

MAY 15, 2014

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 by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township bulletin boards all on May 9, 2014.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the business meeting on April 9, 2014; the special meeting on April 23, 2014; and the work meeting on April 23, 2014 were approved as circulated on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

DISCUSS STATUS OF MUNICIPAL COURT OF NORTH WARREN

Judge Craig Dana was present to review staff requirements for the court as a result of the expected addition of White Township as a member municipality and the potential withdrawal of Blairstown Township at the end of 2014.

Christine Rabtzow, the Municipal Court Administrator, has filed an application for retirement through the Public Employees' Retirement System effective August 1, 2014. Dana recommended replacing her with another full time accredited administrator. There would also be a need to continue with a part-time Deputy working 25 to 30 hours per week. A third person would be needed as a Violations Clerk; someone with municipal court experience, computer literate, a fast learner.

A discussion ensued about how this should be accomplished. It was decided that help wanted ads will be placed for all three positions in the official newspaper, through the League of Municipalities, and through the Administrative Office of the Courts. The positions will also be posted in house. Dana will come up with the verbiage for the ads and forward same to the Clerk for posting/advertising. The salaries were not determined but will be based on experience and credentials.

Another meeting will be planned to include the Municipal Auditor so that a budget can be prepared for a five town joint court.

RECEIPTS

The receipts for April, 2014 were read by Beatty, who noted those amounts over \$100.00. The total receipts during the month were \$331,147.12.

BILLS

The bill list was read by Koonz, who also noted those amounts over \$100.00. A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to approve the bill list with the exception of three vouchers for

Kunzman Construction, LLC. (\$4,933.50, \$3,640.70 and \$300.00). The total bills were \$772,456.40. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

The Kunzman bills were tabled to the work meeting on May 28, 2014 pending the Township's receipt of all required documentation to close out the Moravian Distillery Rehabilitation Project.

Zoning Officer

No report submitted.

Warren County Health Department

Complaint:

416 Main Street – Garbage on the lawn and in the storage shed at the bank-owned property. A reinspection was conducted. The garbage was still onsite. The court clerk reported that a warrant has been issued for the responsible party.

Food Establishments:

Country Liquor Store and Hope Township Elementary School were inspected and received satisfactory ratings.

Rabies: No activity.

Kennels – Hope's Kennels was reinspected and received a satisfactory rating.

Childcare Centers – No activity.

Recreational Bathing – No activity.

Youth Camps – No activity.

Campgrounds – No activity.

Septics/Wells – One septic repair application was approved.

Township Engineer

Rodman reported that the vendor for the guiderail installation on Shiloh Road and Osmun Road has been hard to reach. After many attempts and a complaint to the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council, Rodman did speak with the owner who assured that he has a delivery of materials that he is waiting for.

The specifications are being prepared for the Honey Run Road overlayment and guiderail project.

Fire Department

No report submitted.

Road Department

The Public Works Foreman submits weekly reports which are available for review in the Clerk's office. Beatty asked the Clerk for a monthly overtime report for the road department.

Blairstown Ambulance Corp

No report submitted.

Tax Assessor

No report submitted.

Tax Collector

April, 2014 Collections:

Current Year Taxes	\$295,875.77	\$1,715,930.50 Y-T-D
Delinquent Taxes:		
Taxes-2013	1,133.49	19,581.57
Outside Tax Sale Redemption	10,082.58	10,082.58
Cost of Sale Fees	.00	337.41
NSF Check Fees	.00	25.00
Interest and Costs	410.18	2,261.57
	<u>\$ 307,502.02</u>	<u>\$ 1,748,218.63</u>

Remarks:

Current Year Tax Collection Comparison:

April 2014 to April 2013	-\$ 43,592.24
Year to Date 2014 to Year to Date 2013	-\$ 12,515.55
April 2014 to April 2012	+\$ 33,461.33
Year to Date 2014 to Year to Date 2012	+\$195,418.55

Construction Code Official

The following permits were issued during April 2014: 4-Building, 1-Plumbing, 9-Electrical, 2-Fire for a total income of \$1,458.00.

Mayor McDonough

Nothing to report.

Deputy Mayor Beatty

Beatty discussed the need for a second part-time person for the Road Department, preferably a person holding a CDL. The Clerk was directed to put an ad in the paper.

Committeeman Koonz

Koonz advised that it was brought to his attention that the bathroom at the Community Center is being used by the employee(s) of a private business. The Clerk was directed to send a letter to the owner of the property about the situation.

In another matter, Koonz suggested that the Township take more time on the preparation of a grant application for windows and doors for the Community Center. The governing body will plan to make an application with the Warren County Municipal and Charitable Conservancy Trust Fund in June 2015.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following communications were received during the month:

1. N.J. Legislative Office, 24th District. Re: Notice of elected official's meeting on May 6, 2014 at Waterloo Village. The speaker was Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno.
2. Robert E. Berry. Re: Letter of resignation from the Hope Township Agriculture Advisory Board.
3. Franklin Township, Warren County. Re: Resolution urging the Legislature to implement a water tax to fund the loss of land equity for property owners in the Highlands Region.
4. N.J. Department of Environmental Protection. Re: Press Release concerning Earth Day 2014.
5. N.J. Department of Environmental Protection. Re: Press Release advising the distribution of \$755,054.00 in Recreational Trail Grants.
6. Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope. Re: March & April, 2014 Municipal Court Disbursements. A copy was given to the Chief Financial Officer.
7. N.J. State Agriculture Development Committee. Re: Notice of the development of an On-Farm Direct Marketing Agricultural Management Practice. A copy was given to the Hope Planning Board, Hope Zoning Board of Adjustment, Environmental Commission and the Hope Agriculture Advisory Board.

8. Richard Keiling, Esq. to Shannon Haebler. Re: Notice of a public hearing before the Blirstown Township Land Use Board in connection with the application of Shannon Haebler to have two houses on one lot for a period not to exceed 90 days. A copy was given to the Hope Planning Board and the Hope Zoning Board of Adjustment.
9. Robert J. Benbrook, Esq. for Blirstown Township. Re: Preliminary notice of Blirstown Township's intent to withdraw as a member municipality of the Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope effective January 1, 2015. A copy was given to the Township Attorney and the Municipal Court Judge.
10. N.J. State League of Municipalities. Re: April 2014 Legislative Bulletin.
11. Hope Township Zoning Board of Adjustment. Re: 2013 Annual Report.
12. Warren County Department of Human Services, Division of Administration. Re: Notice of a public hearing on June 12, 2014 at 1:00 P.M. in the Freeholder Meeting Room in connection with the 2015 Casino Revenue Grant.
13. The Center for Prevention and Counseling. Re: 100% smoke free outdoor parks and recreational areas.
14. Knowlton Township. Re: Resolution regarding the lack of internet service for the residents of Knowlton Township.

OLD BUSINESS

Status of Water Supply at Community Center

No change in status.

Status of Non-Domesticated Pets on small lots

The matter was referred to the Hope Planning Board for review and recommendation.

Status of Proposed Identification Marker Ordinance

Koonz recommended that the Township Committee introduce, at the work meeting on May 28, 2014, the Ordinance with the suggestions made by the Historic Preservation Commission. McDonough was opposed to doing so without a last attempt to bring in the Chamber of Commerce, Historical Society, Historic Preservation Commission and H.O.P.E. to a Township Committee meeting to try to come to a consensus. It was decided that the matter would be placed on the agenda for introduction; however, a letter would be sent to the four groups with a copy of the revised Ordinance as a courtesy.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #14-33, Refund Tax Overpayment, re: Block 1200, Lot 1900

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

RESOLUTION #14-33

RESOLUTION TO REFUND 2013 & 2014 REAL ESTATE TAXES
BLOCK 1200, LOT 1900

WHEREAS, fourth quarter 2013 and first quarter 2014 property taxes on property owned by Ralph L. Frank, Jr. located at 98 Locust Lake Road were paid by both Mr. Frank and CoreLogic for the benefit of Santander Bank; and

WHEREAS, fourth quarter 2013 taxes in the amount of \$1,093.05 and first quarter 2014 taxes in the amount of \$1,049.84 made by CoreLogic were intended for Block 1200, Lot 1900 located in the Town of Belvidere; and

WHEREAS, CoreLogic has requested that their payments be refunded and has provided the Tax Collector with proof of their payments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope on this 15th day of May 2014 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a check in the amount of \$2,142.89 payable to CoreLogic of 1 CoreLogic Drive located in Westlake, TX 76262 to refund the tax payments made in error.

Resolution #14-34, Refund Tax Sale Certification #13-02, re: Block 4700, Lot 500

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

RESOLUTION #14-34

RESOLUTION REFUNDING TAX SALE CERTIFICATE 13-02
THAT WAS REDEEMED

WHEREAS, the property owned by Joanna Ackerson known as Block 4700, Lot 500 located at 416 Main Street had unpaid 2012 property taxes and was sold at a Tax Sale held on February 7, 2013 by the Hope Township Tax Collector; and

WHEREAS, US Bank Custodian for Pro Capital 2, LLC. of 50 South 16th Street, Suite 1950 located in Philadelphia, PA 19102 was the successful bidder of the above state property. The amount of the Tax Sale consisted of unpaid 2012 property taxes, interest, and other costs, and totaled \$2,004.20 and is represented by Tax Sale Certificate 13-02; and

WHEREAS, HSBC Mortgage, the mortgagee of the property, paid \$7,738.17 on May 8, 2014 to the Hope Township Tax Collector to satisfy the outstanding Tax Sale Certificate and subsequent taxes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope on this 15th day of May 2014 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a check payable to US Bank Custodian for Pro Capital 2, LLC. in the amount of \$7,738.17 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate 13-02.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be also authorized to draw a check payable to US Bank Custodian for Pro Capital 2, LLC. in the amount of \$1,000.00 for the return of a Premium paid at the Tax Sale.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the executed satisfied Tax Sale Certificate 13-02 be returned to HSBC Mortgage c/o CoreLogic of 1 CoreLogic Drive located in Westlake, TX 76262.

Resolution #14-35, Approve 2013 Audit Report

This matter was tabled to the work meeting on May 28, 2014 as the governing body needed more time to review the document.

Status of Construction Code Official/Building Inspector/Fire Protection Official payroll

Ralph Price, the Construction Code Official, Building Inspector, and Fire Protection Official is on medical leave for a couple of months. Francis Dale Glynn was appointed at the last meeting to cover the inspection duties of Price during his absence. Mr. Glynn does not want additional compensation and will refuse same if it is offered to him. He has been bringing plan reviews to Price at his home. A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to continue paying Price his salary since the job is being done. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

PUBLIC

There were no questions or comments from the public.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M. on a motion made by Beatty, seconded by Koonz. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Pat Quinn
Municipal Clerk

