

SEPTEMBER 10, 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: Deputy Mayor George Beatty and Committeeman John Koonz. Mayor Timothy McDonough advised of his absence prior to the meeting. 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 August 13, 2014 were approved as circulated on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-absent.

RECEIPTS

The receipts were read by Koonz, who noted those amounts over \$100.00. The total receipts during August, 2014 were \$1,038,958.06.

BILLS

The bill list was also read by Koonz, who noted those amounts over \$100.00. A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to approve the payment of bills with the exception of a voucher for Engel Towing (Koonz will abstain from voting). The total bills were \$323,885.99. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-absent.

REPORTS

Chief Financial Officer

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

Zoning Officer

The Clerk reported that the Zoning Officer issued two notices of abatement to the owner of 458 Delaware Road for junk and operating a commercial feedlot.

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 is scheduled.

458 Delaware Road – Hole being dug for animal waste. No change in status.

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

Food Establishment – No activity.

Rabies – No activity.

Kennels – No activity.

Childcare Centers – No activity.

Recreational Bathing – Hope Conference Center Pool and Silver Lake Property Association Beach were inspected and received satisfactory ratings.

Youth Camps – Songcatchers at Hope Conference Center was inspected and found to be in compliance.

Campgrounds – No activity.

Septics/Wells – No activity.

Township Engineer

Rodman reported that the Warren County Engineer's Office expects that the bridge repair on CR 521 at Millbrook Road may not be complete until December 12, 2014. There was a discussion about the traffic flow due to the plans by Warren County to have one lane of traffic in that area.

The issue regarding the jurisdiction of the American Tower property was discussed. The portion of the site which is in Liberty Township is recorded as vacant land according to information received from the Hope Township Tax Assessor. All of the improvements are located on the Hope Township parcel. The Clerk was directed to contact the Liberty Township Clerk to request that she ask the Liberty Township Committee to instruct their construction department to refer all permits for that site to Hope Township.

The Incidental Modification for Far View Road was approved. Rodman noted that the approved grant money would cover enough paving for almost the entire length of Far View Road. The governing body asked him to estimate what the cost would be to finish the job.

The Resolution authorizing the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council vendors for the Honey Run Road Overlayment and Guiderail Project has been forwarded to the NJDOT District Office.

Rodman received a Zoning Permit Application from the Zoning Officer for his review of a generator installation at the American Tower property on Far View Road. It appears that there is a revision in the wireless telecommunications statute that allows applicants leeway for certain improvements to cellular towers; generators fall in to that category. Although the project does not require Zoning Board of Adjustment review, it must be reviewed by the Board Attorney and the Board Engineer. There was a discussion about the appropriate inspection fee to cover that review. The Clerk will speak with the Township Attorney about the matter; Rodman will speak with the Board Attorney as well.

Road Department

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

Fire Department

No report submitted.

Blairstown Ambulance Corp

No report submitted.

Tax Assessor

No report submitted.

Tax Collector

August, 2014 Collections:

Current Year Taxes	\$963,115.89	\$4,395,875.33 Y-T-D
Bank Deposit Adjustment	(1,276.68)	(1,276.68)
Delinquent Taxes:		
Taxes-2013	.00	19,581.57
Prepaid 2015 Taxes	643.82	19,763.60
Outside Tax Sale Redemption	.00	30,835.87
Cost of Sale Fees	.00	337.41
NSF Check Fees	.00	50.00
Interest and Costs	<u>758.41</u>	<u>5,171.27</u>
Total Receipts	\$ 963,241.44	\$ 4,470,338.37

Remarks:

Current Year Tax Collection Comparison:

August 2014 to August 2013	- \$124,001.63
Year to Date 2014 to Year to Date 2013	+\$255,899.19
August 2014 to August 2012	- \$135,155.54
Year to Date 2014 to Year to Date 2012	+\$391,664.91

Construction Code Official

The following permits were issued during August, 2014: 2-Building, 1-Plumbing, 4-Electrical, and 1-Certificate for a total income of \$1,314.00.

Deputy Mayor Beatty

Beatty asked the Clerk to have a resolution prepared for the next business meeting to permit Canadian goose hunting at Swayze Mill Park.

Rocco Reale, the Soccer Director, has relocated and will be resigning his position at the end of soccer season. The Clerk was directed to advertise the opening on the Hope Township website.

Committeeman Koonz

Koonz mentioned that there has been no correspondence from Liberty Township to rescind their prior letter of withdrawal from the Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following communications were received during the month:

1. Warren County Engineer's Office. Re: Emergency contact numbers for the resurfacing and rehabilitation of various Warren County roads.
2. Oxford Township. Re: Inquiry about sharing services for Municipal Clerk and Superintendent of Public Works.
3. N.J. Department of Transportation. Re: Notice of application availability for the NJDOT FY 2015 State Aid programs. A copy was given to the Township Engineer and the Public Works Foreman.
4. Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope. Re: Municipal Court Disbursements, July 2014. A copy was given to the Chief Financial Officer.
5. From Michael Meliti, Esq., on behalf of Service Electric Cable T.V. to Michael Lavery, Esq., Courter, Kobert and Cohen. Re: Renewal of Cable Television Franchise for Hope, Hardwick, Knowlton, and Frelinghuysen. The estimated cost to provide cable television to the Hope Municipal Building would be \$6,000 to \$10,000.

6. Jersey Central Power and Light. Re: Provision of Basic Generation Service for the period beginning June 1, 2015.
7. N.J. Transit. Re: Schedule of Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Program hearings.

APPOINTMENTS

Kathryn Eger was appointed Acting Municipal Court Administrator on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-absent.

Joshua Miller, a resident of Hope Township, was appointed as a member of the Hope Township Agriculture Advisory Committee on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-absent.

The following vacancies were noted:

- Planning Board – Class II member, term expires 12/31/14.
- Zoning Board of Adjustment – full member, term expires 12/31/14; Alternate #1, term expires 12/31/15; Alternate #2, term expires 12/31/14.
- Environmental Commission – full member, term expires 12/31/14; Alternate #1, term expires 12/31/14; Alternate #2, term expires 12/31/15.
- Historic Preservation Commission – Alternate #2, term expires 12/31/14.
- Agriculture Advisory Committee – 3 vacancies, terms expire 12/31/14.

OLD BUSINESS

Status of Water Supply at Hope Community Center

No change in status.

Status of Draft Non-Household Animal Ordinance

Koonz advised that the Planning Board did not meet this month, but he is working on a definition for “non-household animal” for their review and discussion.

Discuss repair/replacement of DPW Salt Shed

This matter was tabled until Beatty speaks with the Public Works Foreman after his vacation.

Status of 458 Delaware Road

The Clerk advised that the Animal Control Officer and the Zoning Officer met with a representative of the property owner two weeks ago. They were not allowed admittance in to the barn; however, they were permitted to inspect the property. Several violations were observed by the Zoning Officer, who sent notices of violation to the property owner of record.

Status of cable Television Franchise Renewal

No change in status.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #14-44, Abolish Dedication by Rider for Christmas Market Trust

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

RESOLUTION #14-44

A RESOLUTION OF THE HOPE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE TO ABOLISH THE HOPE TOWNSHIP ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRAFT MARKET DEDICATED TRUST BY RIDER

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren, New Jersey, established via Resolution #2009-25 on April 8, 2009 the "Hope Township Annual Christmas Craft Market" Dedicated Trust by Rider; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Hope no longer receives amounts dedicated for the "Hope Township Annual Christmas Craft Market";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren, New Jersey that the "Hope Township Annual Christmas Craft Market Dedicated Trust by Rider" is hereby abolished and hereby directs the Certified Municipal Finance Officer to transfer any remaining reserve balances to the DEDICATION BY RIDER FOR "DONATIONS TO CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC EVENTS".

Resolution #14-45, Establish Dedication by Rider for Celebration of Public Events

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

RESOLUTION #14-45

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR THE DEDICATION BY RIDER FOR "DONATIONS TO CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC EVENTS" REQUIRED BY N.J.S.A. 40A:5-29 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, permission is required of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for approval as a dedication by rider of revenues received by a municipality when the revenue is not subject to reasonably accurate estimates in advance; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-29 provides for receipt of "Donations from private persons and businesses within the Township" by the municipality to provide for the operating costs to administer this act; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39 provides the dedicated revenues anticipated from the “Celebration of Public Events” are hereby anticipated as revenue and are hereby appropriated for the purpose to which said revenue is dedicated by statute or other legal requirement;

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

1. The Township Committee of the Township of Hope does hereby request permission of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to pay expenditures of the “Celebration of Public Events” which is authorized by N.J.S.A. 40A:5-29.
2. The Municipal Clerk of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren, New Jersey is hereby directed to forward two certified copies of this Resolution to Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Hope Parent and Teacher Association – 50/50 Application #RA: 214

An application to conduct a 50/50 raffle was received from the Hope Parent Teacher Association. The raffle is scheduled for October 19, 2014 from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at Swayze Mill Park. A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to approve the application. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-absent.

Rodman left the meeting at this time.

Establish Salary and Benefits for Acting Municipal Court Administrator

Craig Dana, Judge of the Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope, arrived at 8:00 P.M. to discuss the appointment of Kathryn Eger as Acting Municipal Court Administrator as well as her salary and benefits. He advised the governing body that due to a reduction in tickets being written, he and Eger feel that the office can be handled with Eger working 40 hours per week with the part-time assistance of Mary Pat Pfiel. They felt that there is no need to hire an additional part-time person at this time.

Dana also recommended that Eger be given an adjustment to her compensation to \$37,000.00 per year with benefits. When she completes her certification, he asked that she be given an additional \$3,000.00 per year. Beatty and Koonz indicated that the request was reasonable but tabled a vote on the matter until the next meeting (September 24, 2014) at which time Mayor McDonough would be present. It was noted that Eger assumed the administrative duties on August 1, 2014; therefore, her benefits and pay increase would be retroactive. Dana will advise the Administrative Office of the Courts about the appointment. He left the meeting at this time.

PUBLIC

There were no questions or comments from the public.

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

Respectfully submitted:

