

JUNE 10, 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 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 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 special meeting and executive session on April 27, 2015 and the business meeting on May 13, 2015 were approved as circulated on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes. McDonough left the meeting room briefly.

The minutes of the work meeting on May 27, 2015 were tabled to the next business meeting. McDonough was not present to vote on them, and Koonz was absent from that meeting and would not be eligible to vote on the minutes.

RECEIPTS

The receipts during May, 2015 were read by Koonz, who noted those amounts over \$100.00. The total receipts were \$29,979.18.

BILLS

The bill list was read by Beatty, who also noted those amounts over \$100.00. A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty authorizing the payment of the bills totaling \$340,238.99. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-absent.

REPORTS

The Clerk was away on vacation, and did not have time before the meeting to look through her mail; therefore, only the report from the Construction Official was available at the meeting.

Construction Code Official

The following permits were issued during May, 2015: 10 – Building, 5 – Plumbing, 5 – Electrical, 5 – Fire for a total income of \$3,474.00.

Township Engineer

Rodman reported that the crossbars were painted on Honey Run Road. He can close out the grant now.

Don Whitmore, the DPW Foreman, was present to review the specification for the salt shed with the governing body and the Township Engineer. The specifications were finalized, and Rodman will prepare a Notice to Bidders. The Clerk will place the notice in The Express Times; bids will be opened at the next business meeting on Wednesday, July 8, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.

There was a discussion about the drainage concern of Mr. and Mrs. Rennspies on Union Brick Road. Whitmore inspected the area during the last heavy rain and took photographs of the water flow. The water is coming from 102 Union Brick Road in Blairstown and following the gutter down to the Hope side of the road. Koonz asked if the situation is causing any traffic or safety problem, and Whitmore responded that it is not. The Township Committee directed Rodman to write a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Rennspies to refer them to Blairstown Township for a solution to their issue.

Beatty advised that there are five catch basins that need to be replaced by an outside contractor due to depth. Three quotations were sought, and All Terrain Excavating is the lowest responsible quote at \$3,200.00 each. A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to authorize \$16,000.00 for the replacement of five catch basins by All Terrain Excavating. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-absent.

Beatty also discussed the floor replacement in the bottom of the Community Center. The Committee determined that a concrete floor would be more appropriate in the basement. He will get a few quotations for that work, which will be done with funding from FEMA.

Mayor McDonough

McDonough advised that he received a letter dated June 5, 2015 from Richard Keiling, Esq., who is representing the Singh application before the Hope Zoning Board of Adjustment. Keiling asked the Mayor to appoint two additional members to the Board as the current membership of the Board is only 6 people. The applicant will need five affirmative votes for a "D" Variance.

The matter was discussed with the Zoning Board of Adjustment/ Planning Board Attorney, Roger Thomas, who indicated that the Township Committee would only need to appoint one new member. There are vacancies for Alternate #1 and #2. The new member could be appointed from the membership of the Hope Planning Board. With that said, McDonough reached out to the Planning Board Chairman, Marvin Fish, who suggested Steven Larena as the new member. Larena is available to fill that vacancy. McDonough left the room at this time to take a phone call.

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to appoint Steven Larena as a full member with a term expiring December 31, 2018. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-absent.

Deputy Mayor Beatty

Beatty reported that the Annual Fishing Derby has been rescheduled due to inclement weather. The new date is Saturday, June 20, 2015 from 12:00 Noon to 4:00 P.M.

Committeeman Koonz

Koonz referred to the correspondence from Christopher and Meghan Smith of 343 High Street concerning the disturbance to the residents in the village area by the outdoor weddings at the Inn at Millrace Pond. In Smith's letter, he refers to a Hope Township Ordinance #20-4.6(a) that prohibits businesses from having outdoor sound producing devices. Koonz suggested that the Township follow up on this matter since it is becoming more a nuisance. McDonough asked the Clerk for a copy of the Ordinance, which he will deliver to the N.J. State Police – Hope Barracks.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following communications were received during the month:

1. Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope. Re: April, 2015 Municipal Court Disbursements. A copy was given to the Chief Financial Officer.
2. Christopher Smith, a resident of Hope Township to the Hope Township Zoning Officer. Re: Noise complaint about the Inn at Millrace Pond.
3. Norman E. Beatty, President of First Hope Bank to Hope Historic Preservation Commission. Re: 1297 and 1299 Hope-Bridgeville Road porch removal.
4. Lopatcong Township. Re: Resolution supporting the Transparent Tax Act of 2015.
5. Warren County Department of Human Services. Re: Notice of public hearing, 2016 Casino Revenue Grant.
6. N.J. Dept. of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Coastal and Lake Use Compliance and Enforcement. Re: Follow up Notice of Violation to Rui and Rui F. Sousa – Block 1000, Lot 3300 located at 1252 Hope-Bridgeville Road. A copy was given to the Zoning Officer.
7. Linda J. Read, P.E., Principal Engineer, Bridge of Warren County Engineer's Office. Re: Revised milling and paving work to correct deficiencies with the original pavement installation work at Bridge #11023 over Buckaloo Creek. A copy was sent to the Township Engineer and the Public Works Foreman.
8. Michael Slattery, Superintendent of Hope Township School to Sue-Ann Hansen, Manager of the Inn at Millrace Pond. Re: Parking at Hope Township School.

APPOINTMENTS

The following vacancies were noted: Zoning Board of Adjustment – Alternate #1 and #2; Alternate #2 on the Historic Preservation Commission; and two vacancies on the Agriculture Advisory Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Hope Environmental Commission follow-up on Anti-Hydraulic Fracking

Present from the Environmental Commission were Cathie LaBar, Patty Maertens, and Monica Sobon. McDonough returned to the meeting at this time.

LaBar distributed information that addressed the questions of the governing body from the last meeting. On the handout, the shale information was discussed at length. Koonz noted that he would like the governing body to read as much information as possible before considering a resolution or an ordinance. The remaining question is whether the geology in New Jersey can support fracking.

Sobon, LaBar, Maertens left the meeting at this time.

Status of Hope Sanitary Landfill

No change in status.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduce Ordinance #15-04, 2015 Salary Ordinance

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

ORDINANCE #15-04

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 2015

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, 2015 at the amounts set forth herein:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| A. Mayor | \$ 2,892.00 per annum |
| B. Committeeman (not serving as Mayor) | \$ 2,552.00 per annum |

C. Municipal Clerk	\$ 33.06 per hour
	\$ 70.58 per hour, meeting attendance
D. Deputy Municipal Clerk	\$ 17.49 per hour
E. Secretary to the Zoning Board of Adjustment	\$ 4,197.00 per annum (base)
	\$ 154.00 per meeting
F. Election Official	\$ 164.00 per annum
G. Chief Financial Officer	\$11,780.00 per annum
H. Assessor of Taxes	\$17,110.00 per annum
I. Assessment Search Officer	\$ 3,009.00 per annum
J. Collector of Taxes	\$22,864.00 per annum
K. Tax Search Officer	\$ 3,009.00 per annum
L. Deputy Tax Collector	\$ 2,191.00 per annum
M. Secretary to the Planning Board	\$11,487.00 per annum (base)
	\$ 154.00 per meeting
N. Construction Code Official	\$ 3,211.00 per annum
O. Building Sub-Code Official	\$ 4,879.00 per annum
P. Fire Protection Officer	\$ 2,536.00 per annum
Q. Code Enforcement Officer	\$ 6,673.00 per annum
R. Public Works Foreman	\$ 27.29 per hour
S. Equipment Operator, Level I	\$ 21.79 per hour
Level II (temporary)	\$ 20.00 per hour
T. Sports Director	
(a) Soccer Director	\$ 2,865.00 per annum
(b) Basketball Director	\$ 3,477.00 per annum
(c) Baseball/Softball Director	\$ 4,173.00 per annum
U. Plumbing Subcode Official	\$ 2,100.00 per annum
V. Treasurer	\$ 5,228.00 per annum
W. Secretary to the Environmental Commission	\$ 1,359.00 per annum
X. Acting Municipal Court Administrator	\$ 18.07 per hour
	\$ 56.00 per call out
Y. Deputy Municipal Court Administrator/ Violations Clerk	\$ 16.49 per hour
Z. Municipal Court Prosecutor	\$ 452.00 per session
AA. Municipal Court Judge	\$ 300.00 per session
BB. Municipal Court Officer – Level I	\$ 119.00 per session
Municipal Court Officer – Level II	\$ 25.00 per hour
CC. Municipal Court Treasurer	\$ 3,683.00 per annum
DD. Animal Control Officer	\$ 6,366.00 per annum
	\$ 21.56 per hr, court
EE. Dog Licensing Clerk(s)	\$ 636.00 @ per annum
FF. Temporary Clerical Assistant	\$ 13.09 hour
GG. Laborer	\$ 17.76 per hour
HH. Christmas Market/Public Relations Coordinator	\$ 6,820.00 per annum
II. Technical Assistant	\$ 4,615.00 per annum
JJ. Electrical Subcode Official	\$ 4,753.00 per annum
KK. Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator	\$ 586.00 per annum
LL. Secretary to the Historic District Commission	\$ 1,340.00 per annum

MM. Joint Municipal Alliance Coordinator	\$ 1,834.00 per annum
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.

Ordinance #15-05, Amend Zoning Ordinance-Establish Definition for Non-Household Animals

This matter was tabled to the next business meeting on July 8, 2015.

Resolution #15-35, Approve 2014 Audit Report

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

RESOLUTION #15-35

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions; and

WHEREAS, the Annual Report of Audit for the year 2014 has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the Municipal Clerk as per the requirements of N.J.S. 40A:5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body; and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey is authorized to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs, as per R.S. 52:27BB-34; and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board has promulgated a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall by resolution certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled:

GENERAL COMMENTS
RECOMMENDATIONS

And

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed as a minimum the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled:

GENERAL COMMENTS
RECOMMENDATIONS

As evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body; and

WHEREAS, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the governing body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, as per the regulations of the Local Finance Board; and

WHEREAS, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board; and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with the promulgations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52-to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52 – “A local officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the Director of the Local Government Services, under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Township of Hope hereby states that it has complied with the promulgation of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey dated July 30, 1968 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

Resolution #15-36, Ch. 159 “Restoration of Walking Trail at Swayze Mill Park

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

RESOLUTION #15-36

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope received a grant award in the amount of \$1,500.00 from ANJEC for the Restoration of Walking Trail at Swayze Mill Park Project; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any County or

Municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation for equal amount;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Hope hereby requests the Director of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2015 in the amount of \$1,500.00 under the caption of "Restoration of Walking Trail at Swayze Mill Park"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$1,500.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption of "Restoration of Walking Trail at Swayze Mill Park".

Resolution #15-37, Matching Funds for Hope Volunteer Fire Department

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

RESOLUTION #15-36

WHEREAS, it has been customary for the Hope Township Committee to adopt a resolution specifying the use of Township contributions made to the Hope Volunteer Fire Department for its use in providing fire protection to the residents of Hope Township; and

WHEREAS, the Hope Township Committee has budgeted funds in the amount of \$22,950.00 for the total contribution to the Fire Department during 2015;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following distribution of those funds is hereby designated:

\$ 5,000.00 – 2015 Donation

\$ 5,000.00 – Truck Fund Donation

\$12,950.00 – Matching Funds (Hope Township will match non-governmental contributions up to \$12,950.00)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treasurer of the Hope Volunteer Fire Department shall submit vouchers on a timely basis accompanied by an affidavit listing the name, address and amount of each contribution of \$25.00 or more; amounts of smaller contributions should be listed on said affidavit by fund raising category.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Clerk be directed to provide a copy of this Resolution to the Hope Volunteer Fire Department.

Discuss Capital Projects – Truck

Beatty reported that specifications are being prepared for a new truck. Koonz asked Whitmore if he reached out to the company that refurbishes trucks to see if this might be a good idea for the Township. Whitmore was not given the contact information as of the meeting but will follow up on it.

PUBLIC

Chris Rusin, a resident of Hope, asked about the non-household animal ordinance. Koonz explained that there have been situations where an abundance of non-household animals have been kept on small residential properties, which caused a nuisance to neighbors. The conditions were also difficult for the animals.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M. on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Pat Quinn
Municipal Clerk