

**APRIL 27, 2023**  
**BUDGET MEETING**

The Budget Meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 2:00 P.M. at the Hope Township Municipal Building with the following members present: Mayor Timothy McDonough, Committeeman Christopher John Kruk, and Deputy Mayor Terry Urfer. Also present were Municipal Clerk, Robin Keggan, RMC; Kathleen Reinalda, CFO and Anthony Ardito, Auditor.

**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**

Moment of Silence was observed for Bernie Bonner who passed away the evening prior to this meeting.

**2023 Budget Work:**

Final budget work was done with the auditor and CFO in attendance to ascertain the final tax rate impacts on the 2023 municipal budget. Discussions took place regarding regarding the state of the budget at a flat rate and what that would do the municipality moving forward with our appropriations CAP being maxed out. We have \$22,000 left in the levy CAP. Our CAP bank is \$74,000.

Open Space Tax was discussed as it relates to buildings and grounds taken care of by the municipality. Our Open Space Tax rate stands at 1.25 cents right now, but is being raised to 2.25 cents (1 cent) in order to manage and help offset the costs of maintaining the municipal grounds, which include Swayze Mill Park and Westbrook Park at the school, as well as to help with the expenses of the Community Center as it pertains to our share of the grant undertaken to replace the windows.

The municipal tax rate was raise 1 cent and will equate to \$25/year on the average homeowner.

The budget is set to be introduced at the May 10, 2023 business meeting at 6 pm.

Seeing there was no other business for the afternoon, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 2:57 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Robin L. Keggan, RMC  
Municipal Clerk