

SEPTEMBER 11, 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 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 January 11, 2013 and January 18, 2013.

GIRL SCOUT TROOP 4980 TO DISCUSS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

Joanne Vance, Jennifer Wallace, and Jennifer Pennucci were present with their Girl Scout troop to discuss their community service project with the governing body. They will be using the Community Center for their weekly meetings on Fridays. As part of their community service, they will clean the building once per month on a Friday that they are in the building as well as clean the fieldhouses. A list of the tasks they will do was provided to the governing body. They will let the Clerk know if they need any supplies. When they paint, they hope to get the paint donated. The Township Committee appreciates the idea and their leadership.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the business meeting of August 14, 2013 and the executive session of August 14, 2013 were approved as circulated on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

RECEIPTS

The receipts for August, 2013 were read by Koonz, who noted those amounts over \$100.00. The total receipts were \$1,120,513.91.

BILLS

The bill list was read by Beatty, who noted those amounts over \$100.00. A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by McDonough to approve a voucher payable to Caesar's Atlantic City in the amount of \$318.00. Committee polled: Beatty-abstain; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes. The remaining vouchers were ordered paid on a motion made by Beatty, seconded by Koonz. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes. The total of all bills was \$375,251.64.

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:

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.

15 Silver Hill Avenue – Septic overflowing in the rear of the property. A reinspection is scheduled.

403 Mount Hermon Road – A complaint was received concerning the use of road millings (which could possibly contaminate a well). This complaint is under investigation.

Land of Make Believe, 352 Route 611 – A complaint was received concerning odorous sewage bubbling out of a grate at the bottom of the Black Hole water slide. An inspection was conducted. Dirty water was draining from the pool's overflow into two drains. It was reported that no sewer lines are located in this area of the park. File closed.

Food Establishment – U. S. Gas was inspected and received a satisfactory rate.

Rabies – No activity.

Kennels – No activity.

Childcare Centers – No activity.

Recreational Bathing – Silver Lake Property Association Beach was reinspected and received a satisfactory rating.

Youth Camps – No activity.

Campgrounds – Cranford West was inspected and was found to be in compliance.

Septics/Wells – One septic alteration application was received. One new septic was installed. One new well was installed.

Township Engineer

Rodman reported that the guiderail installation on Lake Just-It Road is almost complete; there was enough to do the curve and most of the steep hill. A traffic control firm was used during project, and that worked very well. Jennifer Wallace, a resident of Lake Just-It Road, agreed that the traffic control worked well and that the guiderail looks very nice.

Shiloh Road will be paved on September 23, 2013.

The 2014 NJDOT Grant applications are due next week; the governing body thought that Osmun Road was next on the list. Rodman was asked to confirm that with the Public Works Foreman.

With regard to the Distillery Project, Rodman and Koonz will do a walk-thru tomorrow in order to come up with a Punch List.

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

August, 2013 Tax Collection:

Current Year Taxes	\$1,085,840.84	\$4,138,699.46 Y-T-D
Delinquent Taxes		
Taxes-2012	5,626.98	52,840.99
Taxes-2011	.00	250.00
Prepaid 2014 Taxes	2,991.02	8,994.51
Outside Tax Sale Cert Redemption	6,392.28	6,392.28
Tax Sale Premiums	.00	9,500.00
Interest and Costs	1,594.98	7,887.66
Total Receipts	<u>\$1,102,446.10</u>	<u>\$ 4,224,564.90</u>

Remarks:

Current Year Tax Collection Comparison:

August 2013 to August 2012	-\$ 11,153.91
Year to Date 2013 to Year to Date 2012	+\$135,765.72
August 2013 to August 2011	-\$ 187,262.80
Year to Date 2013 to Year to Date 2011	+\$ 52,719.52

Construction Code Official

The following permits were issued during August, 2013: 5-Building; 1-Plumbing; 4-Electrical; 2-Fire for a total income of \$1,468.00.

RECESS

A recess was called on a motion made by McDonough, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

The meeting resumed on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

The Girl Scouts left the meeting at this time.

Mayor McDonough

The picnic plans are going well.

Deputy Mayor Beatty

Beatty suggested that the Township look in to using the \$19,172.00 that was received from FEMA for Kostenbader Road to oil and stone the road. The contractor who did the oil and stone work on Nightingale Road in Knowlton Township did a great job so that will be looked in to as an option.

Committeeman Koonz

Nothing to report.

Agriculture Advisory Board

Koonz reported that there will be no changes to the Planning Incentive Grant Application this year. The Land Conservancy of NJ is actively talking with a couple of farm owners.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following communications were received during the month:

1. Knowlton Township. Re: Notice that an amendment to the Knowlton Township Land Use Ordinance (#13-07) was adopted on July 8, 2013. A copy was given to the Planning Board.
2. N.J. Transit. Re: N.J. Transit Public Hearing Notice.
3. Municipal Court of North Warren at Hope. Re: July, 2013 Municipal Court Disbursements. A copy was given to the Chief Financial Officer.

4. Warren County Regional Chamber of Commerce. Re: Request for input regarding proposed legislation for a new fourth waiver to the Highlands Act. A copy was given to the Hope Planning Board.
5. N.J. Department of Transportation. Re: Notice of two upcoming FHWA-National Highway Institute courses titled Contract Administration Core Curriculum. The Township Engineer has attended this course.
6. Jersey Central Power and Light. Re: Notice of public hearing in the matter of the Provision of Basic Generation Service for the period beginning June 1, 2014.
7. N.J. Transit. Re: Notice of public hearing—Senior citizen and disabled resident transportation assistance program hearings.
8. Jersey Central Power and Light. Re: Notice of proposed increase in Societal Benefits Charge and Notice of Public Hearings.
9. Project Self-Sufficiency. Re: Komen's Tie A Ribbon campaign. A copy was given to the Historic Preservation Commission. The Township Committee discussed this request and determined that the ribbons could only be placed on Township-owned property: Municipal Building, Community Center, Grange, and the three Welcome to Hope signs. The Clerk was directed to respond in writing to Project Self-Sufficiency regarding the terms.

APPOINTMENTS

The following vacancies were noted:

- A. Environmental Commission - Vacancy: Alternate #2, term expires 12/31/13.
- B. Zoning Board of Adjustment – Vacancies: Full member, term expires 12/31/14 and Alternate #2, term expires 12/31/14.
- C. Planning Board – Vacancies: Class II, term expires 12/31/13; Alternate #2, term expires 12/31/13.
- D. Historic Preservation Commission: Vacancy: Alternate #2, term expires 12/31/14.
- E. Agriculture Advisory Board – Three vacancies, terms expire 12/31/13.

OLD BUSINESS

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

No change in status.

Discuss Cable Television Franchise Renewal

No change in status.

Status of Moravian Distillery Project; Authorize Revised Change Order #8

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to revise Change Order #8 to include the construction of a wall by the proposed location of the portable facility; bank restoration/stump removal; bronze plaque; and ADA compliant blue stone walkway. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

Status of Water Supply to Hope Community Center

No change in status.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #13-40, Cancel Tax Sale Certificate #13-04

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

RESOLUTION #13-40

RESOLUTION REFUNDING TAX SALE CERTIFICATE 13-04
WHICH WAS REDEEMED

WHEREAS, the property owned by Walter W. and Margaret Bobula known as Block 5000, Lot 300 located at 433 Silver Lake Road had unpaid 2012 property taxes and was sold at a Tax Sale held on February 7, 2013 by the Hope Township Tax Collector; and

WHEREAS, Joe Campolo of 1055 Dark Moon Road, CR 519 located in Newton, NJ 07860 was the successful bidder of the above stated property. The amount of the Tax Sale consisted of unpaid 2012 property taxes, interest, and other costs, and totaled \$3,130.85 and is represented by Tax Sale Certificate 13-04; and

WHEREAS, Ocwen Financial Corporation, mortgagee of the property, paid \$7,998.99 on August 22, 2013 to the Hope Township Tax Collector to satisfy the outstanding Tax Sale Certificate, subsequent taxes, and delinquent taxes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope on this 11th day of September 2013 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a check payable to Joe Campolo in the amount of \$6,392.28 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate 13-04.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be also authorized to draw a check payable to Joe Campolo in the amount of \$3,500.00 for the return of a Premium paid at Tax Sale.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the executed satisfied Tax Sale Certificate 13-04 be returned to Ocwen Financial Corporation, Tax Department of 1661 Worthington Road, Suite 100 located in West Palm Beach, FL 33409.

Establish Joint Municipal Alliance Committee (Hope & White Township)

The governing body reviewed an ordinance to establish a municipal alliance. The Clerk was directed to tailor the ordinance to Hope/White Township and forward same to the Township Attorney for review and recommendation.

Prohibit Possession & Consumption of Alcohol by Minors on Private Property

The Township Committee reviewed the ordinance that Independence has regarding the aforementioned subject. There is no interest in adopting a similar ordinance in Hope Township since the governing body determined that the state statutes governing underage drinking are sufficient.

PUBLIC

There were no questions or comments from the public.

Hope Area Chamber of Commerce

A motion was made by McDonough, seconded by Beatty to join the Hope Area Chamber of Commerce. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 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 Beatty, seconded by Koonz. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

Appoint Glenn R. Carter as Zoning Officer/Driveway Official

A motion was made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty to appoint Glenn R. Carter as the Zoning Officer and Driveway Official at the present annual salary of \$6,477.00. He will be asked to start as soon as possible since David Diehl has agreed to stay beyond his September 1, 2013 resignation date. Committee polled: Beatty-yes; Koonz-yes; McDonough-yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M. on a motion made by Koonz, seconded by Beatty. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Pat Quinn
Municipal Clerk