

APRIL 28, 2022
WORK MEETING

The Business Meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 4:00 P.M. at the Hope Township Municipal Building with the following members present: Mayor Timothy McDonough, Deputy Mayor John Kruk and Committeeman Terry Urfer. Also present were Municipal Clerk, Robin Keggan, RMC; Deputy Clerk, Zondra Belstra; Donald Whitmore, DPW Foreman; Anthony Ardito, Auditor and several members of the public.

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 Express Times New Jersey edition and the New Jersey Herald 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

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 7:08 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:
 - A. Potential 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: 4:35 PM

Present: Deputy Mayor Kruk, Committeeman Urfer, Mayor McDonough.

Also Present: Robin Keggan, Municipal Clerk

Time Out: 4:43 PM

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

Motion was made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and all in favor to re-open the meeting to the public at 4:43 p.m.

Payment of Bills: \$799,269.01. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by John Kruk and roll called as follows: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes - the bills were approved for payment.

Reports:

Mayor Tim McDonough: Nothing new to report on the DOT meeting front, a date is being decided for a meeting with the County on traffic calming measures on CR 519.

Deputy Mayor Christopher John Kruk: Spoke briefly about some of the ARPA money projects that the municipality will begin undertaking now that the budget is passed (i.e., paving of Union Brick Road) and grants that the Township engineer is looking into for the drainage issues in Silver Lake.

Committeeman Urfer: Mr. Urfer spoke briefly about the Warren County Planning Board meeting recently held and questions surrounding truck traffic studies by WSP. He made special note that in reference to a small warehouse facility put in in Alpha, the “intent is to keep all truck traffic on State roads”, a key point of interest to keep in mind with regard to the Jaindl application in White Township. Mr. Urfer suggested that the Township write a letter requesting that a public hearing be held on the upcoming water treatment plant application that Jaindl has submitted to the County. Mr. Bodolsky will draft a letter for this as the Township Committee fully supports this idea.

Mr. Urfer also directed Donald Whitmore to obtain a second quote for drainage work on Old Union Brick Road so that that project may begin to be undertaken with ARPA monies.

Township Engineer: Not in attendance.

Events Coordinator: Not in attendance.

DPW: Mr. Whitmore gave a brief update on his activities since the last meeting and also spoke about a drainage project on Lake-Just It Road that a homeowner has undertaken that needs to be addressed. He was directed to ask the Township engineer to look at it and make recommendations on how the homeowner needs to tie the pipe installed into the current drainage system that is there.

RESOLUTIONS:

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
A RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING SELF-EXAMINATION OF
HOPE TOWNSHP BUDGET
2022-31**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A.40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C.5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C.5:30-7.2 thru 7.5, the Township of Hope has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local Government Services, and the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the Township of Hope meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2022 budget year, so now therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope that in accordance with N.J.A.C.5:30-7.6a & b, and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification, the governing body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

1. That with reference to the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:
 - a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
 - b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
 - c. Cash deficit of preceding year
 - d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
 - e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
 - f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes
2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A.40A:45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at 40A:4-45.3 et seq. are fully met. (Complies with the "CAP" law.)
3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C.5:30-4 and 5:30-5.
4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:
 - a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate and correctly stated;
 - b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth;
 - c. In itemization, form, arrangement and content, the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality.
5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced, publicly advertised and adopted in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A.40A:4-5, shall not prevent such certification.
6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Motion: Mr. Urfer

Second: Mr. Kruk

Committee Polled: Mr. Kruk – yes Mr. Urfer – yes Mayor McDonough - yes

Old Business:

Internet/CenturyLink – Mayor McDonough reiterated the fact that CenturyLink has a subdivision (BrightSpeed) that will be running fiber in our area. They have received BPU approvals already. Mr. Kruk made mention that when they reach our area, he'd like to see them focus on areas such as Locust Lake Road that have no supplier for high-speed internet as of yet instead of seeing them run lines in areas that already have choices for high-speed internet in order to help provide everyone in the municipality with internet.

New Business:

2022 Municipal Budget - Mayor McDonough gave a brief synopsis of some key points of the municipality's 2022 budget, some of which include: \$16 annual increase in municipal taxes for the average taxpayer assessed at \$257,897, a 1.7% increase. The annual tax bill is broken down as follows: Municipal – 12%; County – 26% and School – 62%. The municipality was able to appropriate \$105,000 to the Capital Improvement Fund. Total annual spending appropriations for the town is \$1,820,852.

Mr. Ardito, the Township's auditor, spoke briefly about the budget and the great work the Committee and CFO did in putting it together especially given the circumstances of the economy. He also explained what a self-examination budget is (every 3 years, the State goes through our budget. In the off years, the municipality is able to do all of their own budget work and certify that they have met all the criteria for same).

The floor was then opened up to the public for discussion regarding the budget on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and all in favor. No comments from the public were given. On a motion by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and all in favor, the floor was closed to the public. Mayor McDonough asked for a motion to adopt the Hope Township 2022 Municipal Budget. Mr. Urfer motioned; Mr. Kruk seconded. Committee polled: Kruk - yes; Urfer – yes; McDonough – yes. Budget adopted.

Use of Facility Request – Tina Ritchie (Kaleidoscope Productions) submitted all the appropriate paperwork to be able to begin using the Grange for her theater productions/acting classes. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and all in favor, this request was granted by the Township Committee.

Public Participation:

Elise Hoffman was in attendance to ask the status on soil testing on properties near her on CR 521. The Committee gave her a brief update that the Township engineer is involved and speaking with the Township attorney and is putting together correspondence at the Committee's request. This is in ongoing litigation, so very little discussion can be held on it at this time.

Tom Bodolsky was in attendance to discuss the drainage issue on Lake Just It Road that Mr. Whitmore notated in his report. Also spoke about the truck traffic issue and asked if there is anything he can do to prompt the project along.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 5:16 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Keggan, RMC
Municipal Clerk