

DECEMBER 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: Mayor Timothy McDonough, Deputy Mayor George Beatty, and Committeeman John Koonz. Also present were Mary Pat Quinn, Municipal Clerk and Ted Rodman, P.E., Township Engineer.

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 November 24, 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 noted by Koonz. The total receipts during November, 2014 were \$1,176,164.62.

#### BILLS

The bills were noted by Beatty. A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to authorize the payment of the bills, totaling \$313,564.60. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

#### DISCUSS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION VACANCY WITH EMILY BROWN

Emily Brown, a resident of Hope, was present to discuss her interest in serving on the Historic Preservation Commission. She is available for Commission meetings, and has attended them as an applicant. She had a good experience with the Commission and the staff. Prior to that, she served as secretary of the Knowlton Township Historic Commission from December 2004 through March 2008. She also assisted Knowlton with grants awarded by the New Jersey Historic Trust and the County of Warren.

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to appoint Emily Brown as Alternate #2 on the Historic Preservation Commission to fill an unexpired term through December 31, 2014. 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

The Clerk advised that the Zoning Officer and the Township received notice from the Warren County Agriculture Development Board that Manuel Cerqueira has filed an application for Site Specific Agricultural Management Practice. The hearing will be held on Thursday, December 18, 2014 at 7:30 P.M. at the Department of Land Preservation offices. A copy of the notice was given to the Animal Control Officer and the Township Attorney. The governing body directed the Clerk to ask the Township Attorney to research the matter and to attend the hearing on behalf of the Township.

### 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 is scheduled.

458 Delaware Road – Bread used for feed attracting rats and birds. Complainant affected is to call when the nuisance is occurring. No calls were received in November.

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. No change in status.

Food Pantry at St. John's United Methodist Church – Expired products such as yogurt being distributed. An inspection was conducted. No yogurt was onsite. It was reported that yogurt is not distributed anymore. Expiration date regulations for dairy products, infant formula and water were reviewed. A satisfactory rating was issued. The complainant was advised of the inspection outcome. File closed.

Food Establishments: Hope Market, Hope Pizzeria & Catering and U.S. Gas were inspected and received satisfactory ratings. Inn at Millrace Pond was inspected and received a conditionally 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 was installed. One septic alteration was installed.

Township Engineer

Rodman prepared a spreadsheet showing the options that are available to either repair or replace the salt shed. The matter will be tabled to the year-end meeting on December 30 to allow Rodman to get more data on a two-stall pole barn. The DPW Foreman will attend the next meeting to provide his input.

Rodman has a call in to Schifano Paving to see if they will hold their price in to 2015 for the Honey Run Road and Far View Road overlayment projects. If that is not possible, the projects would be awarded to Tilcon, the new contractor under the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council. McDonough reached out to the NJDOT to see if the surplus funds from the Honey Run Road Project may be used toward the shortage of funds for the Far View Road Project.

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

November, 2014 Tax Collection:

Current Year Taxes	\$1,156,174.45	\$5,875,034.92 Y-T-D
Delinquent Taxes:		
Taxes – 2013	.00	19,644.85
Prepaid 2015 Taxes	2,267.87	23,192.78
Outside Tax Sale Redemption	.00	30,835.87
Cost of Sale Fees	.00	337.41
NSF Check Fees	25.00	75.00
Interest and Costs	<u>800.26</u>	<u>7,651.54</u>

Total Receipts \$1,159,267.58 \$ 5,956,772.37

Remarks:

Current Year Tax Collection Comparison:

November 2014 to November 2013	+\$ 62,739.03
Year to Date 2014 to Year to date 2013	+\$216,236.73
November 2014 to November 2012	-\$ 31,715.56
Year to Date 2014 to Year to Date 2012	+\$440,065.28

	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
YTD Collection %'s	96.20	97.01	96.62	97.05	96.62	97.44	94.38	94.89	95.75	96.39

Construction Code Official

The following permits were issued during November, 2014: 4-Building, 2-Electrical, 2-Fire for a total income of \$1,021.00.

Mayor McDonough

Nothing to report.

Deputy Mayor Beatty

Beatty reported that the Christmas Market Coordinator will come to a meeting after the first of the year to recap the 2014 Christmas Craft Market.

Committeeman Koonz

Nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following communications were received during the month:

1. Help Our Preservation Effort. Re: Wreath delivery and notice that HOPE is working with another group to take over the wreath decorating/distribution project.
2. Karen A. Malowe, Administrative Analyst I of N.J. Board of Public Utilities, Office of Cable Television to Township Attorneys of Hope, Hardwick, Frelinghuysen and Knowlton. Re: Petition by Service Electric Cable Television of New Jersey, Inc. for Renewal Certificate of Approval.
3. David Dech, Warren County Planning Director. Re: Invitation to comment on the Highlands Regional Master Plan. A copy was given to the Hope Planning Board.

## 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.

Agriculture Advisory Committee – 2 vacancies, terms expire 12/31/14.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Status of Draft Non-Household Animal Ordinance

The subcommittee of the Hope Planning Board prepared a draft definition for “Non-household Animal”. This information, together with the “Residential Agriculture” ordinance used by Blairstown Township will be sent to the Township Attorney for his use in preparing an ordinance. The governing body will introduce the Ordinance after the first of the year, and then forward it to the Hope Planning Board for its review.

### Status of Hope Sanitary Landfill

McDonough has requested a meeting with the NJDEP; he is awaiting a response from that office.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Resolution #14-56, Transfer Budget Appropriations

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

#### RESOLUTION #14-56

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that there are insufficient funds to meet the demands necessary for the 2014 balances in the Current Fund Budget. Includes Mayor and Council O/E, Financial Administration O/E, Tax Assessment O/E, Zoning Board of Adjustment O/E, Liability Insurance, Buildings & Grounds O/E, Celebration of Public Events O/E, and Fuel Oil.

WHEREAS, the following accounts have sufficient excess funds to meet such demands: General Administration S/W, General Administration O/E, Legal Services O/E, Planning Board S/W, Zoning Board O/E, and Road Maintenance S/W, Social Security, Audit Services, Employee Group Insurance

BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 40A:4-58 the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to make the following transfers:

TO:	Mayor and Council O/E	552.00
	Financial Administration O/E	6.00
	Tax Assessment O/E	556.84
	Zoning Board of Adjustment O/E	161.79
	Liability Insurance	1,588.00
	Buildings & Grounds O/E	11,066.30
	Celebration of Public Events O/E	6,874.17
	Fuel Oil	<u>1,096.79</u>
		21,901.89

FROM:	Recreation O/E	5,000.00
	Maintenance of Parks O/E	4,000.00
	General Administration O/E	2,000.00
	Legal Services O/E	4,000.00
	Road Maintenance S/W	<u>6,901.89</u>
		21,901.89

PUBLIC

There were no questions or comments from the public.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M. on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Pat Quinn  
Municipal Clerk