

JUNE 11, 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 The Star Gazette and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township bulletin boards all on February 14, 2014 and February 21, 2014.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the business meeting on May 15, 2014 were approved as circulated on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

The minutes of the work meeting on May 28, 2014 were approved as circulated on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by McDonough. Committee polled: Beatty-abstain; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

#### RECEIPTS

The receipts were read by Koonz, who noted those amounts over \$100.00. The total receipts during May, 2014 were \$1,144,970.56.

#### BILLS

The bill list was read by Beatty, who also noted those amounts over \$100.00. The payment of bills was approved on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. The total bills were \$358,670.47. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

#### USE OF FACILITIES APPLICATION – Hope Historical Society

Nancy Treible, President of the Hope Historical Society, was present to go over their application for the use of the Hope Community Center on July 13, 2014 from 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. The Historical Society is commemorating their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the film presentations, "Changing Family Life" and "Last Day at Skips". They anticipate approximately 100 people to attend. The application was approved and the rental fee was waived on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

Mrs. Treible also advised that the Historical Society applied for a Temporary Sign Permit to hang two 3' X 5' banners on the museum to advertise their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The size of the banners exceeds what is permitted in the Sign Ordinance and would require a variance. The Township Committee approved the temporary display of the banners for this special event on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

## REPORTS

### Chief Financial Officer

A report of the available balances in the budget line item appropriations was submitted by the Chief Financial Officer.

### Zoning Officer

There was no report from the Zoning Officer.

### Warren County Health Department

#### Complaints:

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. No change in status.

458 Delaware Road – A complaint was received concerning the burying of animal waste in a hole. An inspection was conducted. A 10' by 10' hole had been dug with a large plastic seepage tank sitting next to it. It was reported that animal waste from the barn would be piped to the pit. The responsible party is being referred to the agricultural agency that has jurisdiction.

Food Establishment – No activity.

Rabies – No activity.

Kennels – No activity.

Childcare Centers – No activity.

Recreational Bathing – No activity.

Youth Camps – No activity.

Campgrounds – No activity.

Septics/Wells – No activity.

### Township Engineer

Rodman reported that Shiloh Road guiderail installation would begin on June 12 and finish on June 13, weather permitting. The Osmun Road guiderail installation would begin on June 16 and finish on June 17.

Road Department

The Public Works Foreman submits weekly reports for his department, and they are available in the Clerk's office for review.

Fire Department

No report submitted.

Blairstown Ambulance Corp

No report submitted.

Tax Assessor

No report submitted.

Tax Collector

May, 2014 Collection:

Current Year Taxes	\$1,110,719.71	\$2,826,650.21 Y-T-D
Delinquent Taxes:		
Taxes-2013	.00	19,581.57
Outside Tax Sale Redemption	7,738.17	17,820.75
Cost of Sale Fees	.00	337.41
NSF Check Fees	25.00	50.00
Interest and Costs	614.71	2,876.28
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 1,119,097.59</u>	<u>\$ 2,867,316.22</u>

Remarks:

Current Year Tax Collection Comparison:

May 2014 to May 2013	+\$106,080.58
Year to Date 2014 to Year to Date 2013	+\$ 93,565.03
May 2014 to May 2012	+\$ 32,796.59
Year to Date 2014 to Year to Date 2012	+\$228,215.14

Construction Code Official

The following permits were issued during May, 2014: 7-Building, 5-Plumbing, 2-Electrical, 1-Fire for a total income of \$1,275.00.

Mayor McDonough

McDonough advised that residents have complained to him about the noise from the outdoor weddings at The Inn at Millrace Pond. Residents are particularly inconvenienced by the noise on Sunday evenings. Rodman noted that there are State standards for noise control. McDonough will discuss the matter with the Township Attorney and report back.

Deputy Mayor Beatty

Nothing to report.

Committeeman Koonz

Koonz advised that a subcommittee of the Planning Board, consisting of Chris Maier, Betsy Peterson and he met with the Animal Control Officer, Alan DeCarolis to discuss a solution for non-household animals on small residential lots. The group suggests that the governing body enact an ordinance similar to what is used in Blairstown Township; thereby, limiting the number of non-household animals based on lot size. The Clerk was directed to send the information to the Township Attorney so that an ordinance can be prepared in time for the governing body to introduce it at the July 9 business meeting. A copy will be provided to the Hope Planning Board for review prior to a public hearing and adoption.

USE OF FACILITIES APPLICATION – HOPE PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

An application for the use of Swayze Mill Park on October 19, 2014 from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. was received from the Hope Township Board of Education. The purpose of the use is to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Car Show. Robert Caputo, the authorized agent of the applicant advised that they anticipate 300 people to attend, and it will be conducted in the same manner as the show in 2013. A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to authorize the use and to waive the rental fee. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following communications were received during the month:

1. N. J. Department of Transportation. Re: Notice of \$90,000.00 grant award for Far View Road through the 2014 Municipal Aid Program. A copy was given to the Township Engineer and the Public Works Foreman.
2. Michael B. Lavery, Esq. Re: Service Electric Cable Franchise. The Hope Municipal Building was not included in the service area under the new proposal.
3. Michael S. Selvaggi, Esq. to Joseph A. Bolles, Municipal Division Manager of Vicinage #13. Re: Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope. Request for direction from the Administrative Office of the Courts regarding the withdrawal of Blairstown Township from the Court effective January 1, 2015 and Blairstown's refusal to enact a revision to the existing Interlocal Court Agreement to

add Hardwick Township as a member municipality. A copy was given to Craig Dana, Municipal Court Judge.

4. N.J. State Agriculture Development Committee. Re: Farmland Preservation Account Balances. The Land Conservancy of New Jersey is monitoring and working on this matter on behalf of Hope Township.
5. Liberty Township. Re: Notice of a public hearing on June 5, 2014 regarding an amendment to the Liberty Township Zoning Ordinance. A copy of the information was given to the Hope Planning Board.
6. Ellen Sagan, Fitness Instructor. Re: Request for fee reduction during the summer due to a decrease in enrollment and reduction of class frequency. The Township Committee authorized the rental fee to be reduced to \$150.00 per month.

#### APPOINTMENTS

There were no appointments made.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### Status of Moravian Distillery Rehabilitation Project

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to approve the last payment to Kunzman Construction, LLC. in the amount of \$4,933.50 (Invoice #20) for the 2 % retainage. Kunzman provided the Made in America certificates to the Township, and they were forwarded to the NJDOT as required. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

##### Status of Water Supply at Community Center

No change in status.

##### Status of Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope

Blairstown Township has given preliminary notice that they are reviewing other options for municipal court matters.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### Resolution #14-36, 2014 Budget 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 #14-36

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 2014;

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

\$ 5,000.00 – 2014 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.

Resolution #14-37, Refund Tax Sale Certificate #13-01 that was Redeemed

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to approve the following Resolution. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

RESOLUTION #14-37

RESOLUTION REFUNDING TAX SALE CERTIFICATE 13-01 THAT WAS REDEEMED

WHEREAS, the property owned by Anne Marie Mata known as Block 1000, Lot 2300 located at 161 Lake Just-It Road 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, Joe Campolo of 1055 Dark Moon Road, CR 519 located in Newton, NJ 07860 was the successful bidder of the above stated property. The amount of the Tax Sale consisted of unpaid 2012 property taxes, interest, and other costs, and totaled \$4,428.96 and is represented by Tax Sale Certificate 13-01; and

WHEREAS, Anne Marie Mata, the supposed owner of the property, paid \$13,015.12 on June 5, 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 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 2014 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a check payable to Joe Campolo in the amount of \$13,015.12 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate 13-01.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Financial Officer be also authorized to draw a check payable to Joe Campolo in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the return of a Premium paid at the Tax Sale.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the executed satisfied Tax Sale Certificate 13-01 be returned to Anne Marie Mata of 161 Lake Just-It Road located in Blairstown, NJ 07825.

Resolution #14-38, Renew Country Liquor Store Liquor License

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

RESOLUTION #14-38

WHEREAS, Country Liquor Store, Inc. holds a Plenary Retail Distribution License #2111-44-001-004; and

WHEREAS, Country Liquor Store, Inc. has filed an application to renew said license for the 2014/15 license term; and

WHEREAS, the application, fees and N.J. Division of Taxation Clearance Certificate have been filed with the Municipal Clerk,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the Plenary Retail Distribution License be renewed for Country Liquor Store, Inc. for the term 2014/15.

Resolution #14-39, Renew Liquor License for The Inn at Millrace Pond/Chotee, Inc.

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

RESOLUTION #14-39

WHEREAS, Chotee, Inc. t/a The Inn at Millrace Pond holds a Plenary Retail Consumption License #2111-33-004-003; and

WHEREAS, Chotee, Inc. has filed an application to renew said license for the 2014/15 license term; and

WHEREAS, the application, fees and N.J. Division of Taxation Clearance Certificate have been filed with the Municipal Clerk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the Plenary Retail Consumption License be renewed for Chotee, Inc. for the term 2014/15.

Warren County Shared Services Agreement – Public Works Equipment

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to authorize the Mayor to execute a Shared Services Agreement between Warren County and Hope Township for sharing public works equipment. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

PUBLIC

Nancy Treible expressed concerns about the vertical sign that was recently put up at The Nest. Koonz advised that the Zoning Officer is enforcing the sign ordinance and will address her concern eventually.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Pat Quinn  
Municipal Clerk