

OCTOBER 8, 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 Township Engineer Ted Rodman and 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 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 September 10, 2014, the work meeting on September 24, 2014 and the executive session on September 24, 2014 were approved as circulated on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-abstain.

#### RECEIPTS

The receipts were read by Koonz, who noted those amounts over \$100.00. The total receipts during September, 2014 were \$51,095.37.

#### 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, totaling \$832,104.39. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

A voucher payable to Engel Towing, Inc. in the amount of \$1,622.50 to refund an escrow from the Zoning Board of Adjustment was authorized for payment on a motion made by Beatty, seconded by McDonough. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-abstain; McDonough-yes.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION, RE: PERSONNEL

Craig Dana, Judge of the Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope, and the Acting Municipal Court Administrator, Kathryn Eger, were present.

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: **Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, disciplinary action unless individual in right requests a public meeting and contract negotiation.**

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

#### STATUS OF MUNICIPAL COURT OF NORTH WARREN AT HOPE

Judge Craig Dana submitted his letter of intended retirement effective January 1, 2015. The Judge submitted a draft 2015 budget for the municipal court. He noted that the State Police are not writing as many tickets, and the ticket count is very low in Blirstown. The Clerk was directed to obtain the court statistics from White Township, who will be the new member of the court.

Dana and Eger left the meeting at this time.

#### 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 is scheduled.”

458 Delaware Road – A complaint was received concerning bread used for feed, attracting rats and birds. An inspection was attempted but no one was home.

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

Inn at Millrace Pond – A complaint was received concerning noise from music during events at the Inn. This complaint is currently under investigation.

Route 80E, MM 12.4 – Warren County Communications requested a response to an accident involving a tractor trailer with a refrigerated unit containing food. The unit was locked and the food embargoed for transport back to Kirkwood, New York. The NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets evaluated the load. It was reported that some was safe for use and the rest was destroyed. File closed.

Food Pantry at St. John's United Methodist Church – A complaint was received concerning expired products such as yogurt being distributed. This complaint is currently under investigation.

Food Establishment – No activity.

Rabies – One bat exposure was reported. The bat was transported to the NJDHSS lab for rabies testing. The test was positive. The exposed party is receiving rabies post-exposure shots.

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

#### Township Engineer

Rodman reported that the guiderails have been installed on Honey Run Road. After consultation with the Public Works Foreman, it was determined that the 2015 NJDOT grant application should be submitted for Smith Street and Green Street.

Beatty advised that a Hope resident was concerned about the dip on Green Street and the sinking catch basin. He asked the DPW foreman to put cold patch in the dip, and the catch basin is scheduled to be replaced with the recent receipt of FEMA funds.

Rodman is working on the specifications for the salt shed. There was a discussion about the threshold for prevailing wage rates.

The Honey Run Road and Far View Road paving projects are scheduled for the beginning of November. The Hope DPW needs to roll back the shoulders of the roads prior to the paving. With regard to the grant for Far View Road, 830 feet of the road will not be covered by the grant allocation. The cost would be between \$18,000.00 to \$20,000.00. McDonough suggested that the Township request an additional 10% from the NJDOT for this project. Rodman thought that the Honey Run Road paving might come in under budget.

## Eznergy NJ LLC

Walter Matuch, a sales representative of Eznergy NJ, LLC. with offices in Toms River, New Jersey, was present to discuss solar energy projects being attempted in Hope for Michael Borochofski and Michael and Jennifer Planer. He expressed his displeasure with the Zoning Officer and his interpretation of the regulations/ordinance. Specifically, Matuch had concerns about which signatures are appropriate on the Zoning Permit application.

A letter dated October 1, 2014 was sent to Eznergy NJ, LLC. by the Zoning Officer for each of the subject applications. The letter outlined the errors, omissions and defects in the Zoning Permit applications. Matuch reviewed each item with the governing body in conjunction with the Solar Collection System Ordinance. He advised that since the Zoning Officer denied the permits, he asked for the originals of the zoning permits and construction permits. The Zoning Officer denied the request, gave him photocopies of the Zoning Permit application and the two checks for the permit fees. Matuch discussed the reasons why landscaping would not be required on the subject properties.

Koonz, also referring to the October 1, 2014 letter from the Zoning Officer, noted that the letter did not deny the permits, rather gave a checklist of items that are needed to process the permit applications. With regard to the landscaping, if the applicants will use natural screening, it should state that on the permit application. Koonz also referred to the ordinance, specifically 20-4.15c(1) which requires compliance with the design standards in the ordinance.

A drawing that was submitted by Matuch to the Zoning Officer for the Planer application was discussed. The Zoning Officer noted in his comments that the drawing for this application was a photocopied map with the licensed surveyors signature and title block taped to it. A letter dated October 7, 2014 from Pequest Engineering to Eznergy NJ was received by the Zoning Officer earlier in the day. The letter demanded that they "cease and desist from further use of our product in an altered form". The president of Pequest Engineering, Thomas Bodolsky, was present at this meeting.

Matuch asked how an owner may use a survey that he/she pays for. Bodolsky replied that there is to be no additional line work, nor clipping of the original survey. Any alterations are to be done by the surveyor.

Bodolsky advised that his property is adjacent to the Planer property, and that a landscape plan is definitely needed. He appreciated the Zoning Officer's insistence on this condition.

With regard to the Borochofski application, there was no site map submitted other than an excerpt from the tax map. Matuch advised that this applicant does not have a survey only a metes and bounds description. The governing body suggested that Borochofski could supply the metes and bounds to a surveyor in order to obtain a survey. Borochofski stated that he would not pay for that since the company that is making the money on this project would need to get it as part of their contract.

In short, Koonz suggested that if Eznergy supplies the deficient items, the Zoning Officer should be able to process the permits. Matuch and Bodolsky left the meeting at this time.

Road Department

Weekly reports are submitted by the Public Works Foreman, 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

September, 2014 Tax Collection:

Current Year Taxes	\$30,611.72	\$4,426,487.05 Y-T-D
Delinquent Taxes:		
Taxes-2013	63.28	19,644.85
Prepaid 2015 Taxes	430.38	20,193.98
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>1,001.04</u>	<u>6,172.31</u>
Total Receipts	\$ 32,106.42	\$ 4,503,721.47

Remarks:

Current Year Tax Collection Comparison:

September 2014 to September 2013	- \$ 25,204.17
Year to Date 2014 to Year to Date 2013	+\$231,971.70
September 2014 to September 2012	- \$ 3,615.54
Year to Date 2014 to Year to Date 2012	+\$389,326.05

Construction Code Official

The following permits were issued during September, 2014: 6-Building, 4-Plumbing, 4-Electrical, 3-Fire for a total income of \$2,799.00.

### Mayor McDonough

McDonough reported that some residents on Hissim Road and Lake Just-It Road want to use Comcast as their cable television provider since Service Electric will not cable those roads. The residents have contacted Comcast, and it appears that Comcast is willing to provide their services on those roads. Comcast is in contact with the N.J. Board of Public Utilities to see what the procedure is for moving forward.

### Deputy Mayor Beatty

Beatty suggested that the Chief Financial Officer provide an estimate of what might be the road department salaries and other expenses for the rest of the year. This way the governing body can determine if the Township is in a position to fund the cost of paving the remainder of Far View Road.

### Committeeman Koonz

The Agriculture Advisory Board has reorganized with members Robert May, Richard Goodbody and Joshua Miller.

### CORRESPONDENCE

The following communications were received during the month:

1. N.J. Dept. of Environmental Protection, Division of Water Quality, Municipal Finance and Construction Element. Re: Public notice for the Proposed FFY2015 Priority System, Intended Use Plan and Project Priority List Document (Clean Water Financing).
2. Warren County Department of Land Preservation. Re: County Annual PIG submission. A copy was given to the Hope Agriculture Advisory Board.
3. 24<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Offices. Re: Notice that Assemblywoman McHose, Assemblyman Space, and Senator Oroho will hold a meeting at the Hope Township Municipal Building on Friday, October 17, 2014 at 10:30 A.M.
4. N.J. Transit. Re: Public hearing notice and FY 2014 Request for Federal Financial Assistance.
5. Darren Koeppen. Re: Letter of resignation from the Hope Historic Preservation Commission. A copy was given to the Secretary of the Historic Preservation Commission.
6. Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope. Re: August 2014 Municipal Court Disbursements. A copy was given to the Chief Financial Officer.

7. N.J. Dept. of Environmental Protection, Div. of Solid and Hazardous Waste. Re: Request for groundwater reports for the Hope Township Sanitary Landfill.
  
8. N.J. State League of Municipalities. Re: Notice of Proposed Membership dues.

#### APPOINTMENTS

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 – 2 vacancies, terms expire 12/31/14.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### Status of Draft Non-Household Animal Ordinance

A definition of a “non-household animal” will be developed by the Planning Board when it meets again.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### Public Hearing/Adoption, Ordinance #14-08, Amend Salary Ordinance

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

#### ORDINANCE #14-08

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED  
AN ORDINANCE FIXING AND DETERMINING THE SALARIES, WAGES OR COMPENSATION TO BE PAID AND  
BENEFITS TO BE PROVIDED TO THE  
OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF  
WARREN, NEW JERSEY FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2014

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 #14-08 was adopted on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

Introduce Ordinance #14-09, Amend Salary Ordinance (Soccer Director)

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 #14-09

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED  
AN ORDINANCE FIXING AND DETERMINING THE SALARIES, WAGES OR COMPENSATION TO BE PAID AND  
BENEFITS TO BE PROVIDED TO THE  
OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF  
WARREN, NEW JERSEY FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2014

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren, New Jersey that the following salary line items shall be amended as follows:

T. Sports Director  
(a) (1) Soccer Director – new \$235.25/ month

Resolution #14-48, Cancel Stale Dated Checks

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

RESOLUTION #14-48

A RESOLUTION TO CANCEL STALE DATED CHECKS

WHEREAS, checks are considered stale dated after a period of six months; and

WHEREAS, the following checks have remained outstanding according to the Chief Financial Officer's Account Reconciliation of the Township of Hope.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Hope that the following checks be considered void and the cumulative total in the amount of \$2,189.44 be added back to the appropriate balances of the General Account of the Township of Hope.

<u>Check#</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3192	30.00
3533	89.19
3576	236.82
4882	523.70



5450	25.00
3577	1015.73
7360	60.00
7614	84.00
7866	125.00

Resolution #14-49, Cancel Unexpended/Dedicated Grant Balances to Operations

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

CANCELLATION RESOLUTION #14-49

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has reviewed the Grant Receivables and Appropriation Reserves and finds that there are balances which are no longer valid and may be cancelled to Operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope that the following unexpended and dedicated balances be cancelled to OPERATIONS:

<u>Grant Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Swayze Mill Park Improvements Grant Receivable	\$3,816.25
Swayze Mill Park Improvements Appropriated Reserve	\$7,341.00
USDA Grant Appropriated Reserve	\$1,534.52

Resolution #14-50, Authorize Goose Hunting at Swayze Mill Park

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

RESOLUTION #14-50

A RESOLUTION TO OPEN SWAYZE MILL PARK  
TO CANADA GOOSE HUNTING

WHEREAS, the Township has devoted substantial time, energy and resources in developing Swayze Mill Lake and the surrounding property into a recreational facility for use by Township residents; and

WHEREAS, there has developed a large resident Canada Goose population that is severely impacting upon the use and enjoyment of the recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has determined it to be in the best interests of the Township of Hope to institute measures to control the resident goose population of Swayze Mill Lake.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey that Swayze Mill Park be and hereby is opened for the 2014/15 Canada Goose hunting season pursuant to the following terms and conditions:

GUIDELINES FOR HUNTING AT SWAYZE MILL PARK

1. Hunting will be limited to one (1) hunting party of no more than eight (8) people or troopers assigned to Hope Township State Police Barracks only by a permit that can be obtained at the Township Clerk's Office.
2. There will be a limit of one (1) hunting party permit issued per day. Permits will be issued on a first-come, first-serve basis. The permit holder shall be a Hope Township resident and shall present his/her New Jersey hunting permit to the Township Clerk. All persons within the hunting party shall hold a New Jersey hunting permit. It shall be the permit holder's responsibility to ascertain the validity of said hunting permits.
3. A winter season has been authorized by the N.J. Department of Fish, Game and Wildlife – from November 15, 2014 to November 29, 2014 and December 13, 2014 to January 24, 2015. A bag limit of (3) three Canadian Geese per day is permitted pursuant to Div. of Fish and Wildlife.
4. The hunting area shall be limited generally to the lake area east of the gate. Hunting from boats shall be prohibited and there shall be no shooting in the direction of Swayze Mill Road.
5. All items carried in to the park by a hunter must be removed from the park by the hunter including, but not limited to: shell casings, left over food and garbage.
6. Construction of permanent blinds shall be prohibited. Any temporary blinds must be removed at the conclusion of each day of hunting.
7. Each holder of a permit shall be required to have a valid New Jersey hunting license, all applicable federal and state water fowl stamps and to comply with all federal and state game laws and regulations.

Resolution #14-51, Ch. 159 Picnic Donations

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

RESOLUTION #14-51

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope received the following donations toward the 2014 Annual Family Picnic: Courter, Kobert and Cohen, P.C. in the amount of \$500.00; Help Our Preservation Effort in the amount of \$50.00; and Mansion Caterers, Inc. (Frungillo Caterers) in the amount of \$2,000.00; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any County or

Municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation for equal amount;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Hope hereby requests the Director of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2014 in the amount of \$2,550.00 under the caption of "Celebration of Public Events"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$2,550.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption of "Celebration of Public Events".

Discuss Storage Options for Sports Equipment and Supplies

Beatty advised that there is a need for more space to store soccer equipment. Koonz suggested the Grange since there is a storage closet on the second floor as well as an attic. Beatty will pass that on to the new Soccer Director, Bradley Bartow.

Discuss the need for tree removal at the Hope Community Center

A dead pine tree needs to be removed from the front lawn of the Community Center. McDonough asked the DPW Foreman to get a quote for the removal of the tree and stump. The tree on the opposite side of the building also needs trimming.

Raffle Application #RA: 215 from Hope Parent Teacher Association

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to approve a 50/50 raffle for the Hope Parent Teacher Association to be held on November 15, 2014 from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

PUBLIC

There were no other questions or comments from the public.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Pat Quinn  
Municipal Clerk

