

APRIL 29, 2019
BUDGET MEETING

A Budget Work meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 4:30 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. Kathleen Reinalda, CFO and Municipal Clerk Judith Fisher were also present.

Under the provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act", adequate notice of the meeting had been provided by publishing notice in the New Jersey Herald by posting notice in the Hope Post Office and on the Township bulletin boards and the Township Web Site.

Sharon Cooper from PAIC was in attendance to speak to the Township Committee about procedures going forward that need to be put in place when the Township is going to sponsor an event for the public and provide coverage under the Township insurance.

Discussion took place regarding the upcoming May Faire and the events/safety precautions that have been put into place for the event (i.e., the bonfire). After discussion, Ms. Cooper was satisfied with the handling of the event and the Township Committee approved to have it be a sanctioned event sponsored by Hope Township. Motion was made by Mr. Urfer to approved the sanctioning of the event under Hope Township, seconded by Mr. Kruk. All in favor.

Discussion took place regarding the 250th celebration that is coming up in September. There will not be a "regular" Township picnic this year. Rather, the picnic will be open to the public (with Hope Township residents getting wristbands that will allow them to be eligible for certain things) this year and a closing ceremony will be sponsored by the Township in the picnic's place with the possibility of a small bonfire and bring your own food. A registration form will be available online and in the municipal building where people can RSVP to the event, purchase calendars, order t-shirts. Mr. Urfer motioned that approval of up to \$2,000 be made to cover the cost of banners being ordered for the middle of town; Mr. Kruk seconded. Roll call: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

Bud Klauder was in attendance to discuss the upcoming Township Fishing Derby. It will be held May 19, 2019 rain or shine. A budget of \$800 is proposed and a motion was made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk to approve same. Roll call: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

Preparation of the 2019 Local Municipal Budget

Kathleen Reinalda spoke about the budget and the numbers that she had prepared for this meeting. The salary increase was decreased from 2 ½% down to 2%. Some concessions were put into place in order to try to appropriate some money towards the hiring of another FT DPW person for the Township.

Capital was discussed. Right now \$95,000 is in that line, with \$75,000 being earmarked to be put towards the new fire truck; approximately \$15,000 towards the dump truck bed and

approximately \$5,000 towards a blower. Discussion took place about raising the capital budget to \$115,000 in order to accommodate some sections of road that need attention in the Township (Heller Hill since Blairstown is paving their portion, Lake Just-It and North Locust Lake). It is estimated it would take about \$20,000 to repair these roads.

Vacant property registration ordinance is in the works and will raise some revenue for the Township that will help to keep taxes down.

The Township is discussing a $\frac{1}{2}$ cent reduction in the tax rate (to try to help offset the 3 cent raise in the school's budget) and a $\frac{1}{4}$ cent reduction in the Open Space tax for a total overall reduction $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cent in the tax rate.

Municipal Court budget is staying flat with the exception of the need to purchase a new recorder (approximately \$5,000).

Anthony Ardito will be in attendance at a meeting to be held on May 7, 2019 at 4:30 to finalize figures for the budget.

Chris Rusin made a note at the end of the meeting that she appreciates the Township Committee's efforts working with the budget to try to give a little bit back to the taxpayers.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 P.M. on a motion made by Committeeman Urfer, seconded by Committeeman Kruk. The motion was carried and a voice vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Fisher, RMC
Municipal Clerk