

NOVEMBER 24, 2014

The monthly business meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 4:00 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 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 had been provided by publishing notice in The Express Times and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township bulletin boards all on November 20, 2014.

Vacancies on Environmental Commission

The Township Committee met with three Hope residents regarding their interest in serving as members of the Environmental Commission. Evan Rupff advised that he is a fan of open space and has an environmental background. He is available on evenings and weekends. Patricia Maertens is a third generation family member of Hope Township. She is interested in recycling and open space. She is available any time. Virginia Caballero is also interested in recycling and the environment. She is also available any time.

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to appoint Patricia Maertens as a full member (term expires 12/31/14), Virginia Caballero as Alternate #1 (term expires 12/31/14), and Evan Rupff as Alternate #2 (term expires 12/31/15). Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

Public

Robert Belstra, a resident of Hope, was present and expressed concern about the guiderail on Lake Just-It Road that runs along a portion of his property. He indicated that it is blocking future access to his property. Koonz reminded Belstra that the guiderail is there for the safety of the public; however, if in the future he wants to open a driveway according to the requirements in the driveway regulations, he would be free to do so.

He also asked about the old road that runs through his property. Koonz reminded him that the road was abandoned many years ago, and a portion of it now runs through someone else's property.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the business meeting on October 8, 2014 and the work meeting on October 22, 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 were read by Koonz, who noted the total amount of receipts during October, 2014. The amount was \$311,330.49.

BILLS

The bills were read by Beatty, who also noted the total amount of the bills as of November 24, 2014. The total amount was \$354,258.83. A motion was made by Beatty, seconded by McDonough to approve a voucher payable to the Hope Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$12,950.00. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-abstain; McDonough-yes. The remaining bills were ordered paid on a motion made by Beatty, seconded by Koonz. 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:

The following complaints were investigated:

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. The inspector noted that the garbage had been removed. Wood and metal items were observed in the tree line. A reinspection is scheduled.

458 Delaware Road – Bread used for feed attracting rats and birds. Complainant affected is to call when the nuisance is occurring.

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

Inn at Millrace Pond – Noise from music during events at the Inn. The complainant reported that the fall events were almost over, but anticipates noise issues next spring and summer when the inn has many events. A letter was sent to the responsible party.

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

Food Establishment – St. John the Baptist Facility 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 – Two septic repairs were installed. One septic/well for new construction was installed.

Township Engineer

Rodman prepared an estimate of what the Far View Road and Honey Run Road overlayment projects will cost next year with the proposed new rates under the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council. The Honey Run Road project will come in under budget by approximately \$40,500.00, and the Far View Road project would require an additional \$35,000.00 to complete the full section of the road. Hope Township originally applied for \$125,000.00 through the Municipal Aid program; however, only \$90,000.00 was awarded. Honey Run Road was awarded the full request of \$261,500.00 through the Discretionary Aid program. McDonough will follow up with the NJDOT to ascertain whether the remaining funds from the Honey Run Road project can be transferred to the Far View Road project.

Rodman has been trying to speak with a representative JWL Contracting, who is assisting the Township with preparing specifications for a salt shed. McDonough advised that he has another company, whose representative he spoke with at the N.J. League of Municipalities Convention. He will get that contact information to Rodman.

Resolution #14-54, Authorize a “Statement of Consent” for Block 4000, Lot 4000

Rodman reviewed a request from Careaga Engineering, Inc. regarding a Treatment Works Approval application that the firm is working on for Block 4000, Lot 4000, which is owned by Bernard Goodman and is the location for #'s 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 Smith Street. Careaga provided a drawing to Rodman, which he reviewed with the governing body. One of the requirements of the TWA is an acknowledgement by Hope Township of the application.

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

RESOLUTION #14-54
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE
IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO
EXECUTE A “STATEMENT OF CONSENT”
FOR BLOCK 4000, LOT 4000

WHEREAS, Careaga Engineering, Inc., on behalf of Bernard Goodman, NJPDES Permit #NJG0155985, is in the process of submitting a Treatment Works Approval application to the Department of Environmental Protection, State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the subject property is known as Block 4000, Lot 4000, which encompasses #1, #3, #5, #7, #9, and #11 Smith Street in the Township of Hope; and

WHEREAS, said application requires the consent of the Hope Township Committee by Resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren, New Jersey that the Committee consents to the submission of the Treatment Works Approval application by Bernard Goodman, the applicant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hope Township Committee accepts no responsibility or liability for the installation or operation of the proposed system and that this resolution is to acknowledge the submission of said application only.

Road Department

The Public Works Foreman submits 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

October, 2014 Tax Collection:

Current year taxes	\$292,373.42	\$4,718,860.47 Y-T-D
Delinquent taxes:		
Taxes-2013	.00	19,644.85
Prepaid 2015 taxes	730.93	20,924.91
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>678.97</u>	<u>6,851.28</u>
Total Receipts	\$293,783.32	\$ 4,797,504.79

Remarks:

Current Year Tax Collection Comparison:

October 2014 to October 2013	-\$ 78,474.00
Year to Date 2014 to Year to Date 2013	+\$153,497.70
October 2014 to October 2012	+\$ 82,454.79
Year to Date 2014 to Year to Date 2012	+\$471,780.84

Construction Code Official

The following permits were issued during October, 2014: 9-Building, 5-Plumbing, 7-Electrical, 7-Fire for a total income of \$1,952.00.

Mayor McDonough

Nothing to report.

Deputy Mayor Beatty

Beatty advised that the Department of Public Works is ready for the impending snow storm.

He asked if there was an update on the start of the bridge work on CR521. Rodman will follow up on that.

Committeeman Koonz

Nothing to report.

Use of Facility Request from Hope Chess and Technology Club

A request was received from Stephen Flynn on behalf of the Hope Chess and Technology Club for the use of the Moravian Grange Hall on Saturday evenings between 7:00 and 10:00 P.M. beginning January 10, 2015 through March 21, 2015. A motion to approve the request was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following communications were received during the month:

1. N.J. Department of the Treasury, Division of Taxation. Re: 2014 Certification of the Table of Equalized Valuations.
2. Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Re: Notice of public hearings concerning the proposed auction of the property known as Warren Haven Nursing Home. The first hearing will be held at 7:00 P.M. on November 13, 2014 at the Warren County Court House, and the second hearing will be held at 1:00 P.M. on December 11, 2014 at the Mansfield Township Municipal Building.

3. N.J. State League of Municipalities. Re: September, 2014 and October, 2014 Legislative Bulletins.
4. Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Re: Request that Hope Township establishes an Economic Development Advisory Committee.
5. Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope. Re: September & October, 2014 Municipal Court Disbursements. A copy was given to the Chief Financial Officer.
6. N.J. Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Land Use Regulation to Mr. and Mrs. Michael DiTondo. Re: Letter of Interpretation, Footprint of Disturbance Determination. A copy was given to the Zoning Officer.
7. Warren County Solid Waste Advisory Council to Nature's Choice Corporation and S. Rotondi and Sons. Re: Reminder concerning truck routes as established in the Warren County Solid Waste Management Plan. A copy was given to the Hope Historic Preservation Commission and the Hope Environmental Commission.
8. Thomas D. Norkevich, Environmental Consultant. Re: Notice that the owner of Block 100, Lot 1700 is applying to the NJDEP, Land Use Regulation Program for a Letter of Interpretation. A copy was given to the Hope Zoning Board of Adjustment.
9. Tax Collectors and Tax Assessors Association of N.J. Re: Resolution of East Brunswick Township expressing the importance to recognize the strength of local pension funding in regards to recommendations from Governor Christie's Pension and Health Benefit Study Commission.
10. Stephen Flynn, a resident of Hope. Re: Hope Chess and Technology Club; use of Moravian Grange for meetings.
11. Jersey Central Power and Light. Re: Notice of Proposed Increase in Non-Utility Generation Charge and Notice of Public Hearings.

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.

- 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

Koonz reported that Planning Board member Betsy Peterson will forward a proposed definition for “non-household” animals within the next week. The Township Committee tabled the matter until after the first of the year.

Status of Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope

The governing body will hold interviews for the position of Municipal Court Judge. The Clerk will coordinate a date after getting input from the governing body members. The Township Committee of Hardwick, Liberty and White will be invited to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduce Ordinance #14-10, Amend CATV Franchise Renewal

No action was taken on this Ordinance and the matter was tabled.

Resolution #14-53, Refund Taxes to Nicholas & Carolyn Pugliesi

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

RESOLUTION #14-53

RESOLUTION TO REFUND 2014 REAL ESTATE TAXES BLOCK 2700, LOT 4002

WHEREAS, third quarter 2014 property taxes on property owned by Nicholas and Carolyn Puglisi located at 91 Far View Road were paid by both their closing attorney, John B. D’Alessandro, Esquire and their mortgage company, US Bancorp each in the amount of \$2,215.12; and

WHEREAS, John B. D’Alessandro, Esquire has requested that the duplicate payment be refunded to Mr. and Mrs. Puglisi and has provided the Tax Collector with proof of the payment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope on this 24th day of November 2014 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a check in the amount of \$2,215.12 payable to Nicholas and Carolyn Puglisi and sent in care of their attorney John B. D’Alessandro, Esquire of 2424 Morris Avenue, Suite 202 located in Union, NJ 07083 to refund the duplicate tax payment.

Resolution #14-55, Authorize Interlocal Agreement for Municipal Court

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

RESOLUTION #14-55

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INTERLOCAL SERVICE AGREEMENT
FOR A JOINT MUNICIPAL COURT

WHEREAS, a joint municipal court is permitted to be established by Ordinance pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2B: 12-1, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Interlocal Service act, N.J.S.A. 40:8A-1, et seq. permits municipalities to enter into contracts for shared services pursuant to a resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope desires to contract with the Townships of Hardwick, Liberty and White for the establishment of a joint municipal court;

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 Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a document entitled "Agreement for Inter-Municipal Court for the Municipalities of Township of Hope, Township of Liberty, Township of White and Township of Hardwick, a true copy of which is appended hereto and incorporated herein by reference.
2. A copy of the Agreement shall be filed and open to public inspection at the Township offices.

Discuss request from W.C. Freeholders, re: Economic Development Advisory Board

The governing body acknowledged a fax memo dated October 10, 2014 from Art Charleton on behalf of the Warren County Economic Development Advisory Council and Freeholder Jason Sarnoski asking that a local economic development advisory committee be established. The purpose for the request is to facilitate coordination with the WCEDAB. This matter was tabled pending receipt of additional information from the County.

Discuss request from W.C. Planning Board, re: Input on County Open Space Plan

A letter dated October 20, 2014 from Richard A Miller of the Warren County Planning Department was discussed. The Warren County Planning Board asked for input from Warren County municipalities on open space and recreational facilities and potential sites or areas that the municipality may have an interest in acquiring in the future.

The recently reactivated Hope Agriculture Advisory Committee is actively identifying properties for purchase of development easements in accordance with the Township's Farmland Preservation program. This information will be conveyed to the Warren County Planning Board.

Review draft Team Use of Facilities Form

The governing body reviewed a draft use of facility form for Hope recreation teams. The Clerk was advised by the cleaning crew that beer cans were found in a trash can in the Moravian Grange Hall after a soccer party. Alcoholic beverage use is prohibited on Township property. A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to authorize the use of the form, which will be required prior to team use of Township property for practices, games, or team parties. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

Status of Hope Sanitary Landfill

In response to the Township's letter on October 28, 2014 to Anthony Fontana, Chief of Solid Waste Permitting at NJDEP, John Shevlin called the Clerk on November 14, 2014 to advise that there is no notation in their file about stopping the monitoring well testing at the landfill. He noted that if the results of the testing continue to be favorable, the Township may request a reduction in the frequency of the testing and the parameters of the tests. McDonough will request a meeting with the NJDEP Commissioner to discuss the requirements for the formal closure of the sanitary landfill; Rodman will also attend that meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M. on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Pat Quinn
Municipal Clerk