

MAY 11, 2016

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 the Municipal Clerk, Mary Pat Quinn; Township Engineer, Ted Rodman; and the Township Attorney, Michael Selvaggi.

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 11, 2016 and January 15, 2016.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the business meeting on April 13, 2016 were approved as circulated on a motion made by Beatty, seconded by McDonough. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-abstain; McDonough-yes.

DISCUSS PLANS FOR 2016 FISHING DERBY

Bud Klauder was present to go over the plans for the 2016 Fishing Derby with the governing body. The event will be held on Sunday, May 22, 2016 from 12 Noon to 4 P.M. at Swayze Mill Park for Hope Township children. The Hope Over Fifty-Five Club will assist with the food. The DPW Foreman will stage the grill, tables, chairs, tents, etc. in the garage for Klauder to pick up. The sandwich board signs will be put up the Monday before the event. The Clerk will provide Klauder with a tax exempt letter for Dick's Sporting Goods, and \$800.00 has been approved from the Recreation Fundraising Account to cover the costs of the event.

The governing body thanked Klauder for organizing the Fishing Derby again this year. Klauder left the meeting at this time.

RECEIPTS

The receipts were noted by Koonz. The total receipts during April, 2016 were \$459,464.25.

BILLS

The bills were noted by Beatty. A motion was made by Koonz, seconded Beatty authorizing the payment of the bills, which totaled \$799,908.59. 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:

458 Delaware Road – A complaint was received concerning a very bad odor. Urine is reported to be flowing down the road during rain events. Two inspections were conducted with no urine odor detected. The complainant was asked to call when the odor is occurring.

1185 Hope-Bridgeville Road – Horse manure not being removed from the property which is in a flood plain. The complainant reported that the manure was not currently a problem. File closed.

119 Nightingale Road – Well drilled without a permit. (NJDEP ordered that it be sealed and a new well drilled). No change in status.

Food Establishment: Hope Pizzeria and Catering was inspected and received a satisfactory rating.

Rabies – No activity.

Kennels – No activity.

Recreational Bathing – No activity.

Youth Camps – No activity.

Campgrounds – No activity.

Septics/Wells:

One septic repair application was approved. One septic alternation application was approved. One septic repair was installed.

Township Engineer

Rodman reported that his office completed and submitted the NJDOT Discretionary Aid Grant Application for the Jenny Jump Overlayment Project (Section 1 and 3).

The DPW Foreman advised Rodman that there are seven catch basins that have cracked cement. A catch basin at 2 Washington Street was not done (the wrong catch basin was done) by Riverview Paving. Rodman contacted Riverview, and they will come out to look at the problems. Rodman and the Foreman will be present for that. It was also noted that the contractor still needs to file a Maintenance Bond with Hope Township. Their payment will be held until all of these issues are satisfied.

With regard to the salt shed, Rodman will prepare a summary of what the Township has considered in the last two years. The matter is under advisement at this time.

Rodman has a contact at NJDOT and will prepare a letter requesting a stop sign at Exit 12 (CR 521 North). McDonough is also discussing the problem with the NJDOT Commissioner.

Road Department

The DPW Foreman submits weekly reports which are available for review in the Clerk's office during normal business hours.

Fire Department

No report submitted.

Blairstown Ambulance Corp

No report submitted.

Tax Assessor

No report submitted.

Tax Collector

April, 2016 Tax Collection:

Current Year Taxes	\$442,496.29	\$1,957,391.53 Y-T-D
Delinquent Taxes:		
Taxes-2015	9.90	41,468.53
Municipal Tax Lien Redemption	.00	34,698.33
Attorney Fees	.00	594.18
Cost of Sale Fees	.00	477.67
Tax Sale Premiums	.00	15,000.00
Bounced Check Fees	.00	25.00
Interest and Costs	<u>515.74</u>	<u>18,059.74</u>
Total Receipts	\$443,021.93	\$2,067,714.98

Remarks:

Current Year Tax Collection Comparison:

April 2016 to April 2015	+\$104,939.48
Year to Date 2016 to Year to Date 2015	+\$169,930.33
April 2016 to April 2014	+\$146,620.52
Year to Date 2016 to Year to Date 2014	+\$241,461.03

Construction Code Official

The following permits were issued in April, 2016: 10- Building, 3- Plumbing, 8- Electrical, 3- Fire, 3- Certificates and 1- Violation for a total income of \$3,037.00.

Mayor McDonough

McDonough advised that he met with Michael Slattery, the Chief School Administrator for the Hope Township School, to review and discuss the 2016/17 school budget. There will be no increase to the local school tax levy. The Township Committee will ask Slattery to come to a future meeting to provide a budget overview.

Luke Stroud, a high school student, was recognized. He is taking a civics class and is required to attend a public meeting. The Clerk will provide him with a copy of the minutes.

Deputy Mayor Beatty

Nothing to report.

Committeeman Koonz

Nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following communications were received during the month:

CORRESPONDENCE LIST – MAY 11, 2016

1. N.J. Transit. Re: Public meeting notice – Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, May 25, 2016 from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM at the NJ Transit Headquarters in Newark, NJ.
2. Nicholas Paoletta, P.E., Asst. Warren County Engineer. Re: Warren County Five Year Road and Drainage Improvements, Resurfacing Projects, Bridge and Culvert Improvements. A copy was given to the Township Engineer and the Public Works Foreman.
3. Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope. Re: March, 2016 Municipal Court Disbursements. A copy was given to the Chief Financial Officer.
4. Michael Russo, Director, NJDOT Division of Local Aid and Economic Development. Re: Notice that the Township's NJDOT Municipal Aid Program Application for Jenny Jump Road, Section 1 and 3 was not approved. The Township Committee is reapplying for Discretionary Aid. A copy of this information was given to the Township Engineer and the Public Works Foreman.
5. Blaiirstown Township. Re: Notification that Blaiirstown Township will receive aerial spray treatment for Gypsy Moths during May 16 through June 15, 2016. The spraying will be

conducted by Downtown Airport, Inc. A copy was given to the Hope Environmental Commission.

6. Erica Busch, P.E. for James Leonhart, a homeowner. Re: Request for feedback from Hope Township on septic System alteration plans for Block 1800, Lot 600. A copy was forwarded to the Township Engineer.
7. Warren County Public Information Department. Re: Invitation from Betty Schultheis, Chairwoman of the Warren County Economic Development Committee to attend the next meeting of the Department on May 12. The new economic development consultant hired by the Board of Chosen Freeholders will be present.

APPOINTMENTS

The following vacancies were noted: two vacancies on the Agriculture Advisory Committee and Alternate 1 & 2 on the Historic Preservation Commission. The Clerk advised that Sally Rausa and Paul Brown are interested in the positions. Both individuals are Hope residents living in the Historic District. They have attended the meetings as applicants as well as interested citizens. The Clerk will ask them to come to a future meeting to discuss their interest with the governing body.

OLD BUSINESS

Status of Sanitary Landfill

No change in status.

Purchase Development Rights on Almeida (former Scorp) Farm

The draft requests for proposals to Heffernan Associates and Landmark 1 Appraisals, LLC. were reviewed and approved by the Hope Township Attorney. Sandy Urgo, the Land Preservation Director from The Land Conservancy of New Jersey who is assisting the Township Committee, suggested that someone reach out to the owner of the property to explain what the Township is doing. Beatty will make the contact with the property owner.

Status of Recreation Program Policies and Procedure Manual

The Baseball/Softball Director will be providing her input to the governing body shortly.

Status of Wastewater Management Plan Grant Search

McDonough reached out to the NJDEP to inquire about possible grant funding to complete a Wastewater Management Plan for Hope Township.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduce Ordinance #16-04, 2016 Salary Ordinance

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 #16-04

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 2016

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, New Jersey as follows:

SECTION 1. The salaries, wages or compensation of the following officers and employees of the Township of Hope are hereby fixed and determined for the calendar year 2015, retroactive to January 1, 2016 at the amounts set forth herein:

A. Mayor	\$ 2,935.00 per annum
B. Committeeman (not serving as Mayor)	\$ 2,590.00 per annum
C. Municipal Clerk	\$ 33.56 per hour \$ 71.64 per hour, meeting attendance
D. Deputy Municipal Clerk	\$ 17.75 per hour
E. Secretary to the Zoning Board of Adjustment	\$ 4,260.00 per annum (base) \$ 156.00 per meeting
F. Election Official	\$ 166.00 per annum
G. Chief Financial Officer	\$11,957.00 per annum
H. Assessor of Taxes	\$17,367.00 per annum
I. Assessment Search Officer	\$ 3,054.00 per annum
J. Collector of Taxes	\$23,207.00 per annum
K. Tax Search Officer	\$ 3,054.00 per annum
L. Deputy Tax Collector	\$ 2,224.00 per annum
M. Secretary to the Planning Board	\$11,659.00 per annum (base) \$ 156.00 per meeting
N. Construction Code Official	\$ 3,259.00 per annum
O. Building Sub-Code Official	\$ 5,452.00 per annum
P. Fire Protection Officer	\$ 2,574.00 per annum
Q. Code Enforcement Officer	\$ 6,773.00 per annum
R. Public Works Foreman	\$ 27.70 per hour
S. Equipment Operator, Level I	\$ 22.12 per hour
Level II (temporary)	\$ 20.30 per hour
T. Sports Director	
(a) Soccer Director	\$ 2,908.00 per annum
(b) Basketball Director	\$ 3,529.00 per annum
(c) Baseball/Softball Director	\$ 4,236.00 per annum
U. Plumbing Subcode Official	\$ 2,132.00 per annum
V. Treasurer	\$ 5,306.00 per annum

W. Secretary to the Environmental Commission	\$ 1,379.00 per annum
X. Acting Municipal Court Administrator	\$ 18.34 per hour
	\$ 57.00 per call out
Y. Deputy Municipal Court Administrator/ Violations Clerk	\$ 16.74 per hour
Z. Municipal Court Prosecutor	\$ 459.00 per session
AA. Municipal Court Judge	\$ 300.00 per session
BB. Municipal Court Officer – Level I	\$ 121.00 per session
Municipal Court Officer – Level II	\$ 25.38 per hour
CC. Municipal Court Treasurer	\$ 3,738.00 per annum
DD. Animal Control Officer	\$ 6,461.00 per annum
	\$ 21.56 per hr, court
EE. Dog Licensing Clerk(s)	\$ 646.00 @ per annum
FF. Temporary Clerical Assistant	\$ 13.09 hour
GG. Laborer	\$ 18.03 per hour
HH. Christmas Market/Public Relations Coordinator	\$ 7,320.00 per annum
II. Technical Assistant	\$ 4,684.00 per annum
JJ. Electrical Subcode Official	\$ 4,824.00 per annum
KK. Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator	\$ 595.00 per annum
LL. Secretary to the Historic District Commission	\$ 1,405.00 per annum
MM. Joint Municipal Alliance Coordinator	\$ 1,376.00 per annum
(detail: Joint Alliance Coord. 1/1 to 6/30/16 = \$917.00; Hope Alliance Coord. 7/1 to 12/31/16=\$459.00)	
NN. Custodian	\$ 13.00 per hour

SECTION II. If any section, clause, sentence or other part of this Ordinance shall, for any reason, be adjudged by the Court of Competent Jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this Ordinance.

SECTION III. All ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency only.

SECTION IV. This Ordinance shall take effect and shall become operative twenty days after publication thereof, after final adoption; unless within said twenty (20) days a petition signed by voters of the Township equal in number to at least five (5) percent of the registered voters of the said Township of Hope, protesting against the adoption of this Ordinance be presented to the Hope Township Committee, in which case the provisions of Section I of this Ordinance, which provides for increased salaries, wages or compensations of the elected officials, shall remain inoperative unless and until a proposition for the ratification of such portions of this Ordinance shall be adopted at an election by a majority of the voters voting on said proposition.

The public hearing will be on Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.

Proclamation – Older Americans’ Month

The following Proclamation was made by the Mayor:

Older Americans Month
MAY, 2016

Whereas, the month of May is traditionally designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as Older Americans Month; and

Whereas, the theme for Older Americans Month 2016 is “Blaze a Trail” to acknowledge how older adults are discovering new interests and becoming involved in new activities, are giving back to their communities and setting an example for future generations; and

Whereas, the older residents of Hope Township have made countless contributions and sacrifices to ensure a better life for our residents; and

Whereas, Hope Township is committed to raising awareness about issues facing older Americans and helping all individuals to thrive in communities of their choice for as long as possible; and

Whereas, Hope Township encourages and supports all efforts that help our older residents take control of their health, safety and well-being.

Now therefore, Hope Township does hereby proclaim May 2016 to be Older Americans Month in Hope Township.

Residents of all ages are encouraged to take time this month to recognize our older citizens as vital contributors who enhance every aspect of our community.

McDonough scheduled the Annual Tea with Tim for Hope senior citizens on Wednesday, March 18, 2016 from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. at Dunkin Donuts.

Haven of Hope for Kids – Tricky Tray and 50/50 Raffle Applications

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to approve RA:234 and RA:235 which were submitted by Haven of Hope for Kids to conduct an off premises 50/50 and Tricky Tray on September 30, 2016 from 6:00 to 10:00 P.M. at the Hope Township School. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

Concord Energy Services – Government Energy Aggregation

Wendy Molner, Vice-President of Government Relations, Concord Energy Services, was present to discuss Government Energy Aggregation and how it will benefit Hope Township residents.

McDonough advised that he would be recusing himself from any action that the governing body may take due to a business relationship that he has with Concord Energy Services.

Molner explained that Community Energy Aggregation is a program that allows municipalities to negotiate the bulk purchase of energy supply on behalf of residents and local businesses at prices that are lower than the utility price to compare. There is no cost to Hope Township or the community to implement the program. She noted that some programs have saved up to 14% compared to the utility price. An Ordinance would be required to authorize Hope's participation in the program. Concord will work with Hope to provide a marketing and outreach program.

The governing body asked that Concord conduct a public information presentation prior to the public hearing on the Ordinance. The Clerk and Molner will work out a mutually convenient date.

Introduce Ordinance #16-05, Establish an Energy & Natural Gas Aggregation Program

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-abstain.

ORDINANCE #16-05

AN ORDINANCE OF HOPE TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHING AN ENERGY AND NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM IN THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has been engaged in a process to establish a competitive market place through deregulation and restructuring the electric utility market and natural gas market; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a government aggregator and an energy aggregation program to purchase electric generation service and natural gas pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-93.1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 14:4-6.1 et seq. will increase competition for the provision of electric power and natural gas to residential and non-residential users, thereby increasing the likelihood of lower electric rates and natural gas rates for these users without causing any interruption in service; and

WHEREAS, under the aggregation process the residential and non-residential ratepayers may likely receive a direct reduction in their electric bills and gas bills; and

WHEREAS, the realization of energy costs savings is in the interests of the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Hope Township (the "Township"); and

WHEREAS, the Township hereby finds that it is in the best interests of residential and non-residential electric ratepayers for the Township to create the opportunity for them to enter into an aggregation agreement in order to seek substantial savings on electric rates; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren, New Jersey, duly assembled in public session, as follows:

1. The Township publicly declares its intent to become an aggregator of electric power on behalf of its residential and non-residential users of electricity pursuant to the Government Energy Act of 2003, N.J.S.A. 48:3-91.3 to -98, and implementing regulations.
2. The Township will utilize approved vendor Concord Engineering's d/b/a Concord Energy Services Reverse Energy Auction Platform pursuant to the NJ E-PROCUREMENT Pilot program (P.L. 2001, c. 30) under the NJ Department of Community Affairs. The Reverse Energy auction will seek bids from licensed and appropriate third party suppliers. If such winning bid is selected and agreement executed, individual residential consumers would retain the option not to participate and to choose any alternatives they desire, while non-residential ratepayers would also have the right to participate.
3. The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute any documents necessary to carry out the purpose of the Ordinance.
4. All ordinances and parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.
5. If any portion of this ordinance shall be deemed invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder shall survive in full force and effect.
6. This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon adoption and publication in accordance with law.

The public hearing will be on Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.

PUBLIC

There were no questions or comments from the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION, RE: PENDING 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: Pending litigation.

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

Koonz asked about the status of the interviews for the proposed new public works department position. A discussion ensued with the governing body agreeing to conduct a second interview of one of the applications. He will be asked to attend the work meeting on May 25, 2016.

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