

APRIL 10, 2024
BUSINESS MEETING

The 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 Christopher John Kruk, and Committeeman Terry Urfer. Also present were Municipal Clerk, Robin Keggan, RMC; Donald Whitmore, DPW Foreman and Patti Whitmore, Events Coordinator.

FLAG SALUTE AND SUNSHINE STATEMENT

Under the provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act", adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by publishing notice in the New Jersey Herald and Express Times New Jersey Edition and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township Web and Bulletin Boards.

Roll call: Mr. Urfer- present

Mr. Kruk – present

Mayor McDonough- present

Payment of Bills: On a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and roll called as follows: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes, bills in the amount of \$672,729.14 were approved for payment, holding the check for Charles Mann aside .

Reports:

Tax Collector: Month Ending March 2024 - \$104,650.23 Y-T-D for 2024 \$1,770,078.91.

Environmental Commission: Mrs. Sobon gave her report which included an update on the Green Fair; talked about Appreciation Dinner giveaways; discussed the pollinator garden she wanted to plant at the municipal building (decided to wait until next year to revisit this potential grant from ANJEC) and holding off on any further work with the rain barrel until the work at the Community Center is done.

DPW: Clean-up from the most recent windstorms; FEMA work with the Clerk; new garage doors on the DPW garage installed; windows on roadside mower installed; furnace at the municipal building fixed.

Mayor Tim McDonough: Discussed a phone call he had with the Pollution Control Finance Authority and the fact that municipal waste haulers are continuing to come through Hope Township. The PCFA stated that they have let all of these waste hauler companies know that they are not to go through Hope Township, will have to continue to monitor this. The new Hope Township signs have been ordered and are being sponsored by various business in the township; the signage for the truck traffic weight limits are being scheduled to be installed by the NJDOT and the target date for these signs to be in place and truck weight limits enforced is early May. White Township is cutting a check for the money owed to Hope Township for court costs for 2023. Mayor McDonough thanked Kathleen Reinalda (Hope Township CFO and White Township Clerk) for her hard work in getting this payment to us through the White Township budget. He also attended the first Warren County Safety Action Plan Committee meeting. A report is being put together to be entered into the County's Master Plan. The freezer at the Grange is being removed due to all of the mold it has in it. Lacey DiTondo has a contact that will take it out of the Grange for free and dispose of it.

Deputy Mayor Kruk: Discussed a recreation grant that he is putting together with the Township engineer to install a pickle ball court, repair fencing, etc. Mr. Urfer motioned that the Committee authorize a grant of up to \$85,000 (with \$15,000 being taken from Open Space account) to be submitted to the DEP. Mr. Kruk seconded the motion. On a roll call vote: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes the motion was passed.

Committeeman Urfer: Noted that the speed bump on Cedar Street needs to be reinstalled. Also noted that there is a second speed bump that needs to be put in place with it potentially being placed on Ridgeway Avenue.

Events Coordinator: Appreciation Dinner is set.

RESOLUTIONS:

**HOPE TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION 2024-28
RESOLUTION TO APPOINT A MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COORDINATOR**

WHEREAS, there is a need in Hope Township for a Municipal Alliance Coordinator for the 2024-2025 Grant Cycle; and,

WHEREAS, Leeanne Caropolo has undertaken this position and is familiar with the scope of work required for the Municipal Alliance Grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that Leeanne Caropolo is hereby appointed as the Hope Township Municipal Alliance Coordinator for the calendar year 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that compensation for this position is funded by the terms of the Municipals Alliance Grant.

Motion: Mr. Urfer Second: Mr. Kruk
All in favor by voice vote

**HOPE TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-29**

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The Township Council of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore, has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Council has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Warren.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Township Committee does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Hope Township Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2025 in the amount of:
GCADA GRANT \$1,252.00

Cash Match \$ 313.00
In-Kind \$ 939.00

2. The Township Committee acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

Motion : Mr. Urfer Second: Mr. Kruk

Roll Call: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough - yes

HOPE TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION 2024-30
RESOLUTION ADOPTING FLOODPLAIN
DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, that the Floodplain Development Permit Application hereto be and hereby is adopted in furtherance of the Floodplain Ordinances codified in Chapter 18 of the Code of the Township of Hope.

Motion: Mr. Urfer Second: Mr. Kruk
All in favor by voice vote

CERTIFICATION

I, Robin L. Keggan, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and accurate copy of a Resolution adopted by the Hope Township Committee on April 10, 2024.

TOWNSHIP OF HOPE
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION THROUGH THE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR A RECREATION
GRANT

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-31

WHEREAS, the Hope Township Committee desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approximately \$85,000 to carry out a project to:

Install a 60'x30' Pickleball Court, Erect a 20'x16' Pavilion, building 8' chain link fence around the basketball court and acquire related equipment for the new pickleball court.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED,

- 1) that the Hope township Committee does hereby authorize the application for such a grant; and,
- 2) recognizes and accepts that the Department may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, does further authorize the execution of any such grant agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully-executed agreement from the Department, does further authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between The Hope Township Committee and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the person whose names, titles and signatures appear below are authorized to sign the application, and that they or their successors in said titles are authorized to sign the agreement, and any other documents necessary in connection therewith:

Motion: Mr. Urfer Second: Mr. Kruk

Roll Call: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING BY TITLE ONLY

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-03

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING ARTICLE I ENTITLED “PLANNING BOARD” OF CHAPTER 17 – LAND USE PROCEDURES – TO MERGE THE FUNCTIONS OF THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT INTO THE PLANNING BOARD TO CREATE A LAND USE BOARD PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40:55D-25(c)(1)

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Hope believes it is in the best interest of the Township to merge the duties of the Zoning Board with the Planning Board; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:55D-25(c)(1) expressly permits the combination of the two Boards to permit the Planning Board to assume the powers, duties and functions of the Zoning Board of Adjustment; and,

WHEREAS, the aforementioned statute requires that the Zoning Board be dissolved and its functions assumed by the Planning Board.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey, that the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Planning Board be merged into a combined Land Use Board as follows:

SECTION I:

Deletions to this Section shall be delineated by strikethrough text, ~~thusly~~.

Additions to this Section shall be delineated by underlined text, thusly.

Section 17-1 Planning Board is amended as follows:

§ 17-1. Land Use Board.

§ 17-1.1. Establishment.

There is hereby established, pursuant to N.J.S.A.

(a) The Hope Township Land Use Board, created pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55-25(c)(1), shall consist of nine (9) members of the following four (4) classes:

(1) Class I: the Mayor or the Mayor’s designee.

(2) Class II: one (1) of the officials of the municipality, other than a member of the governing body, to be appointed by the Mayor, ~~provided that if there is an Environmental Commission, the member of the Environmental Commission who is also a member of the Planning Board, as required by N.J.S.A. 40:56A-1, shall be deemed to be the Class II Planning Board member for the purposes of this chapter in the event that there is among the Class IV both a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and a member of the Board of Education.~~

- (3) Class III: a member of the Township Committee to be appointed by the Township Committee.
- (4) Class IV members: six (6) other citizens of the municipality to be appointed by the Mayor. The members of Class IV shall hold no other municipal office. One (1) Class IV member may be a member of the Board of Education. ~~If there is a Municipal Environmental Commission, the member of the Environmental Commission who is also a member of the Planning Board, as required by N.J.S.A. 40:56A-1, shall be a Class IV Planning Board member unless there are among Class IV members of the Planning Board both a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and a member of the Board of Education, in which case the member common to the Planning Board and Municipal Environmental Commission shall be deemed a Class II member of the Planning Board.~~ For the purpose of this section, membership on a municipal board or commission whose function is advisory in nature, the establishment of which is discretionary and not required by statute, shall not be considered the holding of municipal office.
- (5) Alternate members. Four (4) alternate members shall be appointed by the Mayor and shall meet the qualifications of Class IV members. Alternate members shall be designated at the time of appointment as “Alternate No. 1,” “Alternate No. 2,” “Alternate No. 3,” and “Alternate No. 4.” The terms of alternate members shall be for two (2) years, except that the terms of not more than two alternate members shall expire in the same year.

Alternate members may participate in all matters but may not vote except in the absence or disqualification of a regular member of any class.

SECTION II:

Sections 17-2.1 through 17-2.5 are hereby deleted in their entirety.

SECTION III:

Section 17-2.1. is hereby created to include the following:

References in the Code to the Zoning Board of Adjustment shall be read as if the term “*Planning Board acting as the...*” preceded it.

SECTION IV:

If any part or parts of this Ordinance are for any reason held to be invalid, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

SECTION V:

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances which are inconsistent herewith are repealed, but only to the extent of such inconsistency. All other parts of the Township of Hope Code not inconsistent herewith are ratified and confirmed.

SECTION VI:

This Ordinance shall become effective following its final passage and publication as required by law.

Dated: April 10, 2024

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced and passed by the Township Committee on the first reading at a meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, held on April 10, 2024, and will be considered for a second reading and final passage at a regular meeting of the Township Committee to be held on May 8, 2024 at the Municipal Building, located at 407 Great Meadows Road, Hope, New Jersey, at which time and place any persons desiring to be heard upon the same will be given the opportunity to be so heard.

Motion to introduce made by Mr. Urfer; Seconded by Mr. Kruk and all in favor.

**ORDINANCE 2024-04
CALENDAR YEAR 2024**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE PROVIDING FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF \$43,000.00 FOR ‘REPAIR WORK TO HONEY RUN ROAD – FEMA RELATED’ FROM THE GENERAL CAPITAL – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The sum of **\$43,000.00** shall be appropriated for the following item from the Capital Improvements Budget for the year 2024:

HONEY RUN ROAD REPAIR WORK – FEMA RELATED

2. The sum of \$43,000.00 is available in the Capital Improvement Fund
3. The appropriation herewith does not authorize any debt of the Township of Hope.
4. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately on final passage and publication as provided by law.

Motion to introduce: Mr. Urfer

Second: Mr. Kruk

Roll Call:

Committeeman Kruk: yes Committeeman Urfer: yes Mayor McDonough: yes

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced for first reading at a regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Hope held on April 10, 2024 and ordered published in accordance with the law. Said Ordinance will be considered for final reading and adoption at a meeting of the Township Committee to be held on April 24, 2024 at 4:00P.M., or as soon thereafter as the Township Committee may hear this Ordinance at the Municipal Building, 407 Hope-Great Meadows Road, Hope, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

**ORDINANCE 2024-05
CALENDAR YEAR 2024**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE PROVIDING FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF \$30,000.00 FOR ‘SERVER, CLOUD-BASED BACK UP AND MSI SOFTWARE LICENSING’ FROM THE GENERAL CAPITAL – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The sum of **\$30,000.00** shall be appropriated for the following item from the Capital Improvements Budget for the year 2024:

SERVER, CLOUD-BASED BACK UP AND MSI SOFTWARE LICENSING

5. The sum of \$30,000.00 is available in the Capital Improvement Fund

6. The appropriation herewith does not authorize any debt of the Township of Hope.
7. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately on final passage and publication as provided by law.

Motion to introduce: Mr. Urfer

Second: Mr. Kruk

Roll Call:

Committeeman Kruk: yes Committeeman Urfer: yes Mayor McDonough: yes

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced for first reading at a regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Hope held on April 10, 2024 and ordered published in accordance with the law. Said Ordinance will be considered for final reading and adoption at a meeting of the Township Committee to be held on April 24, 2024 at 4:00P.M., or as soon thereafter as the Township Committee may hear this Ordinance at the Municipal Building, 407 Hope-Great Meadows Road, Hope, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

Unfinished Business:

Salt Shed – Mr. Urfer will meet with Mr. Selvaggi and Mr. Whitmore in order to ascertain the best way to proceed further for bidding on the salt shed project.

Warehouse Ordinance – Mr. Urfer suggested that the Planning Board take another look at the Ordinance before it goes to the Planner. We are on hold with the Planner looking it over until we secure the second \$5,000 grant from the Highlands Council.

Tree Ordinance – Short discussion took place regarding this and slight wording change occurred under Section IV of the boiler plate ordinance provided to the Township by the Municipal engineer. The Committee decided to introduce this ordinance this evening, and it will be numbered Ordinance No. 2023-06.

New Business:

Warren County Mosquito Commission – will be using drones this year to locate and target problem areas for spraying. The public will be notified if they are in this area.

Peddler's Permit – Trinity Solar applied for a Peddler's (Solicitation) Permit. The committee denied this request, but offered that he should attend the Green Fair at the end of the month sponsored by the Environmental Commission.

Municipal Building Doors – Two quotes were obtained for replacing doors at the Municipal Building. It was decided to replace the two courtside doors at this time and replace the municipal office doors next year. Mickelsen Contracting was awarded the job. The total quote provided was \$16,250.00. The amount will end up being less due to only replacing 2 of the 4 doors at this time.

Landscaping Services – Discussion took place involving two quotes obtained for maintaining the ball fields in the municipality. Another option was discussed by the DPW Foreman wherein he would mow the ball fields on overtime. A motion was made to accept neither proposal in full, but rather the Committee agreed, on a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and roll called; Mr. Kruk –

yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough - yes to Mr. Whitmore mowing the fields on overtime at an amount not to exceed \$8500 in overtime. This will be cost-saving the Township. Mr. Kruk noted that Mr. Whitmore will need to be responsive to the coaches’ requests/direction regarding the mowing standards they need in place. Drake’s Landscaping (one of the quotes received) was awarded fertilizing and weed spraying of the fields on a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and roll called: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the March 13, 2024 business and April 4, 2024 budget meetings were approved on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and all in favor.

Public Participation:

Ann Rhinesmith inquired about having wifi installed in all of the township owned buildings. Mayor McDonough stated that that is in the works. She also noted that the steps at the Community Center are in need of repair before someone gets hurt. Mr. Kruk and Mr. Whitmore will obtain quotes. Provided a picture of what the kiosks will look like if the CHPP grants applied for are granted and noted one location will be at the Community Center and asked that a second location be decided upon.

Sherrie Shaw – noted that the paving project that took place near her house has caused a water issue in her area. The County garage will be notified and asked to meet with Mr. Whitmore and Mr. Urfer to look at the issue.

Charlie Iulo – inquired about dog waste bags for Swayze Mill and offered to take a few boxes so that he can refill the containers at the park when he is there. Inquired about sewer/water lines being run at the time conduit is run in town center for potential future use if the Town decides to install lighting at some point. Mr. Urfer stated that when the County engineer comes to town regarding the paving project at the intersection, Mr. Iulo is welcome to join them. Noted that he has records of repeat offenders of truck traffic in town and offered his information and camera footage to the township if they’d like it.

Monica Sobon – on behalf of Jutta requested more chairs for the 55 Plus Club meetings as the group is getting larger. Mr. Urfer stated he could bring some chairs down from the Fire Department if she lets him know how many are needed.

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 8:02 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:

PENDING LITIGATION

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: 8:02 PM

Present: Deputy Mayor Kruk, Committeeman Urfer, Mayor McDonough, Michael Selvaggi, Esq.
Also Present: Robin Keggan, Municipal Clerk

Discussion took place regarding Pending Litigation.

Time Out: 8:15 PM

A motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried to return to regular session. No Official Actions were taken.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Robin L. Keggan, RMC
Municipal Clerk