

APRIL 23, 2014

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, and Municipal 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 February 14, 2014 and February 21, 2014.

Open Bids for Cell Tower on Township Property

There were no bids for "Land Lease for Construction of a Self-Supporting Wireless Telecommunications Monopole and Ancillary Equipment and Structures". This was the second attempt to obtain bids. A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to rebid the matter. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

A question arose about the existing land lease between Hope Township and T-Mobile. The Township Attorney will be asked to look in to the situation.

Public Hearing/Adoption of 2014 Local Municipal Budget

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

RESOLUTION #14-32

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A.40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C.5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C.5:30-7.2 thru 7.5 the Township of Hope has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local Government Services, and the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the Township of Hope meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2014 budget year, so now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope that in accordance with N.J.A.C.5:30-7.6a & b, and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification, the governing body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

1. That with reference to the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:
 - a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
 - b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
 - c. Cash deficit of preceding year
 - d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
 - e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
 - f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes
2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A.40A:45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at 40A:4-45.3 et seq. are fully met. (Complies with the "CAP" law.)
3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C.5:30-4 and 5:30-5.
4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:
 - a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate and correctly stated;
 - b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth;
 - c. In itemization, form, arrangement and content, the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality.
5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced, publicly advertised and adopted in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A.40A:4-5, shall not prevent such certification.
6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to open the budget hearing to the public. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

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.

The 2014 Local Municipal Budget was adopted on a motion made by Koonz seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

McDonough thanked Ardito for his assistance and guidance to the governing body during the budget preparation process.

Ardito left the meeting at this time.

Status of Hope Moravian Distillery Project

A voucher payable to Kunzman Construction in the amount of \$13,533.80 was approved for payment pending approval by the Township Engineer on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

Koonz advised that he met with Kunzman on April 18, 2014 to set the location of the sign and plaque. The project completion date is set on April 30, 2014.

A letter dated April 21, 2014 from Michael Selvaggi, the Township Attorney, concerning the warranty for the slate roof was acknowledged and discussed. He noted that the Township cannot secure any more protection than what has been provided by Mark Bush Construction, LLC. and Newmont Slate, Inc.; therefore, he recommended that the warranties be accepted.

Discuss Potential Application to Warren County Municipal & Charitable Conservancy Trust

The Clerk reached out to the Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission, Robert May, for some guidance on this matter. The Township may apply to the trust for funding to replace the windows and the doors at the Hope Community Center.

Review Quote for Salt Shed Repair & Selective Insurance Settlement for Same

The roof on the rear of the salt shed collapsed due to heavy snow and ice this past winter. A claim was submitted to Selective Insurance on February 26, 2014. An adjuster for the insurance company inspected the loss and determined a repair cost without an estimate or discussion with Township personnel. An estimate was received on April 15, 2014. The Clerk was directed to forward the information to the adjuster with a request for a re-evaluation.

Miscellaneous

Koonz reported that he spoke with Fred Stephans, the owner of the well that supplies the Hope Community Center with water regarding the Township's position if he decides to make a second attempt at a new well. The Township is willing to share one-third of the cost of the first 300 feet of drilling only.

During the medical leave of Ralph Price, the Construction Code Official/ Building Inspector/ Fire Protection Official, a motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to appoint Francis Dale Glynn to the positions on a temporary basis. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

Bud Klauder was present to go over the plans for the Annual Fishing Derby for Hope Township children. It will be held at Swayze Mill Park rain or shine on Sunday, May 18, 2014 from 12:00 Noon to 4:00 P.M. McDonough has a source that will donate the hotdogs.

Public

There were no comments or questions from the public.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M. on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Pat Quinn
Municipal Clerk

