hours per court.

A draft budget, prepared by Reinalda, was reviewed. The line item for books/publications was increased from \$500 to \$800 to allow funds availability for interpreters and an alternate judge if required.

Mennen and Eger left the meeting at this time.

#### Prepare 2015 Municipal Budget

The Township Committee decided to reduce the Local Open Space Tax to half a cent this year; the full two cent tax will be restored next year. \$200,000.00 is appropriated in the capital budget for the purchase of a new truck and catch basin replacements. The debt service reserve will not be used. The proposed municipal tax rate is .32462, which represents a \$232.00 annual increase on a home assessed at \$300,000.00. The budget will be introduced at the April 22, 2015 work meeting.

#### Hope PTA – Bingo & 50/50 Raffle Applications

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to approve a bingo license application (#BA:218) and a raffle license application (#RA:219) for the Hope Parent Teacher Association. The event will be held on May 2, 2015 from 6:00 to 10:00 P.M. at the Hope Township School. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

Use of Facility Request – NJ Fit Chicks

The instructor for NJ Fit Chicks has requested additional class time in the Moravian Grange Hall. Seven classes per week are proposed. The governing body set the monthly rental fee at \$400.00.

Public

There were no questions or comments from the public. Ardito and Reinalda left the meeting at this time.

Executive Session – re: Personnel

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: Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, disciplinary action unless individual in right requests a public meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M. on a motion made by Beatty, seconded by Koonz. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Pat Quinn  
Municipal Clerk