

OCTOBER 9, 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 was the Municipal Clerk, Mary Pat Quinn, and the Township Engineer, Ted Rodman.

Under the provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act", adequate notice of the meeting was 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 following minutes were approved as circulated on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty: Special meeting, September 11, 2013; Executive session, September 11, 2013; Business meeting, September 11, 2013. 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 September, 2013 were \$78,340.24.

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 \$455,582.34. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Chief Financial Officer

A report of the available balances in the line item appropriations was submitted by the Chief Financial Officer. The Clerk was directed to ask the Chief Financial Officer if the Christmas Market Trust Fund money can be used toward Celebration of Public Events.

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. (It was reported that a bench warrant has been issued for the responsible party). Court is to be rescheduled. It was reported that the owner on record was foreclosed upon two years ago. This is being investigated.

15 Silver Hill Avenue – Septic overflowing in the rear of the property. A reinspection was conducted. No overflow was detected at that time. The complainant reported that there had been no problems in quite a while. The responsible party said that he had a plumber fix the leaks in the house and remove the water softener backwash from the septic system and had had no problems since then. A reinspection is scheduled.

403 Mt. Hermon Road – A complaint was received concerning the use of road millings (which could possibly contaminate a well). An inspection was conducted. A pile of millings was observed on the driveway. The responsible party was contacted and agreed to remove the millings. A reinspection is scheduled.

327 Great Meadows Road – A complaint was received concerning an oil substance that had leaked onto the roadway, into a storm drain and grassy area at this location. Upon arrival at the site, a boom was placed in the outfall to collect the fluid. No responsible party was found. The NJDEP was notified and responded to the scene. They hired an environmental firm to conduct the cleanup. A reinspection was conducted. The cleanup had been completed. File closed.

Food Establishment – Long Meadow Farm was inspected and received a satisfactory rating.

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.

Township Engineer

Robert Belstra, a resident of Hope, was present to express his concern about the recent installation of guiderail on Lake Just-It Road. He indicated that it would block his access to his property if he decided to put a road in at some point in the future. The Township Committee advised that the guiderail was placed there for the safety of the public. If he decides to put a road in and meets all of the requirements, then the guiderail would be removed by the Township; it does not legally keep him from using his property.

Rodman reported that the paving is complete on Shiloh Road; the line striping is ordered. The guiderail, of course, is installed on Lake Just-It Road. A bill has not come in yet from the traffic control company.

With regard to the drainage in front of the Berstler property, the DPW Foreman will cover the drain of the old pipe that was left along the road.

There was a discussion about whether to schedule the overlayment of Honey Run Road and the installation of guiderail on the road now that the Township received notification of the grant award. Rodman thought that it is probably too late in the season to pave the road, but he will check with Tilcon to see if they would be able to hold their pricing to next spring.

Century Link has contacted Rodman about the possibility of getting a waiver for a generator that they want to install at their building on Walnut Street. The Township Committee asked him to discuss noise concerns first.

Rodman is preparing the last change order (#8) for the Moravian Distillery Project. The following items will be included: 90-day extension to complete the project and to close out paperwork, hand rail at the front door, retaining wall by the portable facility location, bronze plaque, blue stone walkway, bank stabilization, landscaping, and property identification sign (to be crafted by Hoyt Signs). Quotes for the blue stone walkway and the "Hoyt" sign should be coming in shortly.

Road Department

Weekly reports are submitted by the DPW Foreman, and they 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

Current Year Taxes	\$55,815.89	\$4,194,515.35 Y-T-D
Delinquent Taxes:		
Taxes-2012	250.00	53,090.99
Taxes-2011	.00	250.00
Prepaid 2014 Taxes	6,550.38	15,544.89
Outside Tax Sale Cert Redemption	.00	6,392.28
Tax Sale Premiums	.00	9,500.00
Interest and Costs	762.41	8,650.07
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 63,378.68</u>	<u>\$ 4,287,943.58</u>

Remarks:

Current Year Tax Collection Comparison:

September 2013 to September 2012	+\$ 21,588.63
Year to Date 2013 to Year to Date 2012	+\$157,354.35
September 2013 to September 2011	+\$ 2,116.57
Year to Date 2013 to Year to Date 2011	+\$ 54,635.42

Construction Code Official

The following permits were issued in September, 2013: 3-Building, 3-Plumbing, 3-Electrical, 2-Fire for a total income of \$518.00.

Mayor McDonough

McDonough received a courtesy call from the attorney representing David and Karen Stroud regarding their property on Hope-Delaware Road, which was the subject of a Planning Board application a few years ago. They intend to pursue the sale of their development rights.

With regard to the franchise renewal of Service Electric Cable T.V.'s contract, Hardwick's matters have been resolved. A new contract is forthcoming from SECATV.

The Administrative Office of the Courts will not approve any additional member municipalities to the Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope until the violations window is brought up to the required security specification. McDonough will reach out to Blairstown Township to see if they are using their ballistic-proof window. In the meantime, the Clerk was directed to get quotations.

White Township has expressed an interest in joining the Court and will pay for the Municipal Auditor to prepare an analysis to include Hope, Hardwick, Liberty, Blairstown and White. The Clerk was directed to respond favorably to White Township's inquiry.

Deputy Mayor Beatty

Nothing to report.

Committeeman Koonz

Nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following communications were received during the month:

1. N.J. Legislative Offices, 24th District. Re: Invitation to attend an informational meeting on October 4, 2013 at 10:00 A.M. at the Blairstown Municipal Building to discuss issues that concern local government officials within the district.
2. Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope. Re: August, 2013 Municipal Court Disbursements. A copy was given to the Chief Financial Officer.
3. N.J. Dept. of Transportation. Re: Notice that Hope Township will receive a Discretionary Aid Grant in the amount of \$261,500.00 for Honey Run Road (overlayment and guiderails). A copy was given to the Township Engineer and the Public Works Foreman.
4. Warren County Board of Taxation. Re: 2013 Warren County Abstract of Ratables.
5. White Township. Re: Inquiry about Hope Township's interest in exploring the feasibility of adding White Township as a member municipality of the Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope.
6. Frelinghuysen Township. Re: Notice of a public hearing on October 23, 2013 regarding an amendment to the Frelinghuysen Township Land Use Ordinance (#2013-12). A copy was given to the Hope Planning Board.
7. N.J. State League of Municipalities. Re: Notice of proposed membership dues.

APPOINTMENTS

The following vacancies were noted:

Environmental Commission - Vacancy: Alternate #2, term expires 12/31/13.

Zoning Board of Adjustment – Vacancies: Full member, term expires 12/31/14 and Alternate #2, term expires 12/31/14.

Planning Board – Vacancies: Class II, term expires 12/31/13; Alternate #2, term expires 12/31/13.

Historic Preservation Commission: Vacancy: Alternate #2, term expires 12/31/14.

Agriculture Advisory Board – Three vacancies, terms expire 12/31/13.

OLD BUSINESS

Speed Limits on Township Roads-Request for Speed Limit on Shiloh Road

The Township Engineer will be asking the Warren County Engineer's Office for assistance with determining appropriate speed limits on Township roads.

Status of Water Supply at Hope Community Center

No change in status.

Discuss T-Mobile Lease Agreement

A memo from the Michael Selvaggi, the Township Attorney, was reviewed and discussed. He was contacted by an attorney for TK Design Associates, which is a company used by T-Mobile to construct and maintain cell towers.

The Committee is fine with the terms in paragraphs 1, 3, 4 & 5; however, they do not agree at all with the terms in paragraph 2. A determination must also be reached on the status of the site plan application that T-Mobile had before the board. The Township Engineer and Planning Board Secretary will look in to that.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #13-43, 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 #13-43

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope received the following donations toward the 2013 Annual Family Picnic: \$1,000.00 from Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.; \$500.00 from First Energy; \$100.00 from Fulton Bank of Hope; \$500.00 from Courter, Kobert and Cohen, P.C.; \$100.00 from Roger W. Thomas, Esq.; 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 2013 in the amount of \$2,200.00 under the caption of "Celebration of Public Events - Picnic"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$2,200.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption of "Celebration of Public Events - Picnic".

Review Proposed Right-of-Way Use Agreement from PEG Bandwidth

The Township Committee reviewed a letter dated August 15, 2013 (received September 27, 2013) from PEG Bandwidth. No decision was reached. The Clerk was directed to follow up with the Township Attorney on his review and recommendations. It was unclear what service this company would be providing.

Discuss Open FEMA Projects

The Clerk was directed to review the open FEMA projects and the reserve to fund those projects with the Chief Financial Officer and report back to the Committee.

Discuss Proposed Business Directory Sign

The Township Committee reviewed a Blirstown Township Ordinance, "Business Directional Signs Municipally Constructed" and determined that this type of Ordinance would be advantageous for Hope Township. The Clerk was directed to forward it to the Township Attorney so that he can prepare an Ordinance for Hope Township.

Discuss Proposed Ordinance, re: Non-domesticated pets on small acreage

The Township Committee has received complaints about the nuisances resulting from non-domesticated pets on small properties. A sampling of Ordinances from neighboring municipalities was reviewed and discussed. The Clerk was directed to obtain input from the Animal Control Officer, Alan DeCarolis.

Review Communication from W.C. Land Preservation, re: County PIG Application

The Township Committee acknowledged the receipt of a letter dated September 11, 2013 from the Warren County Department of Land Preservation regarding the submission of the County Annual Planning Incentive Grant as it relates to certain Hope Township farms. There were no objections to the proposed changes in Hope Township.

Haven of Hope, RA-207 & RA-208 (Tricky Tray & 50/50)

The Clerk reported that Haven of Hope withdrew their applications.

Hope Parent Teacher Association, RA-209 (On Premises)

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to approve the application of the Hope Parent Teacher Association, RA-209, for an on premises raffle. It will be held on April 18, 2014 at 12:00 P.M. at the Hope Township School. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

PUBLIC

There were no questions or comments from the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION, RE: PERSONNEL

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.

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

Resolution #13-44, Authorize Canada 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 #13-44

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 2013/14 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 16, 2013 to November 30, 2013 and December 14, 2013 to January 25, 2014. 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, leftover 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.

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

