

MAY 13, 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 the Municipal Clerk, Mary Pat Quinn and the 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the following meetings were approved as circulated on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty: Special meeting and Executive Session on April 6, 2015 and Business meeting and Executive Session on April 8, 2015. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough- yes. The minutes of the Work meeting and Executive Session on April 22, 2015 were approved as circulated on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough- abstain.

RECEIPTS

The receipts during April, 2015 were read by Koonz, who noted those amounts over \$100.00. The total receipts were \$727,399.64.

BILLS

The bill list was read by Beatty, who noted those amounts over \$100.00. A motion was made by Beatty, seconded by McDonough authorizing the payment of a voucher in the amount of \$500.00 to Engel Towing, Inc. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes. The remaining bills were ordered paid on a motion made by Beatty, seconded by Koonz. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes. The total of all the bills was \$782,491.48.

REPORTS

Chief Financial Officer

The Township Committee continues to operate with a Temporary Budget until the 2015 Local Municipal Budget is adopted.

Zoning Officer

No report submitted.

Warren County Health Department

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. A reinspection was conducted. No garbage was found on the property. File closed.

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 April.

Route 521 (exit 12 from Rt. 80) – Solid waste trucks going through Hope. No change in status.

Inn at Millrace Pond – Noise from music during events at the Inn. It was reported that several neighbors would like noise measurements taken. Arrangements are being made to do so this month.

417 Hope-Blairstown Road – A complaint was received concerning a leak in the bathroom. An inspection was conducted. Water was observed on the bathroom floor, but its source could not be determined. The responsible party was contacted and agreed to address the issue. Later the complainant confirmed that repairs had been completed. File closed.

Food Establishment: Hope Township Elementary School 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: One septic alteration application was approved. One septic/well application for new construction was approved.

Township Engineer

The paving is done on Honey Run Road and Far View Road. The striping and shoulder work will follow. Rodman suggested that a speed limit review of these roads should follow. He asked the Clerk to get the number of school children on each road from the Hope Board of Education. It was also noted that residents of Lake Just-It Road are also concerned about speeding on that road. Rodman will include that road in his review.

A pre-construction meeting was held by the Warren County Engineer's Office to discuss the replacement of the CR 521 bridge at Beaver Brook. The expected completion date is September 15, 2015. Koonz advised that the drain pipe just before this bridge has sunk and should be corrected during that project. Rodman will pass that along to the County Engineer's office. Traffic will be treated in the same manner as the bridge project that was just completed at 521/Millbrook Road.

Rodman just confirmed that the demolition of the old salt shed will be included in the specifications for the salt shed replacement project.

Erich and Elizabeth Rennspies, residents of 108 Union Brick Road, were present to discuss the drainage problem that they believe is eroding the end of their driveway. Rodman and Beatty will go out to the site during a heavy rain to determine the source of the problem. Possible options that could resolve the issue will be drafted by Rodman together with the anticipated costs.

Road Department

Weekly reports are submitted by the Public Works Foreman and are available for review in the Municipal 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, 2015 Tax Collection:

Current year taxes	\$337,556.81	\$1,787,461.20 Y-T-D
Delinquent taxes:		
Taxes-2014	109.98	31,561.92
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>367.61</u>	<u>2,927.96</u>
Total Receipts	\$ 338,034.40	\$ 1,833,286.13

Remarks:

Current Year Tax Collection Comparison:

April 2015 to April 2014	+\$41,681.04
Year to Date 2015 to Year to Date 2014	+\$71,530.70
April 2015 to April 2013	-\$ 1,911.20
Year to Date 2014 to Year to Date 2012	+\$59,015.15

Construction Code Official

The following permits were issued during April, 2015: 7-Building, 5-Plumbing, 13-Electrical, 4-Fire for a total income of \$3,160.00

Mayor McDonough

McDonough reported that the Township Attorney asked to meet with the Animal Control Officer, the Zoning Officer, Warren County Health Department, and the Township Committee to discuss the status of the property located at 458 Delaware Road.

Deputy Mayor Beatty

Beatty reported that he and the Public Works Foreman will start to work on specifications for a new truck.

An email from Joanne Vance, who was stocking the fieldhouses, was discussed. It seems that a minor was working the fieldhouse in the place of a parent. There were two adults working the fieldhouse with the minor, and either one or both of them were drinking alcohol. Ms. Vance also advised that she found the cash box left out and open on the counter. For these reasons, Ms. Vance no longer feels comfortable volunteering for this task.

The Township Committee expressed regret for her resignation. Beatty was directed to advise the sports directors that minors are not permitted in the fieldhouses for any reason, and that the use of alcoholic beverages is expressly prohibited on Township property. If the conditions are not corrected immediately, the fieldhouses will be closed.

Beatty will follow up with the Public Works Foreman to start working on specifications for catch basin replacements.

Committeeman Koonz

Koonz asked for clarification about the annual picnic and what the plans are for honoring the Hope Volunteer Fire Department.

Koonz asked that the Hope Township Municipal Building sign at the end of the driveway be replaced.

4-H CLUB

Maureen Overko and Jodie McKenna, residents of Hope and 4-H leaders, were present to discuss a foreign exchange student opportunity being offered through the 4H Leadership Program. They provided information about the program to the governing body.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following communications were received during the month:

1. Barth Johnson, P.E., Assistant Warren County Engineer. Re: Warren County Five (5) Year Road and Drainage Improvements, Resurfacing Projects, and Bridge and Culvert Improvements. A copy was given to the Township Engineer and the Public Works Foreman.
2. Robert J. Auth, Assemblyman. Re: Request for support of A4235, the Transparent Tax Act of 2015.
3. Dody Pennell, a resident of Hope Township. Re: Parking problems on her street.
4. Marlene Sullivan, CMCA, Administrative Specialist of Superior Court of N.J., Vicinage 13. Re: Notice of annual visitation of the Municipal Court Office on May 26, 2015.
5. NJ Transit. Re: Notice of Public Hearings throughout May on proposed changes to rail, bus, light rail, access link and bus contract carriers' fares and rail and bus service levels.
6. Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope. Re: March, 2015 Municipal Court Disbursements. A copy was given to the Chief Financial Officer.
7. John and Michelle Moyer, residents of Hope Township. Re: Request to post a speed limit on Lake Just-It Road. A copy was given to the Township Engineer.
8. N.J. State League of Municipalities. Re: March 2015 Legislative Bulletin.
9. Linda J. Read, P.E., W. C. Principal Bridge Engineer. Re: Replacement of WC Bridge #11022 on CR 521 over Beaver Brook. A preconstruction meeting was held on May 5, 2015 in the Warren County Engineer's Office. A copy was sent to the Township Engineer.
10. Michael Russo, Director, N.J. Division of Local Aid and Economic Development. Re: Notice that the NJDOT is unable to provide Municipal Aid for the Overlayment of Smith-Green Street this year. A copy was sent to the Township Engineer.
11. Janice Mironov, Mayor of East Windsor, and Colleen Mahr, Mayor of Fanwood, to members of the New Jersey League of Municipalities Executive Board and Past Presidents. Re: COAH/Affordable Housing Update.
12. 24th District Legislative Offices. Re: Letter of thanks to Hope Township for hosting the meeting on April 17, 2015.

APPOINTMENTS

Chris Kruk, a resident of Hope and a member of the Hope Volunteer Fire Department, was present to follow up on his interest in being appointed to the Hope Township Planning Board. He attended a couple of their meetings to get an idea of the process and procedures.

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to appoint Chris Kruk as the Class II member of the Planning Board; his term will expire 12/31/2015. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

The following vacancies were noted:

- 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.

OLD BUSINESS

Non-Household Animal Ordinance

The Township Committee reviewed the draft ordinance prepared by the Township Attorney, “Keeping of Common Household Pets”. Koonz suggested that the Township Committee adhere to the verbiage that Blairstown Township used in their ordinance instead.

Status of Hope Sanitary Landfill

No change in status.

Public Hearing/Adoption Ordinance #15-03, Sidewalk Maint/Snow Removal

The public hearing was opened for the following Ordinance 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”

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.

Ordinance #15-03 was adopted on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #15-31, Establish 2015 Municipal Open Space Tax Rate

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

RESOLUTION #15-31

WHEREAS, the provisions of the Township of Hope's Open Space Ordinance allows the Township Committee to set the Open Space Tax Rate annually within a specified range; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee desires to set Municipal Open Space Tax Rate at \$0.005 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation for the 2015 calendar year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope that election be made to set the Municipal Open Space Tax Rate at \$0.005 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation for the 2015 calendar year.

Resolution #15-32, Non-Fair and Open Contract for Professional Services – Municipal Public Defender

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

RESOLUTION #15-32

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A
NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
FROM KENNETH KRAUSE, ESQ.

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope has a need to acquire professional services from Kenneth Krause, Esq. with offices at P.O. Box 366 (339 High Street), Hope, NJ 07844 as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope has determined and certified in writing that the value of the acquisition will not exceed \$13,000.00 for general legal services; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is twelve (12) months; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Krause, Esq. has submitted a proposal dated January 1, 2014 indicating he will provide the professional services for the amount of \$300.00 per court appearance; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Krause, Esq. has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Kenneth Krause, Esq. has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Hope in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Kenneth Krause, Esq. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer of the Township of Hope has provided certification of the availability of funds in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Hope authorizes the Mayor, Timothy C. McDonough to enter into a contract with Kenneth Krause, Esq. as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kenneth Krause, Esq. agrees to incorporate into this contract the mandatory language of subsection 3.4(a) of the Regulations promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to P.L. 1975, c. 127, as amended and supplemented from time to time and the contractor or subcontractor agrees to comply with the terms, provisions and obligations of said subsection 3.4 (a) provided that said subsection shall be applied subject to the terms of subsection 3.4 (d) of said Regulations; and

WHEREAS, the parties to this contract agree to incorporate into this contract the mandatory language of section 5.3 of the Regulations promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to P.L. 1975, c. 127 as amended and supplemented from time to time and the contractor or subcontractor agrees to comply with the terms, provisions and obligations of said section 5.3.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk is directed to publish notice of this action in the legal section of The Star Gazette.

Resolution #15-33, Refund Tax Sale Certificate 2015-002

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

RESOLUTION #15-33

RESOLUTION REFUNDING TAX SALE CERTIFICATE 2015-002 THAT WAS REDEEMED

WHEREAS, the property owned by Leonard L. Mancuso known as Block 3200, Lot 2100 located at 30 Ridgeway Avenue had unpaid 2014 property taxes and was sold at a Tax Sale held on January 29, 2015 by the Hope Township Tax Collector; and

WHEREAS, Arthur Frustacci of 1178 Fifth Avenue located in Alpha, New Jersey 08865 was the successful bidder of the above stated property. The amount of the Tax Sale consisted of unpaid 2014 property taxes, interest, and other costs, and totaled \$2,043.04 and is represented by Tax Sale Certificate 2015-002; and

WHEREAS, Leonard L. Mancuso, the supposed owner of the property, paid \$6,060.12 on May 7, 2015 to the Hope Township Tax Collector to satisfy the outstanding Tax Sale Certificate, subsequent taxes and current taxes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope on this 13th day of May 2015 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a check payable to Arthur Frustaci in the amount of \$4,141.26 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate 2015-002;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be also authorized to draw a check payable to Arthur Frustaci in the amount of \$2,100.00 for the return of a Premium paid at the Tax Sale;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the executed satisfied Tax Sale Certificate 2015-002 be returned to Leonard L. Mancuso of 30 Ridgeway Avenue located in Blairstown, NJ 07825.

Review Proposal from Heyer, Gruel and Associates

A proposal dated May 6, 2015 from Heyer, Gruel and Associates for planning services was reviewed by the governing body. An estimate of \$1,500.00 to \$3,000.00 to assess the validity of the Fair Share proposed new construction numbers as they apply to Hope is proposed. The firm would work with the Township Attorney and the Planning Board Attorney to assist in the documentation. The Clerk was directed to request a professional service contract from Heyer, Gruel and Associates.

Discuss appropriation for cleaning services

The governing body discussed proposed hourly rates for a part-time employee to clean the Municipal Budget, Community Center and Moravian Grange. A decision will be reached after interviewing prospective candidates.

PUBLIC

There were no questions or comments from the public.

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