

**April 11, 2018**

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 Christopher John Kruk and Committeeman Terry Urfer. Also present were Municipal Clerk, Judith Fisher, RMC; Township Engineer, Ted Rodman, P.E.; Don Whitmore, CPWM Supervisor

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.

**Payment of Bills:**

Total Receipts: \$20,485.32

A **motion** made Mr. Kruk, seconded by Mr. Urfer and carried to pay the bills totaling \$404,930.82. Mayor McDonough asked to hold payment to Partners Insurance, check number 11427 for \$15,623.00 until he gets clarification on some questions he has. Motion was then amended by Mr. Kruk, seconded by Mr. Urfer to hold check number 11427 subject to Mayor getting clarification on several questions. Motion carried

**Roll Call Vote:** Mr. Urfer, yes, Mr. Kruk, yes, Mayor McDonough, yes

**Reports:**

**Tax Collector:** month ending March 31, 2018 \$51,164.51 Y-T-D \$1,735,441.33.

**Warren County Health Department:** 119 Nightingale – no change; 329 High Street – no change; 34 Ridgeway – file closed; 252 Shiloh Road – no change. Route 80 West Exit 12 – Warren County Communication response to tractor trailer rollover (2) – one motor oil spill and one diesel fuel spill – fluids contained. File closed. Tramontin Harley Davidson – application sent for to appropriate party for unapproved temporary food. Kennels no activity; Recreational Bathing – no activity; Youth camps – no activity and campgrounds – no activity. Septics/Wells – three repair applications approved, one septic alteration was approved; one septic alteration was installed.

**Mrs. Fisher** – NJ Legislative meeting being held in Frelinghuysen on 4/20/2018 at 10:30 inviting all local officials to stop in and get an update what's going on.

**Mayor Tim McDonough:** Mr. McDonough reported on the rough week weather-wise that the residents had and commended Mr. Whitmore, Mr. Fisher and Drake Landscaping for their hard work.

**Deputy Mayor Christopher John Kruk:** Spoke about the revamping of the Booster Club. A meeting will take place next Wednesday to discuss this. Not up for vote at this time, trying to ascertain support for this in the community.

**Committeeman Urfer:** Spoke about Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting and space that has been preserved. There was discussion regarding raising Open Space Tax. Conference call will be taking place with the State (they need current balance of open space trust fund); amount of open space tax; and amount of money generated for 2018. Monies in farmland preservations should only be used for farmland. Mayor McDonough asked farmers sitting in the public for their opinion/input as to increase in the farmland preservation tax. Motion made to raise the farmland preservation tax half a cent to 2.5 cents by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

## **Resolution 2018-29**

### **Open Space Tax Increase for 2018**

**WHEREAS**, the provisions of the Township of Hope's open space ordinance allows the township committee to set the open space tax rate annually within a specified range; and,

**WHEREAS**, the township committee desires to set municipal open space tax rate at **\$0.025** per \$100 of assessed valuation for the 2018 calendar year.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope that election be made to set the municipal open space tax rate at **\$0.025** per \$100 of assessed valuation for the 2018 calendar year.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I, Judith Fisher, Clerk of the Township of Hope, do hereby certified that this is a true and accurate copy of a Resolution adopted by the governing body of the Township of Hope at a regular meeting held April 11, 2018, at the Municipal Building, Hope, New Jersey.

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

Mr. Urfer spoke about the Environmental Commission and the Green Fair upcoming this Saturday. Also spoke about plastic recycling.

Mr. Urfer spoke about getting a list from Rich Motyka on Township owned properties. Decisions need to be made regarding these properties asap. 4 Prospect will be locked up as of April 15<sup>th</sup>.

A meeting needs to take place to discuss assets and projects that need to be done (i.e., community center, etc.).

Salt shed is being kept to minimal cost. Fine tuning the plans now.

### **Township Engineer Report:** Ted Rodman, P.E.

Mr. Rodman was not present. Mayor McDonough reported no updates

### **Old Business:**

Budget discussion took place. Recreation Trust Account needs to be refurbished to approximately \$15,000.00. Salaries were increased at 2 ½% across the board. Another \$1000.00 into Emergency Management. \$27,000.00 additional needs to be put in the budget. Mayor McDonough recommends the \$27,000.00 be taken from surplus. This will leave approximately \$440,000.00 in surplus which is considered a "healthy" surplus. If all agree, budget can be introduced tonight by total only. Public hearing and adoption of budget on May 9, 2018.

Nothing new on Verizon nodes. Mayor McDonough will be attending an upcoming meeting. Mrs. Fisher stated she needed a specific area in the Silver Lake area where nodes are needed.

Millbrook Water Company is ongoing.

### **New Business:**

Discussion took place about the North Warren Municipal Court benches that are being stored in the garage. A decision needs to be made as to whether to install them or get rid of them. They were originally purchased so that a chair could not be thrown in the courtroom. A discussion with the Judge needs to take place to ascertain whether or not they want these installed. Mr. Urfer and Don Whitmore will undertake the discussion with the Court.

Summer help – DaShawn Lawson was recommended to be rehired for three days per week, 8 hours per day. Motion made by Mr. Urfer, Mr. Kruk seconded. All in favor.

Fire Department has a Spaghetti Dinner on April 21, 2018. Mr. Urfer motioned to approve, Mr. McDonough seconded. Mr. Urfer yes, Mr. Kruk abstain Mayor McDonough yes.

**A motion made by Mr. Kruk, seconded by Mr. Urfer and carried to approve the following Resolutions:**

**RESOLUTION 2018-23:**

**REFUNDING TAX SALE CERTIFICATE 2018-003 THAT WAS REDEEMED**

WHEREAS, the property owned by Sharkey, S/Sita, Sharkey, Co Trustees known as block 2700 lot 3508 located at 61 Far View Road had unpaid 2017 property taxes and was sold at a Tax Sale held on 01 February 2018 by the Hope Township Tax Collector; and

WHEREAS, Christiana T c/f CE1 / Firstrust of PO Box 5021 located in Philadelphia, PA 19111 was the successful bidder of the above stated property. The amount of the Tax Sale consisted of unpaid 2017 property taxes, interest, and other costs, and totaled \$2,110.84 and is represented by Tax Sale Certificate 2018-003; and

WHEREAS, S Sita, a supposed owner of the property, paid \$4,844.16 on 22 March 2018 to the Hope Township Tax Collector to satisfy the outstanding Tax Sale Certificate and subsequent taxes:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of April 2018 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a check payable to Christiana T c/f CE1 / Firstrust in the amount of \$4,844.16 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate 2018-003.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a check payable to Christiana T c/f CE1 / Firstrust in the amount of \$22,500.00 for the return of a tax sale premium paid at the tax sale.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the satisfied executed Tax Sale Certificate be returned to S Sita of 694 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue located in San Francisco, CA 94121.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Judith M. Fisher, RMC, Clerk of the Township of Hope, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by the Hope Township Committee at a meeting of said Committee held on Wednesday, April 11, 2018.

**Roll Call: Mr. Kruk – yes, Mr. Urfer – yes Mayor McDonough – yes**

**RESOLUTION 2018-24:**

**Late Introduction of the 2018 Budget**

WHEREAS, under provisions of N.J.S.A.40A:4-5, a municipality shall introduce the Local Municipal Budget no later than March 16 of the fiscal year; and,

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope has delayed the introduction of the 2018 Municipal Budget past the statutory deadline; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, Warren County, New Jersey, that the Township of Hope hereby petitions the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to allow a delayed introduction of the 2018 Hope Township Municipal Budget; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, 101 South Broad Street, P.O. Box 803, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0803.

## CERTIFICATION

I, Judith M. Fisher, RMC, Clerk of the Township of Hope, County of Warren and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by the Hope Township Committee at a meeting of said Committee held on Wednesday, April 11, 2018.

**Roll Call: Mr. Kruk – yes, Mr. Urfer – yes Mayor McDonough – yes**

**RESOLUTION 2018-25:**  
**MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR 2018**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Hope is holding a meeting on April 11, 2018, for the purpose of introducing the 2018 Municipal Budget and conducting other matters; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, Warren County, New Jersey, that the Township of Hope hereby petitions the Director of the Division of Local Government Services that the 2018 Local Municipal Budget be introduced and approved on April 11, 2018.

### **2018 HOPE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Surplus anticipated general revenues	\$ 169,948.00
Total Miscellaneous revenue	435,240.00
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	25,000.00
Local Property Taxes	<u>842,226.00</u>
Total General Revenues	<u>\$1,472,414.00</u>
Salaries and Wages	\$ 449,697.00
Total Operations	624,661.00
Debt Service	259,111.00
Reserve for Delinquent Taxes	<u>138,945.00</u>
Total 2018 Municipal Budget	<u>\$1,472,414.00</u>
Municipal Tax Rate (Estimated)	\$0.3796

## CERTIFICATION

I, Judith Fisher, Clerk of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, hereby certified that this is a true and accurate copy of a Resolution adopted by the governing body of the Township of Hope at a regular meeting held April 11, 2018, at the Municipal Building, Hope, New Jersey.

**Roll Call: Mr. Kruk – yes, Mr. Urfer – yes Mayor McDonough – yes**

**RESOLUTION 2018-26:**  
**North Warren Municipal Court Revenue**

**WHEREAS**, the 2018 Local Municipal Budget was introduced on the 11th day of April, 2018; and,

**WHEREAS**, during the fiscal year 2018 the Township of Hope will receive revenue for Inter Local Agreements in the amount of \$96,225.00

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that petition be made herewith to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services that the 2018 Local Municipal Budget include a special item of revenue under the heading of "**Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of Director of Local Government Services- Interlocal Municipal Service Agreements Offset With Appropriations:**

North Warren Municipal Court Revenue	<u>\$ 96,225.00</u>
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\$ 96,225.00

**Certification**

I, Judith Fisher, Clerk of the Township of Hope, County of Warren do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and accurate copy of a Resolution adopted by the Hope Township Committee at a meeting of said Township Committee held on April 11, 2018.

**Roll Call: Mr. Kruk – yes, Mr. Urfer – yes Mayor McDonough – yes**

**RESOLUTION 2018-27:**

**Special Items of General Revenue**

WHEREAS, the 2018 Local Municipal Budget was introduced on the 11th day of April, 2018; and,

WHEREAS, during the fiscal year 2018 the Township of Hope has been allocated a state grant for various programs in the amount of \$11,372.00.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that petition be made herewith to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services that the 2018 Local Municipal Budget include a special item of revenue under the heading of "**Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of Director of Local Government Services-Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:**"

<b>Clean Communities Program</b>	<b>\$ 7,069.00</b>
<b>Municipal Alliance Grant</b>	<b>3,342.00</b>
<b>Recycling Tonnage Grant</b>	<b><u>961.00</u></b>
	<b><u>\$ 11,372.00</u></b>

Certification

I, Judith Fisher, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Hope, hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and accurate copy of a Resolution adopted by the Hope Township Committee at the business meeting held on April 11, 2018.

**Roll Call: Mr. Kruk – yes, Mr. Urfer – yes Mayor McDonough – yes**

**RESOLUTION 2018-28:**

**Tax Collection Averaging**

**WHEREAS**, the 2018 Local Municipal Budget was introduced on the 11th day April; and,

**WHEREAS**, provision N.J.S.A.40A:4-41(c)(1) permits the tax collection rate used to compute the reserve for uncollected taxes to be based on the average of the collection rate for the previous three years; and,

**WHEREAS**, the average tax collection rate for the last three years is 97.87 %.

Three Year Average	
2017	97.02 %
2016	98.32%
2015	98.25 %
Average	<u>97.87 %</u>

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that petition be made to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services that the 2018 Local Municipal Budget include a calculation for the reserved for uncollected taxes at a rate of 97.87 %.

Certification

I, Judith Fisher, Clerk of the Township of Hope, Warren County, hereby certified that this is a true and accurate copy of a Resolution adopted by the governing body of the Township of Hope at a regular meeting held April 11, 2018, at the Municipal Building, Hope, New Jersey.

**Roll Call: Mr. Kruk – yes, Mr. Urfer – yes Mayor McDonough – yes**

**PROCLAMATION FOR OLDER AMERICANS MONTH 2018**

**Whereas, the month of May is traditionally designated Older Americans Month by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and**

**Whereas, the theme for Older Americans Month 2018 is “Engage at Every Age”** emphasizing the importance of being active and involved, no matter when or where you are in life. You are never too old (or too young) to participate in activities that can enrich your physical, mental, and emotion well-being.

**Whereas, Township of Hope includes countless older Americans who enrich and strengthen our community; and**

**Whereas, Township of Hope is committed to engaging and supporting older adults, their families, and caregivers; and**

**Whereas, we acknowledge the importance of taking part in activities that promote physical, mental, and emotional well-being—no matter your age; and**

**Whereas, Township of Hope can enrich the lives of individuals of every age by:**

- promoting home- and community-based services that support independent living;
- involving older adults in community planning, events, and other activities; and
- providing opportunities for older adults to work, volunteer, learn, lead, and mentor.

**Now therefore, we of Hope Township, Warren County, New Jersey do hereby proclaim May 2018 to be Older Americans Month. Residents are encouraged to take time during this month to acknowledge and recognize older adults as vital members of our community.**

Dated this 11 day of April, 2018

Mayor Timothy McDonough

**Public Participation:**

Question regarding the new cell tower installation. It’s ready to go, just awaiting installation date.

Fishing Derby will be May 20, 2018. Bud Klauder discussed details with the Committee. Discussion took place regarding catch and release. Allowing people to take the fish this year.

**Approval of the Minutes:**

February 22, 2018 Budget Meeting  
March 8, 2018 Budget/Court Meeting  
March 28, 2018 Work & Budget Meeting with Auditor

On the request of the Committee, the above minutes were held to the next meeting

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 8:07 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Fisher RMC  
Municipal Clerk