

JUNE 12, 2013

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; Township Engineer Ted Rodman; and Township Attorney Michael Selvaggi.

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, 2013 and January 18, 2013.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the business meeting on May 8, 2013 and the work meeting on May 22, 2013 were approved as circulated on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

RECEIPTS

The receipts list was read by Koonz, who noted those amounts over \$100.00. The total receipts during May, 2013 were \$1,385,811.66 (this figure includes both April and May tax collection).

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. The total bills were \$324,827.48. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

There was a discussion about the cost for mowing. Koonz suggested that the Township Committee start a grounds maintenance trust similar to a rock salt trust fund, which is permitted by Statute. The Clerk was directed to discuss this with the Municipal Auditor.

Community Policing Officer

Trooper Walsh of the Hope Barracks of the N.J. State Police was present to reach out to the governing body. He advised that there was a robbery in Hope and a few in Knowlton recently. McDonough asked that the State Police continue to monitor Swayze Mill Park. Also discussed was the continued speeding through the village area. The governing body requested that the speed awareness signs be put out again. It was noted that the signs were given to the State Police by Warren County. There may be maintenance required before they can be used. The Committee thanked Walsh and the other State Police for their attention and support to the residents of Hope Township.

REPORTS

Chief Financial Officer

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

Zoning Officer

No report submitted.

Warren County Health Department

Complaints:

416 Main Street – Garbage on the lawn and in the storage shed at the bank-owned property. A reinspection was conducted. There was no change at the property. A summons was issued with court scheduled for 6/13/13 at 1:30 P.M.

15 Silver Hill Avenue – Septic overflowing in the rear of the property. Several reinspections were conducted. No effluent was observed on the surface of the ground. A reinspection is scheduled.

Hope Township Concessions at Route 519 and Swayze Mill Road – A complaint was received concerning frozen hotdogs and hamburgers being left out and then refrozen, no running water, and mouse droppings in the paper cups. Inspections were conducted at the stand locations. They were not operating at the time of inspection. There was no water at the Swayze Mill location and only cold water at the other. It was confirmed that hotdogs, hamburgers, cheese burgers, pretzels, chips and bottled water were being sold. Conditionally Satisfactory ratings were issued and food establishment applications were provided for submission to this department. Later it was reported that it was decided that only pre-packaged items will be sold at the stands. A reinspection is scheduled to address the issue of the mouse droppings.

Food Establishment – Hope Market was reinspected and received a satisfactory rating. St. John's United Methodist Church and Food Pantry and Thistleberry Farm were inspected and received satisfactory ratings. Swayze Mill Recreation Park and Hope Township Concession Stand were inspected and received conditionally satisfactory ratings.

Rabies – No activity.

Kennels – No activity.

Childcare Centers – No activity.

Recreational Bathing – No activity.

Youth Camps – No activity.

Campgrounds – No activity.

Septics/Wells – One septic repair application was approved.
One well alteration application as approved.
One septic repair was installed.

Township Engineer

Rodman reported that the Discretionary Aid Application for Honey Run Road has been completed and submitted to the N.J. Department of Transportation. The specifications and information on the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council vendor for the overlayment of Shiloh Road and the guiderails for Lake Just-It Road are being reviewed by the N.J. Department of Transportation, District Office.

The Township received \$19,172.55 from FEMA for the repair of Kostenbader Road. Rodman estimated that approximately 965 feet of the roadway can be paved. He will coordinate that repair with the Shiloh Road project.

Road Department

The Public Works Foreman submits weekly reports, which are on file in the Clerk's office.

Fire Department

No report submitted.

Blairstown Ambulance Corp

No report submitted.

Tax Assessor

No report submitted.

Tax Collector

April, 2013 Collections:

Current Year Taxes	\$339,468.01	\$1,728,446.05 Y-T-D
Delinquent Taxes:		
Taxes – 2012	.00	46,550.16
Taxes – 2011	.00	250.00
Tax Sale Premiums	.00	9,500.00
Interest and Costs	434.28	4,898.20
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 339,902.29</u>	<u>\$ 1,789,644.41</u>

Remarks:

Current Year Tax Collection Comparison:

April 2013 to April 2012	+\$ 77,053.57
Year to Date 2013 to Year to Date 2012	+\$207,934.10
April 2013 to April 2011	+\$ 6,810.13
Year to Date 2013 to Year to Date 2011	+\$ 15,736.03

May, 2013 Collections:

Current Year Taxes	\$1,004,639.13	\$2,733,085.18 Y-T-D
Delinquent Taxes:		
Taxes – 2012	413.85	46,964.01
Taxes – 2011	.00	250.00
Tax Sale Premiums	.00	9,500.00
Interest and Costs	486.62	5,384.82
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 1,005,539.60</u>	<u>\$ 2,785,684.01</u>

Remarks:

Current Year Tax Collection Comparison:

May 2013 to May 2012	+\$ 73,283.99
Year to Date 2013 to Year to Date 2012	+\$134,650.11
May 2013 to May 2011	+\$ 33,871.31
Year to Date 2013 to Year to Date 2011	+\$ 49,607.34

Construction Code Official

The following permits were issued during May, 2013: 7-Building, 3-Plumbing, 4-Electrical, 2-Fire for a total income of \$2,392.00.

Use of Facilities Request – Hope Elementary Alumni Reunion

An application from Patricia Maertens and Nora Drew to hold the second Hope Elementary Alumni Reunion at the Hope Community Center on August 3, 2013 was approved on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. The event will be held between 1:00 and 5:00 P.M.; they expect 100 people between the ages of 50 and 90 to attend. The application was complete; the proper proof of insurance was supplied; and the date and time are available. The use fee was waived. Set up for the reunion will start after 5:00 P.M. on August 2, 2013. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

Mayor McDonough

Nothing to report.

Deputy Mayor Beatty

Beatty advised that baseball season is winding down.

Committeeman Koonz

Koonz advised that the rough electrical work has been completed at the Moravian Distillery building. A service inspection is scheduled. A construction meeting was held earlier in the day with Rodman, Quinn, Koonz, Mitch Kunzman (the contractor), and Wayne McCabe (project inspector). Koonz will be meeting with Rodman and Kunzman Thursday morning for a site visit.

EXECUTIVE SESSION, RE: POTENTIAL LITIGATION & CONTRACT NEGOTIATION

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a public body to go into closed session during a public meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Hope has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the public,

WHEREAS, the regular meeting of this Committee will reconvene.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Hope will go into closed session for the following reason as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12: Potential litigation and contract negotiation.

The executive session was concluded on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following communications were received during the month:

1. N.J. State League of Municipalities. Re: April 2013 Legislative Bulletin.
2. N.J. Transit. Re: Public meeting notice, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise. The public meeting was held on May 31 at NJ Transit Headquarters in Newark, NJ.
3. Warren County Planning Department. Re: Amendment to the Solid Waste Management Plan. A copy was given to the Hope Environmental Commission.

4. Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope. Re: April, 2013 Municipal Court Disbursements. A copy was given to the Chief Financial Officer.
5. Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders to Governor Chris Christie. Re: Resolution of the Board of Chosen Freeholders opposing the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission's plans for replacing the Scudder Falls Bridge.
6. Warren County Purchasing Department. Re: Notice that the County of Warren will be soliciting bids for rock salt and invited Warren County municipalities to submit their salt needs for consideration in the bid. A copy was given to the Public Works Foreman.
7. Warren County Soil Conservation District. Re: Soil conservation prior approvals for demolition projects. A copy was given to the Zoning Officer and the Construction Code Official.
8. Warren County Purchasing Department. Re: Annual auction will be July 5, 2013. A copy was given to the Public Works Foreman.
9. Haven of Hope for Kids. Re: Letter thanking the governing body for permission to conduct a Township wide yard sale, but the organization has decided to withdraw its application for scheduling reasons.

APPOINTMENTS

The following vacancies were noted:

- A. Environmental Commission - Vacancy: Alternate #2, term expires 12/31/13.
- B. Zoning Board of Adjustment – Vacancies: Full member, term expires 12/31/14 and Alternate #2, term expires 12/31/14.
- C. Planning Board – Vacancies: Class II, term expires 12/31/13; Alternate #2, term expires 12/31/13.
- D. Historic Preservation Commission: Vacancy: Alternate #2, term expires 12/31/14.
- E. Agriculture Advisory Board – Three vacancies, terms expire 12/31/13.

OLD BUSINESS

Speed Limits on Township Roads

The Clerk advised that a request will be coming in from the residents on Shiloh Road for a speed limit survey.

Discuss Cable Television Franchise Renewal

No change in status.

Status of Hardwick Township Joining the Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope

No change in status.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #13-34, Renew Liquor License for Country Liquor Store

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

RESOLUTION #13-34

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 2013/14 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 2013/14.

Resolution #13-35, Renew Liquor License for 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 #13-35

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 2013/14 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 2013/14.

Resolution #13-36, 2013 Funding for Hope Volunteer Fire Department

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

RESOLUTION #13-36

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 2013;

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

- \$ 5,000.00 – 2013 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.

Review Proposal from Ron Raphael for 2013 Township Picnic

A proposal in the amount of \$5,262.50 from Ron Raphael for food and DJ services at the annual Hope picnic on September 21, 2013 is under advisement. McDonough asked to hold the discussion until he finds out whether Walmart will be making a contribution this year.

Discuss Summer Hours for Clerk's Office

The Township Committee authorized the Clerk's office to close on Fridays during the summer from June 14 to September 6, 2013.

Swayze Mill Park

McDonough suggested that the governing body authorize a dog walking route around the lake. There was no interest in doing so.

Quinn reported that a private individual has offered to purchase three benches to be placed around the lake. McDonough will obtain quotations to present to that person.

Authorize Change Order #5 for the Moravian Distillery Project (extension of time)

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

RESOLUTION OF THE HOPE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
TO AUTHORIZE A CHANGE ORDER FOR THE MORAVIAN
DISTILLERY REHABILITATION PROJECT
[HOPE DISTILLERY CONSTRUCTION: FEDERAL #STP-0376(101), STATE #7529301]

WHEREAS, a Change Order #5 has been submitted for: Extension of project completion from June 30, 2013 to August 30, 2013;

WHEREAS, the Township Committee agrees with its professionals that the above named task is necessary for the integrity of the "Project";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren, New Jersey that the Mayor and the Township Engineer are authorized and directed to execute Change Order #5 and forward same to the NJDOT, District Office for review and approval.

Quotation to Purchase a New Controller for Phone System

The controller and expansion units for the phone system in the Municipal Building need to be replaced. A quote was received from Cloud-com Envision, LLC. in the amount of \$4,244.00. The Clerk was directed to obtain a quotation to lease a phone system from Century Link.

PUBLIC

There were no questions or comments from the public.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Pat Quinn, Municipal Clerk