

MAY 25, 2016

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 and Committeeman John Koonz. Deputy Mayor George Beatty advised of his absence prior to the meeting. The Municipal Clerk, Mary Pat Quinn, and the Municipal Auditor, Anthony Ardito were also present.

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.

#### Public Hearing/ Adoption of 2016 Local Municipal Budget

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by McDonough to open the 2016 Municipal Budget hearing to the public. Committee polled: Beatty-absent; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

Ardito explained that there was a \$2 M drop in the assessed valuations last year. The municipal rate is flat. The cost to the average taxpayer is three (3) dollars for the year. The governing body restored the Municipal Open Space Tax to two (2) cents {from 0.5 cents in CY 2015}; this equates to \$45.00 annually on a property assessed at \$300,000.00.

He also noted that the revenues decreased, but the Township Committee decreased expenditures as a result. There are no new capital improvement appropriations this year.

Rusin asked about the last bullet point on the 2016 Budget Highlights, "For a taxpayer assessed at \$200,000, the annual tax increase is \$125, or about \$10 per month." Ardito realized that this bullet point was from 2015 Municipal Budget so it was struck from this year's highlights.

There were no further questions from the public. The public hearing was closed on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by McDonough. Committee polled: Beatty-absent; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

The 2016 Local Municipal Budget totaling \$1,360,256.00 was adopted on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by McDonough. Committee polled: Beatty-absent; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

#### Resolution #16-35, Self-Examination of Budget

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

#### RESOLUTION #16-35

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 2016 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:

All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate and correctly stated;  
Items of appropriation are properly set forth;  
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.

## Public

During the public portion of the meeting, Kim Tighe, the Baseball/Softball Director, was present with her husband, Douglas Tighe to express her concern about a disturbing conversation that she had with a parent at a baseball game the prior evening. The situation was particularly upsetting and had an affect on many of the ballplayers. Douglas Tighe expressed his concern about the matter, and asked the Township Committee for its support of a Township employee and to stand behind the employee.

McDonough advised that the Township Attorney has been consulted on the situation. He will advise the Township how to proceed. McDonough followed that with confirmation that the governing body supports Mrs. Tighe, and he commended her for the great job that she is doing.

A few of the ballplayers and their parents came to the meeting to support Mrs. Tighe and expressed their concern about the lack of sportsmanship of a student and a parent. Koonz noted the courage that it took for the students to come to the meeting and urged them to continue believing the best in themselves.

## Discuss Vacancy on the Historic Preservation Commission with Sally Rausa

Sally Rausa, a resident of the Hope Moravian Historic District, was present to discuss her interest in being appointed to the Hope Historic Preservation Commission. She expressed her belief in historic preservation and noted that she once lived in a home that was originally a church built in 1852. She has attended the Commission's meetings and is aware of the responsibilities. A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by McDonough to appoint Sally Rausa as Alternate #1 on the Hope Historic Preservation Commission; her term will expire December 31, 2017. Committee polled: Beatty-absent; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

## Discuss Moravian Grange Use/Babysitting Service during NJ Fit Chicks w/ Kim Lerner

McDonough advised that he spoke with Ms. Lerner and she confirmed that her insurance would cover this additional activity during the summer months. She conducts fitness classes, and will offer babysitting services for her students. Lerner was given permission by McDonough to offer babysitting services.

## Discuss Proposed Duties, Salary, Benefits, Certification Requirements-Supt. of Roads & Public Bldgs.

McDonough recommended tabling this matter to the next meeting when Beatty will be present.

## Miscellaneous

Koonz asked the Clerk to have the Zoning Officer contact Dunkin Donuts about removing the feather flags in the front of their property.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M. on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by McDonough. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted:

