

AUGUST 12, 2015 (Special Meeting)

A special meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 6:30 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 was the Municipal Clerk, Mary Pat Quinn.

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 notice in the Hope Post Office and on the Township bulletin boards all on August 6, 2015.

EXECUTIVE SESSION, RE: PERSONNEL (Interviews for Custodian)

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to adopt the following Resolution.
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: Personnel.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M. on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. The motion was carried.

AUGUST 12, 2015 (Business Meeting)

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.

OPEN BIDS FOR SALT SHED

A motion was made at 7:00 P.M. by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to close the time for the receipt of bids for the salt shed. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes. The Clerk advised that a Certification of Availability of Funds was filed by the Chief Financial Officer in the amount of the insurance claim, which is \$48,877.69 plus an additional \$2,000.00 Supplemental Claim Amount when the project is completed.

One bid was received from Dutchman Contracting, LLC. of Denver, PA in the amount of \$69,766.00. A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to reject the bid due to insufficient budget funds. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

Rose Leopardi, a resident of Hope and an insurance agent, suggested that the governing body review its policy for a replacement cost clause as well as a section for improvements and betterments. The claim may be reopened for further consideration.

RECOGNITION OF ERRICKA LEOPARDI AS STATE SEMI-FINALIST OF THE LOUIS BAY 2ND SCHOLARSHIP

Erricka Leopardi was presented with a certificate by McDonough on behalf of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities for her placement as a State semi-finalist of the Louis Bay 2nd Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the business meeting on July 8, 2015 and the executive session on July 8, 2015 were approved as circulated on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

RECEIPTS

The receipts were read by Koonz, who noted those amounts over \$100.00. The total receipts during July, 2015 were \$560,996.13.

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 bills totaling \$801,482.66. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

PUBLIC

McDonough recognized Robert Belstra, a resident of Hope who was present at the meeting. Belstra provided the governing body with a copy of research that Robert Berry, P.L.S. conducted regarding an unimproved roadway located on Belstra's property. The information, dated July 22, 2015, was reviewed by the governing body and the Township Engineer, Ted Rodman. Rodman noted that the public rights were vacated, not Belstra's personal rights according to Berry's research. He asked Belstra what he is looking for, and Belstra responded that he is looking for access to his property from the road.

He was referred to the research of Mr. Berry, which clarifies his rights. Belstra indicated that he would share this information with his neighbors who may be affected.

Monica Sobon, a resident of Hope and the Chairwoman of the Hope Environmental Commission, was also recognized by McDonough. She thanked the governing body for its support of the pathway improvement at Swayze Mill Park and for permitting the Department of Public Works to assist with spreading the stone dust. She asked if consideration could be given to a ribbon cutting at the Annual Township Picnic on September 12, 2015, which McDonough thought was a great idea. Sobon advised that the Commission would complete the pathway on August 21, 2015.

She asked if the Environmental Commission could explore a stewardship approach to improving designated areas of Swayze Mill Park that are overgrown with invasive species. The Commission could also incorporate the planting of the remaining seedlings that it received for the Green Fair in the spring. She suggested that residents, civic groups or school groups could adopt an area to clean up and maintain. McDonough stated that the Township Committee would like to continue the memorial tree and bench program as well. Beatty will go out to the park on August 21 when the pathway project is being completed to look at possible areas for the stewardship program. If the Environmental Commission would like to proceed with this, information will be made available at the picnic.

EXECUTIVE SESSION, RE: PERSONNEL (Interview for Custodian)

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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REPORTS

Chief Financial Officer

A report of the available line item appropriations was provided by the Chief Financial Officer. She wanted the governing body to be aware that the balance in Road Maintenance, Salaries and Wages is down to \$23,266.19 for the rest of 2015. Beatty will advise the Road Foreman that there will be no more unauthorized overtime.

Zoning Officer

No report submitted.

Warren County Health Department

Complaints:

The following complaints were investigated:

458 Delaware Road – Bread used for feed attracting rats and birds. Complainant affected is to call when the nuisance is occurring. No calls were received in July.

Inn at Millrace Pond – Noise from music during events at the Inn. No complaints were received in July.

551 Hope-Blairstown Road – Collapsed structure in Beaver Brook. No change in status.

134 North Locust Lake Road – A complaint was received concerning no running water and waste from toilet being dumped outside. This complaint is currently under investigation.

Food Establishments:

Hope Conference and Renewal Center, Hope Market, Land of Make Believe and U.S. Gas were inspected and received satisfactory ratings. Inn at Millrace Pond was reinspected and received a satisfactory rating.

Kennels – No activity.

Rabies:

One dog bite and one cat bite were reported. Both animals were quarantined and released after the required 10-day period. One bat exposure was reported. The bat was unavailable for testing. The exposed person received rabies-post exposure treatment.

Childcare Centers: No activity.

Recreational Bathing:

Hope Conference Center Pool (twice), Land of Make Believe Pool & Wade (twice), LMB Blackbeard's River (twice), LMB Pirate's Peak & Splash Down (twice) and Silver Lake Property Association Beach were inspected and received satisfactory ratings.

Youth Camps: No activity.

Septics/Wells:

One septic alteration application was approved. Two septic repair applications were approved. One septic alteration was installed. One septic repair was installed.

Road Department

The Public Works Foreman provides weekly reports which are available for review in the Clerk's office.

Fire Department

No report submitted.

Blairstown Ambulance Corp

No report submitted.

Tax Assessor

No report submitted.

Tax Collector

July, 2015 Tax Collection:

Current Year Taxes	\$521,278.25	\$3,309,823.83 Y-T-D
Prepaid 2016 Taxes	11,927.81	11,927.81
Delinquent Taxes:		
Taxes-2014	.00	31,682.80
Municipal Tax Lien Redemption	.00	7,013.27
Outside Tax Lien Redemption	.00	8,464.54
Cost of Sale Fees	.00	500.68
Tax Sale Premiums	.00	4,000.00
Interest and Costs	<u>205.84</u>	<u>4,217.77</u>
Total Receipts	\$533,411.90	\$ 3,377,630.70

Remarks:

Current Year Tax Collection Comparison:

July 2015 to July 2014	- \$ 35,952.52
Year to Date 2015 to Year to Date 2014	- \$122,935.61
July 2015 to July 2013	+\$242,917.51
Year to Date 2014 to Year to Date 2013	+\$256,965.21

Construction Code Official

The following permits were issued during July, 2015: 11-Building, 6-Plumbing, 6-Electrical, 4-Fire for a total income of \$3,610.00.

Mayor McDonough

Nothing to report.

Deputy Mayor Beatty

Nothing to report.

Committeeman Koonz

Nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following communications were received during the month:

1. N.J. State League of Municipalities. Re: June 2015 Legislative Bulletin.
2. Warren County Department of Public Safety. Re: Notice of appointment of Lt. Gary Hill as the new 9-1-1 County Coordinator. A copy was given to the Road Foreman/Deputy EMC.
3. N.J. Transit Corporation. Re: FY 2015 request for Federal financial assistance.
4. Warren County Board of Taxation. Re: Certification of the Hope Township Tax Rate, which is 2.512 per \$100.00 of valuation.
5. Service Electric Cable Television of NJ to N.J. Board of Public Utilities. Re: Petition for renewal of approval on direct certification.
6. Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope. Re: June, 2015 Municipal Court Disbursements. A copy was given to the Chief Financial Officer.
7. Francis Dale Glynn. Re: Notice of resignation as the Plumbing Subcode Official effective October 1, 2015.
8. Jersey Central Power and Light. Re: Annual Universal Service Fund Compliance Filing.

APPOINTMENTS

There are two vacancies on the Agriculture Advisory Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Public Hearing/Adoption of Ordinance #15-06, Non-Household Animals

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

ORDINANCE #15-06

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 20-3, ENTITLED ZONING, OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY

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

Ordinance #15-06 was adopted on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

Status of Sanitary Landfill

No change in status.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduce Ordinance #15-07, Prohibit Livestock Running at Large

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

ORDINANCE NO. 15-07

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO REGULATE THE RUNNING AT LARGE OF LIVESTOCK WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Hope has found that the running of livestock in the Township of Hope jeopardizes the public health, safety and welfare by exposing injury to persons and other animals and causing damage to personal property such as lawns, shrubs, flowers, grounds, and other vegetation; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Hope has determined that N.J.S.A. 40:48-1 expressly permits municipalities to adopt ordinances that will regulate the running at large of livestock; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Hope believes that the adoption of such an ordinance is appropriate and would be a reasonable exercise of the municipality's police powers.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1 – Purpose

1.1 Purpose. This Code shall be constructed to secure its expressed intent, which is to ensure public health, safety and welfare insofar as residents are affected by injury to any persons or other animals, or cause damage to personal property including lawn, shrubbery, flowers, grounds, trees or any property of persons other than the owner or person having the care, custody or control of such unrestrained livestock running at large within the Township of Hope and to assess violations and penalties accordingly.

Section 2 - Definitions

2.1 Livestock – All horses, ponies, donkeys, mules, miniature breeds and all other equine; all domestic and exotic pigs, hogs, and other swine; all cattle, goats, sheep, and all other bovine; all llamas, alpacas, camels, and all other camelids; all chickens, ducks, geese, guinea hens, peacocks, turkeys, emus, rheas, and all other poultry and fowl; domestic rabbits, and all other animals traditionally raised for food, fiber, fur, or production means; as well as any exotic animals or reptiles.

2.2 Running at Large – Any livestock situated upon any public street, park, or any other public place while unrestrained or situated upon any private property, including the property of the livestock owner, while not restrained by a sufficient fence, enclosure or tether and which is not attended by the owner or his or her representative.

Section 3- General Requirements

3.1 Any person or persons, firm, partnership or corporation having the care, control, custody or management of any livestock as defined above shall prohibit the animals to stray or run at large within the limits of the Township of Hope.

3.2 Fencing Requirements – A fence measuring at least four feet high from the surface of the earth and sufficiently enclosed and strong enough to prevent livestock from escaping going through or under it is hereby required wherever livestock is kept. If any livestock escapes from within the confines of any fence it shall be presumed that such fence has not met the provisions of this chapter. Any owner or lessee of the land on which such fence is located is subject to the requirements of this section.

Section 4 - Distraigned Livestock; Impounding

4.1 When any livestock are taken up and distraigned by any person for running at large, they shall be forthwith impounded by the Animal Control Officer and shall be furnished with suitable food and water, so long as they are detained.

4.2 The owner of livestock in the custody or possession of the Animal Control Officer pursuant to this act may claim and be entitled to the possession of the livestock. Upon payment to the Animal Control Officer of reasonable compensation for the care and keeping of the livestock, upon satisfactory proof of ownership of the livestock, and upon making reparation as provided in Section 5, the livestock shall be returned to its owner.

Section 5 - Violations and Penalties

5.1 Any person or persons, firm, partnership or corporation violating or failing to comply with any provision of this Code shall be guilty of an offense punishable as follows:

- (a) A fine for a first violation in the amount of \$100.00
- (b) A fine for a second violation in the amount of \$250.00
- (c) A fine for a third violation in the amount of \$500.00
- (d) A fine for subsequent offenses in the amount of \$1,000 each

Each day for which a violation of this ordinance occurs shall be considered a separate offense.

Section 6 - Notices and Orders

6.1 Notice. The Township, or any duly authorized Code or Animal Control Official, shall cause a notice to be issued to the applicable person or persons, firm, partnership or corporation when a violation of this Code occurs.

6.2 Form. Such notice prescribed in Section 5.1 shall be in accordance with all of the following:

- 1. Be in writing.
- 2. Include the identity or description of the animal.
- 3. A statement of when, where, what damage was done if known.
- 4. Include a correction order allowing a reasonable time for restitution of penalties and damages to be made.
- 5. Inform the property owner of the right to appeal.

6.3 Method of Service. Such notice shall be deemed to be properly served if a copy thereof is sent by first-class mail, express mail, overnight carrier or certified mail addressed to the last known address.

Section 7

7.1 All ordinances of the Township of Hope which are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 8

8.1 If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

Section 9

9.1 This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage, approval and publication as required by law.

Introduce Ordinance #15-08, Renew CATV Franchise w/Service Electric Cable T.V.

McDonough recommended that the subject Ordinance be tabled pending discussions with Comcast and the N.J. Board of Public Utilities. A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to table the Ordinance pending those discussions. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

Resolution #15-46, Resolution Adjusting 2015 Taxable Assessment & Property Taxes on B-1600, L-801

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

RESOLUTION #15-46

RESOLUTION ADJUSTING 2015 TAXABLE ASSESSMENT & PROPERTY TAXES
ON BLOCK 1600, LOT 801

WHEREAS, as a result of a Judgment issued by the Warren County Board of Taxation, the 2014 taxable assessment of Block 1600, Lot 801 owned by Phyllis Howe located on 130 North Locust Lake Road was reduced from \$289,000 to \$234,700; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 tax duplicate did not reflect this reduction of assessment and instead increased the assessment to \$311,000; and

WHEREAS, the Hope Township Tax Assessor recommend that the 2015 taxable assessment be reduced to \$234,700;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope on this 12th day of August 2015 that the 2015 taxable assessment be set at \$234,700 with property taxes reduced accordingly.

Resolution #15-47, Resolution to Extend Third Quarter 2015 Property Tax Payment Grace Period

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

RESOLUTION #15-47

RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THIRD QUARTER 2015 PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT GRACE PERIOD

WHEREAS, the Warren County Board of Taxation did not strike the 2015 Hope Township property tax rate until July 17th resulting in late billing of Hope Township taxpayers for the last half of 2015 and first half of 2016 property taxes; and

WHEREAS, NJSA 54:4-64, Delivery of Tax Bills, provides that bills must be mailed or delivered no less than 25 days prior to the end of the grace period and Hope Township tax bills were mailed to taxpayers on July 20th;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope on this 12th day of August 2015 that the Tax Collector be authorized to set the deadline of the extended third quarter 2015 tax payment grace period to August 14, 2015.

Resolution #15-48, Professional Services – Open Space & Farmland Preservation Services

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

RESOLUTION #15-48
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RESOLUTION
OPEN SPACE AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope has the need to engage the services of Open Space and Farmland Preservation Advisors; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et seq.) requires that the Resolution Authorizing the award of contracts for “Professional Services” without competitive bids and the contract itself must be available for public inspection; and

WHEREAS, The Land Conservancy of New Jersey with offices located at 19 Boonton Avenue, Boonton, N.J. 07005 has submitted a proposal to perform this service; and

WHEREAS, The Land Conservancy of New Jersey has agreed to incorporate into this contract the Mandatory Equal Employment Opportunity Language set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq., N.J.A.C. 17:27; and

WHEREAS, the parties to this contract agree to incorporate into this contract the Mandatory Equal Employment Opportunity Language set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq., N.J.A.C. 17-27;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, as follows:

The Mayor and Clerk of the Township of Hope are hereby authorized and directed to execute the contract, which shall act as the authority and agreement between the Township of Hope and The Land Conservancy of New Jersey.

The services to be rendered by The Land Conservancy of New Jersey shall be for the sole purpose of preparing grant applications as required by the State Agriculture Development Committee for the preservation of farmland, and the amount of the contract for these services is \$10,000.00.

This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a “Professional Service” in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a) of the Local Public Contracts Law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk is hereby directed to publish a notice of this action in The Star Gazette, the official newspaper of the Township of Hope.

Resolution #15-49, Renew Liquor License for Country Liquor Store

This matter was tabled pending receipt of the ABC Tax Clearance Certificate.

Resolution #15-50, Recommendation of State Aid Project Award- Smith/Green Street Overlayment

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

RESOLUTION #15-50

HOPE TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
RECOMMENDATION OF AWARD
STATE AID PROJECT

BE IT RESOLVED, that Hope Township hereby recommends to the New Jersey Department of Transportation that the contract for the Smith/Green Street Overlayment Project in the Township of Hope, County of Warren, New Jersey be awarded through the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council (MCCPC), to: Tilcon in the amount of \$81,200.00 and to Denville Line Striping in the amount of \$3,300.00 subject to the approval of the Department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the presiding officer of this body be and is hereby directed to sign for and on its behalf the contract in the prescribed form for said construction; and the Clerk of this body be and is hereby directed to seal said contract with the corporate seal of this body and attest to the same.

Haven of Hope for Kids, Raffle Applications for 50/50 & Tricky Tray

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to approve RA:222 for a Tricky Tray and RA:223 for a 50/50 to be held by Haven of Hope for Kids on October 9, 2015 from 6:00 to 10:00 P.M. at the Hope Township School. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

PUBLIC

During the public portion of the meeting, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Rennspies were present to continue the discussion about the erosion of their driveway apron which they believe is caused by a drainage issue on Union Brick Road. The Township Engineer was not present for this discussion, so the governing body told Mr. and Mrs. Rennspies that he would be consulted for his professional opinion first. There was a discussion about the Township redoing the driveway apron in a manner that would divert the water runoff.

Duane Copley, a resident of Hope, asked if the Township will mow the sides of the road on Hissim. He noted that the roads were not mowed last year either. He is concerned about the visibility on the road. Beatty will ask the Road Foreman to take care of it.

Beatty mentioned that there may be a need for a second full time employee on the Road Department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION, RE: CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS (Farmland Preservation)

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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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: Contract negotiations (farmland preservation).

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

APPOINT ELAINE GOORDMAN AS CUSTODIAN

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to appoint Elaine Goordman as a custodian to replace the cleaning service, Bedell Brothers, effective September 1, 2015. Ms. Goordman will be paid \$13.00 per hour. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M. on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Pat Quinn
Municipal Clerk