

**APRIL 14, 2021
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 were Municipal Clerk, Robin Keggan, RMC; Deputy Clerk, Zondra Belstra; Ted Rodman, Township Engineer and Donald Whitmore, DPW.

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 the Star Gazette and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township Web and Bulletin Boards.

ELECTRONIC MEETING STATEMENT

In addition, as a result of the State of Emergency issued by Governor Murphy, the Township has provided the pertinent information for residents to participate in, or listen to, this meeting via Zoom if they do not participate in person. The public will be muted for the meeting but will be able to participate meeting by raising their hand with the use of the appropriate button to do so on their electronic device during the public session portion of the meeting. Questions may also be submitted to the Municipal Clerk by 4 PM up to one day **PRIOR** to the meeting to be read into the record. The public is obligated to disclose their full name, residence address and email address in any question/statement sent to the Municipal Clerk. Any question not meeting the above-described timeframe will be handled at the next available Township Committee meeting.

Roll call: Mr. Urfer- present

Mr. Kruk – present

Mayor McDonough- present

Payment of Bills: Receipts received for March 2021 \$39,924.81

Bills totaling \$362,212.57 for the month of April. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and roll called as follows: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes the bills were approved for payment. Note was made that check no. 13756 to North Jersey Arbor Care in the amount of \$1300.00 is to be paid out of Open Space.

Reports:

Tax Collector: \$131,223.25 March 2021 collections \$1,627,026.07 Y-T-D collections.

Mayor Tim McDonough: Mayor McDonough noted the dates of the clean-up week (May 17-May 22, 2021) and noted that residents may email the township clerks or phone the office to request their voucher. Also noted that the cannabis survey that Margo Biblin has worked up is on our township website for residents to fill out.

Deputy Mayor Christopher John Kruk: Mr. Kruk inquired about the status of receiving free internet at the municipal building per our franchise agreement. The Deputy Clerk noted that she is in discussions with Service Electric/Altice to try to make that happen. Mr. Kruk also made note that a noise ordinance was received by the Township attorney and the Committee is in the process of tightening it up for hopeful introduction at our next meeting.

A letter will be sent out to all residents regarding the new marijuana legislation and the public hearing that will be coming up. This will be put together in the coming weeks.

Committeeman Urfer: Noted that Mr. Whitmore will begin work on the salt shed as time provides for on OT (no prevailing wage criteria will need to be met in this manner). Mr. Whitmore believes that they

can build the salt shed themselves almost completely with the funds (\$40,000) we are in receipt of and that have been earmarked in our account for the salt shed.

Mr. Urfer also commended Mr. Whitmore for his hard work cleaning up Swayze Mill Park. Discussion also took place regarding replacing the shed in the DPW yard with a Sea Container. Mr. Whitmore will look into this further. Trailcams will also be looked into for Swayze Mill Park to try to keep tabs on litterers in the park. Mr. Urfer asked for Ms. Sobon's help (EC Chairperson) in trying to purchase the best camera available through Clean Communities.

Township Engineer Report: Mr. Rodman discussed the "oddball" grate in Hope center and the fact that the DOT has given their approval to utilize the grates that are currently there since the odd sizes cannot be ordered. Also discussed the Ridgeway Avenue paving project and the difference in the money applied for versus the money the Township received in the grant. Mayor McDonough noted that he had placed a call to DOT to find out the status of his request on the behalf of the municipality to try to obtain more grant money for Ridgeway Avenue. He will report back to the Committee once he hears back from DOT. Mr. Rodman noted that the roads the Township Committee would like to be paved need to be decided. Mr. Urfer stated that a list would be ready for the next meeting.

Ordinances - Public Comment and Adoption:

Ordinance 2021-03

Mayor McDonough asked for a motion to open up to the public for comment: 1st Mr. Urfer; 2nd Mr. Kruk – all in favor. No public comments were received.

Mayor McDonough asked for a motion to close to the public. 1st Mr. Urfer; 2nd Mr. Kruk – all in favor.

Mayor McDonough asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-03. 1st Mr. Urfer; 2nd Mr. Kruk. Roll Call: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

**ORDINANCE # 2021-03
STATE OF NEW JERSEY, COUNTY OF WARREN,
TOWNSHIP OF HOPE**

**ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION OF FEES AND COSTS
INCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH FIRE DEPARTMENT
SERVICES REPLACING ORDINANCE SECTIONS 2-5.11 AND 2-
5.12**

WHEREAS, the Hope Township Fire Department ("Fire Department") has specialized emergency, rescue and other training that provide valuable services to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Department responds to emergencies that involve or are caused by persons operating motor vehicles within the municipal boundaries of the Township which impose a financial burden on the Township and on the Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, taxes paid by the residents of the Township are insufficient to provide for the continuously increasing cost of providing emergency services; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate at this time to require operators of motor vehicles within the municipal boundaries of Hope Township who necessitate fire services as a result of motor vehicle accidents to reimburse the Township for the reasonable cost of providing fire response services as well as paying for the cost of supplies, replacement of equipment and other materials used in responding to emergencies; and

WHEREAS, from time-to-time the Fire Department is required to provide materials, supplies, emergency treatments and the like in responding to fires and emergencies which are not otherwise recoverable and become the responsibility of the taxpayers of Hope.

WHEREAS, Hope Township currently has ordinance sections 2-5.11 and 2-5.12 which allows the Fire Department to bill for certain services, which said sections must be replaced to be more consistent with prevailing state law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Hope as follows:

1. The Code of the Township of Hope is hereby amended by adding thereto a new Chapter 2, Section 2-5.11 to replace current Sections 2-5.11 through 2-5.13 which reads as follows:

Emergency Services Cost Reimbursement

§ 2-5.11 Third-party billing for Fire Department Response Services.

A. Purposes of this Chapter. From time-to-time the Fire Department is called out to respond to automotive incidents within the municipal boundaries of Hope Township, including, but not limited to, responding to emergencies, along and upon Interstate Route 80. Such response requires the providing of fire and rescue services by members of the Fire Department including providing supplies, material and other types of response expenses that are not otherwise recoverable by Hope Township and, therefore, becomes a burden upon the taxpayers of Hope Township. If Hope Township did not provide such fire services, persons who are affected by incidents and accidents occurring within Hope Township would have to engage private companies to provide these services at the cost and expense of the owner of such vehicles involved in such incidents and accidents. Accordingly, the Mayor and Township Committee of Hope Township have determined to impose a reasonable cost upon the owners of vehicles involved in automobile incidents and accidents in and along and upon the roadways within the municipal boundaries of the Township of Hope to enable the Township to continue to provide such vital and necessary services to the public. In addition to the fees to be charged, there shall also be charged the actual cost of supplies, equipment and treatments used in response to emergencies, such as treatments for fuel spills and the like. If, during the course of providing

fire services any of the equipment utilized by the Fire Department of First Aid Squad is damaged, the cost of the repair and/or replacement of such equipment shall also be the obligation of the owner of the vehicle involved in the incident responded to by the Fire Department and/or First Aid Squad.

B. The owner of such automotive vehicle shall have thirty days from the time that the owner receives the bill/assessment to pay in full the amount requested or in lieu of the payment thereof, to file an appeal of said bill/assessment. Any person desiring to appeal such bill/assessment shall file such appeal with the Hope Volunteer Fire Department and shall state the reason or reasons that the vehicle owner disputes the imposition of such bill/assessment. The Notice of Appeal shall be filed with the Hope Volunteer Fire Department by certified mail, return receipt requested. The Hope Volunteer Fire Department shall hear such appeal at the next regularly scheduled meeting following the receipt of the Notice of Appeal and shall render a decision upon such appeal not later than forty-five (45) days following the close of the hearing of such appeal. The decision of the Hope Volunteer Fire Department may affirm the assessment, adjust the assessment based upon information presented during the hearing of such appeal, or may cancel and discharge the assessment in full or in part. The decision of the Hope Volunteer Fire Department shall be final and binding upon the owner of such vehicle.

D. Should the owner of such vehicle fail to pay the amount certified to be due by the Hope Volunteer Fire Department within the time specified in the bill/assessment notice, or fail to file within the same time period set for payment, an appeal of the bill/assessment, the Hope Volunteer Fire Department shall issue a certification to the Municipal Court of Hope Township in lieu of a summons, that the owner of the vehicle has failed to pay the assessment or file a timely appeal of the same. The failure set forth in the certification of the Hope Volunteer Fire Department shall be deemed a violation of this ordinance which may be enforced in the Municipal Court of Hope Township in the same manner as any other violation under the Code of Ordinances of Hope Township and shall be subject to, in addition to the amount of the bill/assessment, a fine not to exceed \$100 together with costs. Any judgment of the Municipal Court may subsequently be enforced by a proceeding to collect such amounts in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Warren County.

E. The Township Committee of Hope hereby authorizes the Hope Volunteer Fire Department to seek reimbursement for the cost of emergency response services as provided for in this Ordinance. For purposes of this Article, "emergency response services" shall include providing, sending and/or utilizing of firefighting, emergency and/or rescue services by the Township, or by a private individual or corporation operating at the request or direction of the Township. The fee schedule is attached to this Ordinance and is what the Hope Volunteer Fire Department will be guided by.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance shall be repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

If any section, subsection or paragraph of this ordinance shall be declared to be unconstitutional, invalid, or inoperative, in whole or in part, by a court of competent jurisdiction, such section, subsection or paragraph shall, to the extent that it is not unconstitutional, invalid or inoperative, remain in full force and effect, and no such determination shall be deemed to invalidate the remaining provisions of this ordinance.

This Ordinance shall take effect as provided by law.

FEE SCHEDULE

Labor Items	Claim Amount (per hour)	
Chief	\$	50.00
Asst. Chief	\$	45.00
2 nd Asst. Chief	\$	35.00
Foreman	\$	35.00
Asst. Foreman	\$	35.00
Fire Police	\$	25.00
Firefighter	\$	30.00

Equipment Items	Claim Amount (per hour)	
Engine 38-71	\$	200.00
Engine/Rescue 38-62	\$	225.00
Mutual Aid Department (per)	\$	600.00
Tanker 38-63	\$	200.00
Jaws of Life - cutter	\$	125.00
Jaws of Life - spreader	\$	125.00
Jaws of Life - RAM	\$	125.00
Saw operation	\$	85.00
SCBA operation	\$	95.00

Consumable Items	Unit of Measure ID/SKU	Claim Amount	
8 X 10 tarp	tarp	\$	18.00
ABC extinguisher	abc	\$	37.00
Absorbent boom (each)	abc	\$	220.00
Absorbent pads (each)	pd	\$	1.20
Blanket (each)	b	\$	5.00
Bottled water case (each)_	bw	\$	5.00
Cleaning of equipment	ce	\$	50.00
CO2 Extinguisher	CO2	\$	32.00
Firemen's gloves	fg	\$	72.00
Fireman's turnout boots	ftb	\$	310.00
Firemen's Turnout pants	ftp	\$	1,125.00
Flares (each)	fl	\$	3.95
Foam per gal. (each)	fpg	\$	25.00
Rescue Rope and Bag	rr	\$	300.00
Rubber gloves (pair)	rg	\$	0.80
Speedy dry (each)	sd	\$	13.50
Throw away protective suit	ts	\$	18.00
Traffic Cones	tc	\$	22.50
Utility rope	ur	\$	20.00

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 February 24, 2021 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 14, 2021 at 7:00P.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 and/or electronically via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

Ordinance 2021-05

Mayor McDonough asked for a motion to open up to the public for comment: 1st Mr. Urfer; 2nd Mr. Kruk – all in favor. No public comments were received.

Mayor McDonough asked for a motion to close to the public. 1st Mr. Urfer; 2nd Mr. Kruk – all in favor.

Mayor McDonough asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-05. 1st Mr. Urfer; 2nd Mayor McDonough – Roll call: Mr. Kruk – abstain; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough - yes.

ORDINANCE # 2021-05

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING THE HOPE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CODE, CHAPTER 9 ENTITLED “PROPERTY MAINTENANCE” TO ADD SECTION 9-2.5 ENTITLED “REMOVAL OF TRASH OR DISPOSAL CANS AND GARBAGE”

WHEREAS, The Township Commitment for the Township of Hope, County of Warren, in the State of New Jersey has determined that trash or disposal cans and garbage receptacles that remain within the public right-of-way or on the public sidewalks pose a hazard to motorists and pedestrians traveling along those public roads and sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, the Hope Township Committee believes that those trash or disposal cans and garbage receptacles should only remain within the public right-of-way or on public for the briefest intervals of time before and after they are emptied; and

WHEREAS, the Hope Township Committee believes that it is in the best interest of the Township to amend its Property Maintenance Ordinances to ensure that residents in the municipality do not leave their trash or disposal cans and garbage receptacles on the public sidewalks or within the public rights-of-way for any longer than necessary.

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

Section 1

Chapter 9 of the Hope Township Municipal Code entitled “Property and Maintenance” be amended to include section 9-2.5 entitled “Removal of Trash or Disposal Cans and Garbage Receptacles”.

Section 2

Chapter 9-2.5 of the Municipal Code of the Township of Hope shall read as follows:

§ 9-2.5 Removal of Trash Cans, Toter Cans and Disposal Carts.

Residents in the municipality shall maintain and keep all trash or disposal cans and/or disposal carts on their respective lots and outside the public right-of-way and off any public sidewalks. Residents may only place their trash or disposal cans and garbage receptacles within the public right-of-way or on public sidewalks sixteen hours before the scheduled pick up by their waste hauler. Once emptied, the resident must return the trash or disposal cans or garbage receptacles to the interior of their property outside of the public right of way and off the public sidewalk within sixteen hours. Any person violating this section shall be subject to the penalties set forth in Section 9.2-4 above. However, an additional 24 hours shall be extended for placement for pickup of trash or disposal cans or garbage receptacles and 24 hours for their return on weeks when the scheduled pickup time is interrupted by a holiday.

Section 3

This ordinance shall take effect immediately after passage.

Section 4

All ordinances or parts of ordinances of the Township of Hope inconsistent herewith are repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 5

The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged to be unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced to pass on first reading at a regular meeting of the Committee of the Township of Hope held on March 10, 2021 and ordered published

in accordance with the law. Said Ordinance will be considered for final reading and adoption at a regular meeting of the Township Committee to be held on April 14, 2021 at 7:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as the Township Committee may hear this Ordinance at the Municipal Building, County Route 611, Hope, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested may appear and/or electronically via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic, for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

Old Business:

Internet – Mayor McDonough noted that he had a conference call with Altice and their attorney regarding the franchise agreement with the township. That is still being worked on. One of the sticking points of the franchise agreement is the number of houses per mile that Altice is requiring in order to run the lines. Currently stands at 25. Hoping to get that reduced to 20.

Traffic Study – Still working on things pertaining to this.

New Business: Mr. Kruk noted that the Hope Volunteer Fire Department will be erecting a 9/11 Memorial at the Fire house. Work is currently in progress to make this happen and should be done in time to celebrate the 20th anniversary of 9/11. More information to follow.

Public Participation:

Christine Rusin offered to donate a tree from her farm to replace the one taken down at the Fire Department that was the site of the annual Hope Christmas Tree Lighting. A local arborist is giving guidance on the best tree suited for that site. The Committee thanked her for her generous offer and will be in touch with her once they receive further information.

Ms. Biblin spoke about the marijuana survey she has put together and the fact that she has a designated phone number to allow people to respond to it. She is trying to figure out the manner in which this will be able to be done.

Several members of the community discussed the litter at Swayze Mill and along several roads in the Township. Several suggestions were brought up such as trailcams and seeking volunteers to help pick up the litter.

The Direct Install Program from Donnelly Energy that Ms. Sobon was working on for energy savings to the Township was discussed. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk – roll call: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough yes the Township Committee approved the direct installs for the DPW garage and the Grange (new HVAC units). Mayor McDonough is given permission to sign the paperwork for these items to be installed.

Approval of Minutes: The February 24 2021 work meeting; March 10, 2021 business meeting; March 24, 2021 work meeting and March 24, 2021 budget meeting minutes were approved on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. All in favor.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 8:03 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Keggan, RMC
Municipal Clerk