

AUGUST 13, 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.

BOY SCOUT, JONATHAN CARLILE – REQUEST FOR IDEAS FOR AN EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Jonathan Carlile, a resident of Hope and Boy Scout, was present to discuss an idea for his Eagle Scout Project. He is planning improvements to Swayze Mill Park. They include sprucing up the exercise stations and the walking path around the lake; cleaning up the hillside by the gazebo; replace the roof on the gazebo and make other repairs to it as needed; posting mile markers around the trail.

The governing body liked the concept, and authorized Deputy Mayor Beatty to be the contact person for the project. Mr. Carlile will prepare a written plan and meet with the Deputy Mayor prior to forwarding the plan to the Scout Council. The Municipal Clerk will provide a copy of the minutes to Mr. Carlile for his records.

REVIEW APPLICATION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH FOR A CEMETERY

The governing body received a letter dated July 17, 2014 from Steven C. Schepis, Esq., attorney for St. John the Baptist Serbian Orthodox Church regarding an application that the Church made to the Hope Township Planning Board for the creation of a private cemetery for its members. Attorney Schepis, who was accompanied by several Church members, explained that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:27-25, the Church is required to first obtain the consent of the municipality by Resolution. There are four existing cemeteries in Hope: Beaver Brook Cemetery Association, Hope Cemetery Association, Green's Chapel Cemetery Association, and Union Cemetery.

Koonz noted that although Green's Chapel Cemetery Association is shown as one lot, there may actually be two separate cemeteries on the lot. Attorney Schepis asked the governing body to grant an exception; the Resolution prepared by the Township Attorney, will be revised to document the exception.

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

TOWNSHIP OF HOPE
COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Resolution #14-43

CONSENT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRIVATE CEMETERY
BY THE ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
ON LOT 500 IN BLOCK 4000

WHEREAS, St. John the Baptist Serbian Orthodox Church ("Church") is attempting to establish a private cemetery on its property located on Hope-Marksboro Road, and otherwise known as Lot 500 in Block 4000 on the Tax Map for the Township of Hope ("Property"); and

WHEREAS, the Church intends to devote 8.57 acres of the approximately 92 acres it owns for the cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Hope Township ("Township") is required by N.J.S.A. 45:27-25 to consent to the establishment of any new cemetery within its municipal borders and adopt a written resolution confirming its consent; and

WHEREAS, the Township may consent to the establishment of a cemetery provided there are no more than five (5) cemeteries in the Township, and not more than three percent (3%) of the area of the municipality is devoted to cemetery purposes with no one cemetery exceeding 250 acres; and

WHEREAS, the Township finds that presently there are only four existing cemeteries in the Township, to wit, the Beaver Brook Cemetery Association consisting of 1 acre; the Hope Cemetery Association comprising 4.4 acres; the Green's Chapel Cemetery Association on .97 acres; and the Union Cemetery located on 2.10 acres; and

WHEREAS, this action may cause the Township Committee of the Township of Hope to make an exception to the number of allowable cemeteries within the municipality;

WHEREAS, the Township also finds that based upon the existing cemeteries and the Church's proposed new cemetery, that no more than three percent (3%) of the area of the municipality shall be devoted to cemetery purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Township believes that it may consent to the Church's establishment of a cemetery on its Property subject to the Church obtaining any and all other outside agency approvals required for the lawful creation of said cemetery.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the Township of Hope, in the County of Warren, New Jersey, that it consents to the establishment of a private cemetery by St. John

the Baptist Serbian Orthodox Church provided it secures any and all other outside agency approvals or permits for its cemetery.

The Church members and Attorney Schepis left the meeting at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the business meeting on July 9, 2014 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 Beatty, who noted those amounts over \$100.00. The total receipts during July, 2014 were \$597,558.46.

BILLS

The bill list was read by Koonz, who also noted those amounts over \$100.00. A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to authorize the payment of the bills totaling \$775,828.66. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

REPORTS

Chief Financial Officer

A report of the available balances in the line item appropriations was submitted 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. The court clerk reported that a warrant has been issued for the responsible party. A reinspection was conducted. It was noted that the garbage was still onsite and the grass was overgrown.

458 Delaware Road – Hole being dug for animal waste. The N.J. Department of Agriculture reported that an inspection had been conducted. The investigator recommended steps to follow at the farm. This will involve the development of an animal waste management plan, which would include proper design and installation practices.

Route 521 (exit 12 from Route 80) – Solid waste trucks going through Hope. No change in status.

Food Establishment – Hope Conference and Renewal Center and Land of Make Believe were inspected and received satisfactory ratings.

Rabies – One bat exposure was reported. The bat was transported to the NJDHSS for rabies testing. The test results were negative.

Kennels – No activity.

Childcare Centers – No activity.

Recreational Bathing – Land of Make Believe Pool and Wade, Land of Make Believe Blackbeard’s River, and Land of Make Believe Pirate’s Peak and Splash Down were inspected and received satisfactory ratings.

Youth Camps – No activity.

Campgrounds – No activity.

Septics/Wells – Two septic repair applications were approved. Two septic repairs were installed.

Township Engineer

Rodman reported that his office prepared the specifications for the Honey Run Road overlayment and guiderail project; the specifications were forwarded to the NJDOT District Office in Mt. Arlington, NJ for review and approval. The Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council contracts will be used; therefore, the formal bidding process is not necessary. The following vendors, tasks and costs were approved by the governing body on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes. Rodman will forward a copy of this action to the NJDOT District Office.

RESOLUTION #14-46

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 Honey Run Road Overlayment and Guiderail Project in the Township of Hope, County of Warren, New Jersey be awarded through the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council (MCCPC), to: Schifano Paving in the amount of \$128,700.00, Denville Line Striping in the amount of \$6,500.00, and Road Safety Systems in the amount of \$56,600.00 (for guiderail) 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.

The Incidental Modification Form for the Far View Road Overlayment Project has been forwarded to the NJDOT District Office for review and approval.

A letter dated August 6, 2014 from Michael Babe, LNHA of Forest Manor Health Care Center was acknowledged and discussed. Mr. Babe asked for permission to replace a Forest Manor directional sign in the area of County Route 519 and Shiloh Road. The governing body determined that Forest Manor would need to apply for a sign permit through the Zoning Officer; however, he would need to obtain the permission of the County of Warren to install the sign on County Route 519. The Mayor and Clerk will prepare a letter with those instructions.

Also discussed was the need for speed limit signs on Shiloh Road now that the ordinance has been adopted. Rodman's office is working on a list of required signage.

Rodman was made aware of a boundary line inconsistency between Hope Township and Liberty Township in the area of the property owned by American Tower on Far View Road. A generator was installed by Diversified Wireless after they obtained electrical and construction permits from the NJDCA, which operates the construction department for Liberty Township. The Hope Construction Official, Ralph Price, has deemed the location of the generator to actually be in Hope Township; therefore, the permitting process (zoning, building and electrical) should have been done through Hope. Rodman was asked to get involved to help clarify the boundary line; however, his review revealed inconsistencies that need to be addressed. He recommended the services of Robert Berry, PLS since Mr. Berry has already done extensive surveying in that area. Rodman also suggested that the governing bodies of Hope and Liberty meet to determine which municipality would take jurisdiction over future permits.

McDonough asked that the Clerk check with the Tax Assessor and Tax Collector regarding the tax impact that this site may or may not have in Hope.

Road Department

The Public Works Foreman submits weekly reports, and they 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, 2014 Collections:

Current Year Taxes	\$557,230.77	\$3,432,759.44 Y-T-D
Delinquent Taxes:		
Taxes – 2013	.00	19,581.57
Prepaid 2015 Taxes	19,119.78	19,119.78
Outside Tax Sale Redemption	.00	30,835.87
Cost of Sale Fees	.00	337.41
NSF Check Fees	.00	50.00
Interest and Costs	592.73	4,412.86
	<u>\$576,943.28</u>	<u>\$3,507,096.93</u>

Remarks:

Current Year Tax Collection Comparison

July 2014 to July 2013	+\$278,870.03
Year to date 2014 to Year to Date 2013	+\$379,900.82
June 2014 to June 2012	+\$288,541.48
Year to Date 2014 to Year to Date 2012	+\$526,820.45

Construction Code Official

The following permits were issued during July 2014: 8-Building, 5-Plumbing, 8-Electrical, 2-Fire, and 1 certificate for a total income of \$5,020.00.

Mayor McDonough

McDonough advised that he will follow up with Joseph Bolles of the Administrative Office of the Courts regarding his inquiry about the status of Blairstown Township signing the revised interlocal agreement for a joint court.

A letter dated July 24, 2014 from the attorney representing Service Electric Cable TV was acknowledged and discussed. There is a discrepancy of Hope Township's understanding about cable coverage to the Hope Municipal Building. McDonough will follow up with the N.J. Board of Public Utilities.

Deputy Mayor Beatty

Nothing to report.

Committeeman Koonz

Nothing to report.

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Koonz advised that Robert and Jason May have concluded their preservation project. He suggested that Robert May be appointed to the Hope Agriculture Advisory Committee on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes. The Clerk was directed to follow up with Mr. May as well as Joshua Miller, who indicated his interest in serving on this Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. N.J. State League of Municipalities. Re: June 2014 Legislative Bulletin.
2. From Stephan Lance, Tax Collector, to Melissa Prichett, Tax Administrator. Re: Certification that the 2014/2015 property tax bills were completely mailed to taxpayers and financial institutions by July 9, 2014; there is no extended grace period.
3. Stephen Lance, Tax Collector. Re: Tax Rates, Percentage Changes, County Equalization Ratios, Collection Rates, and Delinquent Tax and Tax Title Lien Rates from 1987 to 2014.
4. Warren County Board of Taxation. Re: The 2014 Tax Rate is 2.391 per \$100.00 of valuation.
5. N.J. Office of the Attorney General, Dept. of Law and Public Safety, Division of State Police. Re: Notice of availability of \$29,167.00 in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds for use in supporting energy resilience needs. More information and direction is expected from the Warren County Department of Public Safety.
6. Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope. Re: June 2014 Municipal Court Disbursements. A copy was given to the Chief Financial Officer.
7. Applied Earth Solutions, Inc. for Lawrence and Deborah Liguori to NJDEP, Site Remediation Program. Re: Biennial Ground Water Classification Exception Area Certification. A copy was also sent to the Warren County Health Department.
8. Laura J Brill, PLS for Michael and Lacey DiTondo. Re: Notice of an application for a permit or approval to the NJDEP under the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act rules for a Letter of Interpretation, General Permit authorization, Transition Area Waive, clearing vegetation on lawn, placement of pavement or other impervious surface, and placement of one building (garage) at Block 1100, Lot 1700, 136 Swayze Mill Road.

9. White Township Planning Board. Re: Notice of approval of the White Township 2014 Master Plan Reexamination Report. A copy was given to the Hope Planning Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Public Hearing/Adoption of Ordinance #14-07, Municipal Court of No. Warren/White Township

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to open the hearing to the public for the following Ordinance. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

ORDINANCE #14-07

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DELETING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 2-6 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, JOINT MUNICIPAL COURT, IN ORDER TO CREATE A NEW JOINT MUNICIPAL COURT

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 #14-07 was adopted on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

Status of Water Supply at Hope Community Center

No change in status.

Status of Draft Non-Household Animal Ordinance

No change in status.

Discuss Repair/Replacement of DPW Salt Shed

As a result of the collapse of the roof on the rear of the salt shed, the Township submitted a claim to Selective Insurance on February 26, 2014. A rough estimate was prepared by a local contractor in the amount of \$53,375.00 to replace the roof and to repair the structural damage to the side and rear walls of the building as a result of the roof collapse. Selective Insurance issued a check in the amount of \$48,877.69 for the repair.

The governing body discussed whether to go out to bid for a pole building or for bids to rebuild the structure. The matter was tabled to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

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

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to approve RA:212 and RA:213, which were submitted by Haven of Hope for Kids to conduct a Tricky Tray and 50/50 raffle on October 10, 2014 at

the Hope Township School between the hours of 6:00 and 10:30 P.M. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

Discuss Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Energy Allocation Initiative Award

A letter dated July 24, 2014 from the Warren County Department of Public Safety was acknowledged and discussed. Hope Township has been awarded \$29,167.00 from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program-Energy Allocation Initiative for the purchase and installation of a permanent generator. The Township also received an award in the amount of \$12,500.00 from the Local Infrastructure Grant for the purchase and installation of a generator at the Hope Municipal Building. The governing body discussed possible locations for the additional generator, such as the DPW Garage, Community Center, Grange and possibly the Hope Township School.

The Mayor and Clerk will attend a mandatory meeting on September 4 regarding this funding. More information will follow after that meeting.

United Way of Northern New Jersey Bike Tour

A letter dated July 30, 2014 from the United Way of Northern New Jersey regarding their Boom Fall Foliage Bike Tour on September 27, 2014 was acknowledged and discussed. Part of the bike route will proceed through Hope Township. A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to acknowledge the bike tour; the governing body did not have any objections or concerns about the route. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

PUBLIC

Melva Sterlacci, owner of The Nest, was present to discuss her displeasure regarding the notices that she has received from the Hope Township Zoning Officer regarding the signage for her business. She advised that she moved her sandwich board sign from the sidewalk on CR 521. She asked why the Zoning Officer is “going after businesses”.

Koonz advised Sterlacci that the governing body has received complaints from residents and visitors about the many signs in the Township. The Township Committee unanimously authorized the Zoning Officer to enforce the Sign Ordinance. He added that she has two signs on her building; the number of signs and the size of the newer sign violates the Sign Ordinance. Although she removed the sandwich board sign from CR 521, she has placed a larger sandwich board sign in front of her business. This sign does not conform to the Sign Ordinance. Koonz explained that any deviation from the Sign Ordinance would require a variance from the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Sterlacci advised that she and other businesses would like to have another sign similar to the one that they had years ago at the intersection. Koonz stated that the Township Committee worked on an Identification Marker Ordinance that would have addressed her request; however, the Chamber of Commerce recommended that the existing Sign Ordinance should be enforced. No further action was taken on the ID Marker Ordinance.

Sterlacci offered to take down the sign on the face of her building and the large sandwich board sign. She would like to continue using the perpendicular sign and the smaller sandwich board sign in

front of her building. Koonz will discuss the matter with the Zoning Officer to see if this is acceptable to him.

Help Wanted Applications

Four applications were received for a part-time Equipment Operator. The governing body decided to continue with Richard Roncoroni since he is available to continue assisting the DPW Foreman.

The resumes that were received for the positions in the Municipal Court are being reviewed by the governing body and the judge. Interviews will be coordinated and scheduled with the Administrative Office of the Courts personnel.

The Committee recommended that the following individuals represent the local review panel: John Koonz, George Beatty, Judge Craig Dana, and a representative of the White Township Committee. The Municipal Clerk will need to take minutes since there will be a quorum.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M. on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Pat Quinn
Municipal Clerk

