

**DECEMBER 11, 2019  
BUSINESS MEETING**

The work 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 Christopher John Kruk and Committeeman Terry Urfer. Also present was Deputy Clerk Robin Keggan.

Under the provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act", adequate notice of the meeting had been provided by publishing notice in The Star Gazette and The New Jersey Herald and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township bulletin boards.

**Executive Session:**

A motion was made by Mr. Kruk, seconded by Mr. Urfer and carried to adopt the Resolution to go into Closed Session at 7:08 PM.

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P. L 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

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

1. The public shall be excluded from that portion of this meeting
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
  - A. Personnel – Interviewing for Sports Director

As nearly as can be ascertained, the matter or matters to be discussed at this time will be disclosed to the public when such matters are resolved.

**Time In:** 7:08 PM

Present: Committeeman Kruk, Committeeman Urfer and Committeeman McDonough

Also Present: Robin Keggan, Deputy Clerk

**Time Out:** 7:44 PM

A motion made by Committeeman Urfer, seconded by Committeeman Kruk and carried to return to regular session.

No official action was taken by the Committee at this time. Copies of the minutes will be made available at such time as the Committee determines that there is no harm to the public interest

**Reports:**

**Mayor Tim McDonough:** Mayor McDonough reported that an upcoming meeting with the DOT to discuss possibility of re-routing truck traffic off of 519 will be taking place at a date in the future. The State is voluntarily looking into this situation at this time. He also handed out an Agro tourism report to the Committee that he obtained at the conference in November for their review.

**Deputy Mayor Christopher John Kruk:** Reported received a zoning complaint from a resident and instructed the resident to contact the Hope Township Zoning Officer regarding same. Also spoke to the Superintendent of Jenny

Jump regarding cutting back trees at the scenic overlook. Once the Superintendent receives the OK from Trenton, this will be done.

Reported that at Exit 12W ramp the trees have been cut back and high friction pavement is to be put down to help minimize accidents in this area.

**Committeeman Urfer:** Drainage issues are ongoing and need to be addressed on Old Union Brick and Green Street. Also, a drain collapsed on Lake Just-It. Also spoke to the Community Police Officer regarding truck idling and no parking on Route 80. The Community Police Officer, C. Madea, asked for a copy of the Township's ordinance in order to be able to enforce same. Also spoke about the water leak in the pipes under Walnut Street and corrective actions taken. Walnut Street should re-open by Friday, December 13.

**Township Engineer Report:**

Mr. Rodman was not present, however, he sent a report for the Committee to read regarding ongoing updates and new business taking place in the Engineer's office. Cemetery Road will be re-cored to ascertain the integrity of the asphalt that was put down in the fall since the first set of results came back sub-standard. Also, the Township received a DOT grant for \$107,000 to pave Hope center in 2020. Stormwater management points have been obtained and the Engineer's office thanked everyone for their assistance in making sure that it was done.

**Community Police Officer:**

Officer Madea was present and reported that all is going well in the Township and the school.

**Payment of Bills:** Bills will be paid at the year-end meeting December 18, 2019.

**Warren County Health Department:** Report on file at Clerk's office. Various updates given regarding septic system installations/alterations/repairs; food inspections of various businesses and entities in the Township; various complaints investigated by the Warren County Health Department.

**Tax Collector:** November Report: \$1,037,758.26 Month \$ YTD \$6,278,802.34.

**Fire Department:** Month of November 2019 – Total number calls 13 (MVA 4, Medical Assist 1, Vehicle Fire 1, Structure Fire 2, Alarm 2, Odor Invest 2, Brush Fire 1 - Average Attendance: 7; Man Hours 165.09. 4 work nights; Work Night Man Hours 96. Special Details 4. Total Man Hours 14. Total Man Hours for November 2019 – 275.09.

**Old Business:** Short update on Moravian Candlelight Tour was given by Mr. Urfer. A report on the Christmas Craft Market will be given by Brielle Whitmore at the meeting on December 18.

**New Business:** Mrs. Keggan spoke to the Township Committee regarding the need to ensure that the Township's computers are not made susceptible to cyberattacks due to the non-support of Windows 7 once Windows 10 rolls out in January 2020. She provided the Committee with emails that were received from MSI regarding their thoughts and suggestions on how to approach this. It was ascertained that Mrs. Keggan would ask MSI for a quote for a new computer for the Tax Collector with upgrade to Microsoft 10 included and upgrading our Township's firewall to protect the computers until such time as new ones need to be purchased. Mrs. Keggan will also ask MSI about having official township email addresses for the committee members.

Also a Resolution will be forthcoming for the award of the snowplow quote for the 2019-2020 season.

Mr. Urfer will speak to Mr. May regarding the SADC grant and what needs to be done with that.

Mrs. Keggan reported that Mrs. Eger from the NW Municipal Court asked that the need to appoint a Violations Clerk be put on the agenda. A short discussion took place regarding this and upon a motion from Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried all in favor, it was determined that the Township Committee approved the appointment of a Violations Clerk subject to direction from the AOC and Marlene Sullivan regarding the proper procedure to do so.

A thank you letter is to be sent to Lisa Motyka who resigned as Soccer Sports Director for all of her hard work during her tenure in the position. Mrs. Keggan will send an email to a potential candidate who was highly recommended to be her replacement to ascertain their interest in taking over the position.

**Approval of Minutes:** July 9, 2019 Executive Session; July 24, 2019 Executive Session; August 14, 2019 Business meeting; September 11, 2019 Business meeting; September 25, 2019 Business meeting; September 25, 2019 Executive Session; October 9, 2019 Business meeting; October 9, 2019 Executive Session; November 13, 2019 Business Meeting and November 13, 2019 Executive Session were all approved on a motion from Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried by all in favor vote.

**Public Participation:**

Mr. Bodolsky was present and discussed the latest updates on the potential White Township warehouse project and its impact on Hope Township.

Resident Scouts were in the audience to observe a Municipal Government meeting as part of their community service to the Scouts program.

**Use of Facilities:**

Rose Maguire – Requested use of the Community for Belvidere Wildcats cheerleading. Mr. Urfer motioned to approve with fee waived subject to Certificate of Insurance being received; Mr. Kruk seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

**Executive Session:**

A motion was made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried to adopt the Resolution to go into Closed Session at 8:42 PM.

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P. L 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

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

3. The public shall be excluded from that portion of this meeting
4. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
  - B. Personnel - Municipal Clerk

As nearly as can be ascertained, the matter or matters to be discussed at this time will be disclosed to the public when such matters are resolved.

**Time In:** 8:42 PM

Present: Committeeman Kruk, Committeeman Urfer and Committeeman McDonough

Also Present: Robin Keggan, Deputy Clerk

**Time Out:** 8:47 PM

A motion made by Committeeman Urfer, seconded by Committeeman Kruk and carried to return to regular session.

No official action was taken by the Committee at this time. Copies of the minutes will be made available at such time as the Committee determines that there is no harm to the public interest.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 8:48 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Fisher RMC  
Municipal Clerk