

FEBRUARY 2, 2017

A Budget Work meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 6:00 P.M. at the Hope Township Municipal Building with the following members present: Mayor Timothy McDonough, Deputy Mayor George Beatty, and Committeeman Christopher Kruk. Also present were Municipal Clerk Judith Fisher, Chief Financial Officer Kathleen Reinalda, Mayor James Perry, Hardwick Township, Judge William Mennen and Acting Administrator Kathleen Edger. Also present were members from the Blairstown Ambulance Corp.

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

#### Preparation of the 2017 Local Municipal Budget

Judge Mennen presented their budget for 2017, noting that there will be no changes for 2017. Blairstown Township did leave and White Township joined as now as part of the system. A printout of the propose 2017 budget was presented. There was a discussion on their Wish List that included security, video set up, extra bathroom and the phone system. Included in this discussion was the rent fee.

Paul McNamara from the Blairstown Ambulance Corp was present. The calls for 2016 were reviewed noting that they were down from 2015. Hopes calls for 2016 were 202, with 1212 man hours and 5,926 traveled miles. There are 36 active members with one member from Hope. Their new building is working out good. Right now the kitchen needs to be finished. They are presently refurbishing the old 1995 ambulance; cost is about 20% of a new rig. Their donation request from Hope Township is \$12,500. The Committee thanked the Corp volunteers and the great respond that we get when they are called out.

Committeeman Beatty reviewed the roads and the DOT grants and item that are needed for the DPW Department.

The Committee talked about a Revaluation and that they are giving this a serious look. Tax maps will need to be updated and approved by the State before going forward. A Revaluation was last done in 2006 followed by a reassessment in 2010. The Tax Assessor will be contacted to get a preliminary cost for a revaluation; there is only one company in Warren County that is approved to do revaluations according to the Assessor.

The Clerk reviewed with the Committee the various wish lists that were submitted from the different departments.

CFO Kathleen Reinalda talked about the Bonds and where the Township stands on them right now.

It was agreed that another Budget meeting is needed and that is one will be with the Township Auditor, Anthony Ardito. The Clerk will check with Mr. Ardito to see if he is available either February 21 at 4PM or Thursday February 23 at 4PM. Mrs. Reinalda, CFO noted that she is available for either date.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M. on a motion made by Committeeman Kruk, seconded by Committeeman Beatty. The motion was carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Fisher, RMC  
Municipal Clerk