

APRIL 8, 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, Deputy Mayor George Beatty, and Committeeman John Koonz. 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.

Megan Bartow – Relay for Life

Megan Bartow, a resident of Hope Township, was present to discuss the upcoming Relay for Life event to be held at North Warren Regional School on June 6 and 7, 2015. She asked for permission to do the "Paint the Town Purple Campaign" in Hope Township prior to the relay. She will be giving purple ribbons to the businesses in the Township so that they can be displayed on their buildings; donations toward the Relay for Life would be appreciated. The Township Committee supported the idea.

Bartow left the meeting at this time.

Hope Environmental Commission – Discussion about Hydraulic Fracking

Present from the Hope Environmental Commission were: Betsy Peterson, Patricia Maertens, and Cathie LaBar. They attended the meeting to follow up on the governing body's questions about the draft Resolution prepared by the Commission in opposition of hydraulic fracking. Peterson noted that she, Maertens, and LaBar are the subcommittee of the Environmental Commission who has been studying the issue of hydraulic fracturing for natural gas.

A packet of information from ANJEC and Food and Water Watch was provided to the governing body and discussed. Peterson referred the governing body to a list of municipalities in New Jersey that have either adopted ordinances or resolutions in support of a statewide ban on fracking. It was noted that there is a compression station in Roseland, New Jersey. Peterson noted that the Hope Environmental Commission feels that New Jersey, specifically Hope Township, is not safe from the possibility of fracking.

Beatty spoke in favor of fracking and pipelines as opposed to the transportation of natural gas over road systems. Koonz asked the Commission to review the differences between fracking for natural gas and fracking for well water or construction. What techniques would be permitted or prohibited? With regard to the transportation of gas via generation stations, are there any techniques that would address potential problems? Koonz would like this information prior to the governing body's consideration of adopting a Resolution against fracking in Hope Township. McDonough noted that the N.J. State League of Municipalities and the NJDEP are closely watching the Penn East and Pilgrim pipeline projects.

Peterson asked the governing body members to watch the video, "Groundswell Rising", which some of the Environmental Commission members have already seen. She handed the video to Quinn.

Peterson, Maertens and LaBar left the meeting at this time.

Update on 458 Delaware Road

Sherrie Stires and Brian Kathenes, residents of Hope Township, were present to ask the governing body for the status of the Municipal Court matter involving 458 Delaware Road. McDonough responded that the Judge will apparently rule on the jurisdiction of this matter at court on April 9, 2015.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The following minutes were approved as circulated on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty: Special meeting, March 9, 2015; work meeting and executive session on March 25, 2015. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

The minutes of the business meeting on March 11, 2015 were approved as circulated on a motion made by Beatty, seconded by McDonough. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-abstain; McDonough-yes.

RECEIPTS

The receipts for March, 2015 were read by Koonz, who noted those amounts over \$100.00. The total receipts were \$88,279.40.

BILLS

The bill list was read by Beatty, who also noted those amounts over \$100.00. A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty authorizing the payment of the bills totaling \$350,784.80. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

REPORTS

Chief Financial Officer

The governing body is operating with a Temporary Budget at this time.

Zoning Officer

No report submitted.

Warren County Health Department

Complaints:

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 March.

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:

Hope Pizzeria and Catering 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.

The Township Committee also received a copy of a letter from Cindy Beernick, Senior, REHS, PH of the Warren County Health Department to Yoel Machado, a tenant of 37 Swayze Mill Road. Beernick provided Machado with the regulations for operating a dog facility after being contacted by Alan DeCarolis, the Animal Control Officer, about his observation of more than 20 unlicensed dogs on the subject property.

Township Engineer

Rodman referred to a letter dated April 2, 2015 from the NJDEP, Office of Engineering and Construction, Bureau of Dam Safety and Flood Control to John deNeufville, Locust Valley Company, LLC., regarding Locust Lake Dam. DEP has asked deNeufville for records confirming the conduct of Emergency Action Plan exercises related to Locust Lake Dam.

The specifications for the salt shed replacement are being prepared. Another site visit will be planned prior to finalizing the specifications.

Road Department

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

Fire Department

No report submitted.

Blairstown Ambulance Corp

No report submitted.

Tax Assessor

No report submitted.

Tax Collector

February, 2015

Current Year Taxes	\$1,059,281.79	\$1,380,280.22 Y-T-D
Delinquent Taxes:		
Taxes-2014	2,964.51	31,404.97
Municipal Tax Lien Redemption	6,834.37	6,834.37
Cost of Sale Fees	.00	500.68
Tax Sale Premiums	.00	4,000.00
Interest and Costs	<u>664.98</u>	<u>1,930.87</u>
Total Receipts	\$ 1,069,745.65	\$ 1,424,951.11

Remarks:

Current Year Tax Collection Comparison:

February 2015 to February 2014	- \$12,466.08
Year to Date 2015 to Year to Date 2014	+\$18,143.32
February 2015 to February 2013	+\$39,243.64
Year to Date 2014 to Year to Date 2012	+\$34,493.04

March, 2015

Current Year Taxes	\$69,624.17	\$1,495,251.73 Y-T-D
Delinquent Taxes:		
Taxes-2014	46.97	31,451.94
Municipal Tax Lien Redemption	.00	6,834.37
Cost of Sale Fees	.00	500.68
Tax Sale Premiums	.00	4,000.00
Interest and Costs	<u>629.48</u>	<u>2,560.35</u>
Total Receipts	\$70,300.62	\$1,495,251.73

Remarks:

Current Year Tax Collection Comparison:

March 2015 to March 2014	+\$11,706.34
Year to Date 2015 to Year to Date 2014	+\$29,849.66
March 2015 to March 2013	+\$26,433.31
Year to Date 2014 to Year to Date 2012	+\$60,926.35

Construction Code Official

The following permits were issued during March, 2015: 2-Plumbing for a total income of \$115.00.

Mayor McDonough

McDonough stated that the joint meeting to discuss COAH regulations between the Township Committee and the Planning Board went well. A follow up meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2015 at 7:30 P.M.

Deputy Mayor Beatty

Beatty advised that the DPW Foreman has asked a local contractor for a quote to rebuild several catch basins.

Committeeman Koonz

Koonz advised the Township Committee that Blairstown NAPA Auto has a delivery service that the Public Works Department should use. The store delivers to Hope a few times a day, which would save manpower.

Use of Facility Requests – NJ Fit Chicks, Hope PTA & Silver Lake Property Owners Association

The instructor of NJ Fit Chicks has asked for a reduction in the rental fee of the Moravian Grange Hall from \$400 to \$200 based on a reduction in the number of classes per week. The governing body did not make any change given the cost of electricity and heating costs. A review of the rental fee schedule will be done to determine if costs are being adequately covered by the fees.

The Hope PTA has requested the use of Swayze Mill Park on October 18, 2015 for the annual car show between 11:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. This is a fundraising event for the 8th Grade Class of the Hope Township School. The use was approved on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

The Silver Lake Property Owners' Association requested the use of the Moravian Grange Hall on April 25, 2015 between 2:00 and 9:00 P.M. for an Association meeting with pizza and salad. There will be movies upstairs for children. The use was approved on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following communications were received during the month:

1. 24th Legislative Offices. Re: Confirmation of meeting arrangements at the Hope Municipal Building on Friday, April 17, 2015 at 10:30 A.M.
2. Edward Smith, Warren County Freeholder to N.J. Highlands Council. Re: Highlands Regional Master Plan Program.
3. Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope. Re: February, 2015 Municipal Court Disbursement Report. A copy was given to the Chief Financial Officer.
4. N.J. Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Water Quality, Office of Permit Management. Re: Notice of availability of FY 2015 Annual Fee Report and Assessment of Fees for NJPDES permit program.
5. N.J. Department of Environmental Protection, Site Remediation Program, Bureau of Ground Water Pollution Abatement to Mohawk Oil Company. Re: Former Hope Texaco, 423 Hope-Blairstown Road.
6. N.J. Department of Environmental Protection. Re: Notice of suspected hazardous substance discharge notification in the area of Hope-Blairstown Road (Campbell Foundry property).
7. N.J. Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Water Quality, Municipal finance and Construction Element to Bernard Goodman. Re: Treatment Works Permit Approval for Smith Street cabins.

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.

Chris Kruk, a resident of Hope Township and a member of the Hope Volunteer Fire Department, was present to express his interest in being appointed as the Class II member of the Planning Board. McDonough noted that the Township Committee advised that Kruk's position on the HVFD qualifies him for the Class II seat. Koonz asked Kruk to attend a couple of meetings of the Planning Board to familiarize himself with the way the meetings are conducted.

OLD BUSINESS

Non-Household Animal Ordinance

Koonz explained the purpose of the ordinance and advised that it is being prepared by the Township Committee for introduction at a future meeting.

Status of Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope

The Judge is working on a final budget for the court. The job listing for a permanent Municipal Court Administrator was approved by the governing body. The ad will be placed in The Express Times and on the judicial website of the Administrative Office of the Court.

Status of Hope Sanitary Landfill

McDonough is still trying to set up a meeting with representatives of the NJDEP.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduce Ordinance #15-03, Revise Obstruction of Streets & Maintenance of Sidewalks

The following Ordinance was introduced and passed first reading on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

ORDINANCE 15-03

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, REPEALING CHAPTER III TITLED "POLICE REGULATIONS" SECTION 3-14 TITLED "OBSTRUCTION OF STREETS" AND REPLACING IT WITH A NEW SECTION 3-14 TITLED "OBSTRUCTION OF STREETS AND MAINTENANCE OF SIDEWALKS"

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that Chapter III, Section 3-14 of the Revised General Ordinances of Township of Hope is hereby repealed and replaced as follows:

Section 1

Chapter III
Section 3.14

Obstruction of Streets and Maintenance of Sidewalks

Section 3-14.1 Obstruction of Streets

No person shall unnecessarily obstruct any street, avenue, road, highway, alley or public place with any kind of box or boxes, lumber, wood or any other thing.

Section 3-14.2 Duties of Owners

The owner, occupant or tenant on any street in the Township in which a sidewalk passes shall be responsible for the repair, maintenance and replacement of the sidewalk on the property and shall keep same free from snow, ice, grass, weeds, limbs and branches of trees or shrubs, debris and other obstructions.

Section 3-14.3 Snow and Ice Removal

The owner or owners of premises abutting or bordering any street in the Township of Hope shall remove all snow and ice from the adjoining sidewalk of such street to create a clearing no less than 24 inches in width or, in the case of ice, which may be so frozen as to make removal impractical, shall cause same to be thoroughly covered with sand or ash within 12 hours of daylight after the snowfall concludes or the ice forms thereon.

Section 3-14.4 Repair of Sidewalk.

If the Township or its authorized agent determines that a sidewalk is in such state of disrepair that it requires repair, maintenance, and/or replacement and an owner or tenant occupant fails to take such steps to repair, maintain and/or replace, the owner or tenant shall be given 60 days from the date of written notice to make the necessary repair, maintenance or repair. If owner or tenant occupant fails to address the reason for the notice within 60 days, the Township may take all necessary actions to issue a violation and/or to repair, maintain or replace the sidewalk without further notice. Any owner, tenant or occupant may within 15 days of receipt of notice from the Township, make a written application for an extension of time to repair, maintain or replace which may be granted for a good cause shown.

Section 4-14.5 Trimming of Trees and Shrubs.

- A. All trees or shrubs planted on private property that stand along public sidewalks and public streets, the branches of which extend over any part of a public sidewalk or a public street, shall be trimmed by the owner, occupant or tenant of the premises that directly front upon that part of the sidewalk or street along which the trees or shrubs stand. Such owner, occupant or tenant shall keep the branches and limbs of such trees or shrubs trimmed and cut so that no limb or branch shall overhang the public sidewalk or the public street at a height of less than 8 feet above ground level.
- B. If the Township or its authorized agent determines that the owner or tenant occupant of a property has failed to trim his/her/its trees or shrubs and are overhanging a public sidewalk or the public street, the owner or tenant shall be given 60 days from the date of the notice to trim the overhanging trees or shrubs. If owner or tenant occupant fails to address the reason for the notice within 60 days, the Township may take all necessary actions to issue a violation and/or to trim the overhanging trees or shrubs without further notice. Any owner, tenant or occupant may within 15 days of receipt of notice from the Township, make a written application for an extension of time to repair, maintain or replace which may be granted for a good cause shown.
- C. The owner or tenant occupant is responsible for any trees or shrubs located on his/her/its property regardless of whether these trees or shrubs are located within any municipal, county or state road right-of-way.

Section 3-14.6 Cost to Become a Lien.

The Costs and expenses incurred by the Township for the repair, maintenance and/or replacement of the sidewalks or trimming of overhanging trees shall be ascertained by the Committee and certified to be assessed by the Township and such expense shall be added to and form a part of the Township's taxes next to be levied and assessed on the lot or lots and land in front of which the sidewalk passes. The costs and expenses levied by the Township may include all costs related to postage, publication or legal fees incurred by the Township to notify owner or tenant occupant.

Section 3-14.7 Violations and Penalties.

Any owner or tenant occupant who violates the above sections of this Article shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine not exceeding \$250 together with the cost of prosecution incurred by the Township of Hope.

Section 2 - Severability

The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 3 - Repealer

Any ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to their inconsistencies only.

Section 4 - Effective Date

This Ordinance shall take effect as required by law.

Proclamation – NORWESCAP's 50th Anniversary of Community Action

The following proclamation was made by the Mayor:

PROCLAMATION
BY TIMOTHY C. MCDONOUGH,
MAYOR OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE
IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY
COMMENDING NORWESCAP ON ITS
50th ANNIVERSARY OF COMMUNITY ACTION

WHEREAS, It is the sense of the Township of Hope to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across northwestern New Jersey are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of the organization and individuals that are devoted to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, the Township of Hope is justly proud to commend NORWESCAP, upon the occasion of celebrating their 50th Anniversary of serving the community.

WHEREAS, Since 1965, Northwest NJ Community Action Partnership, Inc. (NORWESCAP) has been providing invaluable and outstanding service to the citizens; and

WHEREAS, NORWESCAP is one of 23 Community Action Agencies in New Jersey State, and one of over 1,000 nationwide founded on a common purpose: to support low-income households as they develop their abilities to be self-supporting and develop family and community relationships that will sustain self-reliance; and

WHEREAS, Community Action was born out of the Equal Opportunity Act of 1964 that was initiated by President John F. Kennedy and brought to fruition by President Lyndon B. Johnson who, during a memorable State of the Union address 50 years ago, declared unconditional war on poverty; the Economic Opportunity Act was signed into law on August 20, 1964, and not only spurred the birth of Community Action, but also inspired the introduction of Head Start one year later; and

WHEREAS, NORWESCAP was created through these efforts and;

WHEREAS, Half a century later, NORWESCAP operates fifteen major programs: has grown to 270 full and part-time employees and more than 30,000 individuals are served each year through a multitude of anti-poverty services; and

WHEREAS, NORWESCAP is a community leader; its positive action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes New Jersey a better place in which to live; and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of the Township of Hope that when organizations and individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be recognized and applauded by all the citizens of New Jersey;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, That the Township of Hope pause in its deliberations to commend the Northwest NJ Community Action Partnership, Inc. (NORWESCAP), upon the occasion of celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Community Action; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that a copy of this Proclamation, suitably endorsed, be transmitted to Northwest NJ Community Action Partnership of Phillipsburg, Inc.

Haven of Hope for Kids – Bingo & Raffle Applications

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to approve a Bingo Application (BA:221) and a 50/50 Raffle Application (RA:220) to be held at the Hope Township School on May 22, 2015 from 6:00 to 10:30 P.M. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

PUBLIC

There were no questions or comments from the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Anticipated Litigation

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: Anticipated litigation.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M. on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Pat Quinn
Municipal Clerk