

**AUGUST 11, 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; Don Whitmore, DPW Foreman; Patti Whitmore, Assistant Public Events Coordinator and Ted Rodman, Township Engineer.

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 Express Times NJ 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

Payment of Bills: Receipts received for July 2021 \$6,600.08

Bills totaling \$836,902.17 for the month of August. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and roll called as follows: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough.

Reports:

Tax Collector: \$146,556.53 July 2021 collections \$3,283,951.07 Y-T-D collections.

Animal Control: On file with clerk.

Municipal Clerk: Provided emails received from 2 Hope residents regarding chemical spraying of guardrails in town, in particular on Shiloh Road. The Shiloh Road guardrails will not be sprayed. Mr. Kruk recommended that if the residents follow up with the clerk, she direct them to phone him. The Municipal Court also provided their monthly financial report for July, which is on file in the clerk's office should anyone like to see it. Clerk also reported that the HVFD applied for their social permit (for beer truck at Township picnic) through the State and that she has signed off on same. Also reported that Storm Orlena project with FEMA is well underway and she is currently working with her FEMA liaison. Discussed September 22, 2021 meeting as she will be away on vacation that week.

Committeeman Urfer:

Mr. Urfer made a motion for Ms. Sobon to begin working on and order the 2022 Hope calendars (150 approved). Seconded by Mr. Kruk. Roll call: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes. Also requested that Mr. Whitmore order "No Truck" signs for Hickory Street. Discussion took place regarding the Planner and how to handle them attending meetings, etc. moving forward. Discussed the Warren County Planning Board meeting and what has been going on with Jaindl. Mention was made of perhaps writing a letter in opposition to the packaging plant they are looking to have constructed.

Deputy Mayor John Kruk:

Mr. Kruk reported that there are discussions going on with Frelinghuysen Township and their contribution to the HVFD. He asked for figures from the clerk that will be sent over to the Frelinghuysen Committee so they have a better understanding of the costs involved in running the HVFD. Leading up to the purchase of the new engine last year, Frelinghuysen had committed to outfitting that new vehicle since Hope Township was purchasing the vehicle. Depending upon the outcome of a donation, a letter may need to be sent to the Frelinghuysen Committee. Mr. Kruk also made mention that two weedwhackers should be purchased with the scrap metal money from the DPW yard. The Township Committee agreed via motion made by Mr. Urfer; Seconded by Mr. Kruk. Roll Call: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes;

Mayor McDonough – yes. 9/11 monument to be dedicated at 10 am on September 11, 2021. More information will be forthcoming and invitations will be personally sent to contributors of the memorial.

Mayor Timothy McDonough:

Reported that he will be (hopefully) speaking with the Judge of NW Municipal Court next week regarding the possibility of regionalization coming down the line. The court personnel put together a report of what makes the NW Municipal Court desirous to become a regional court. Noted that the ad hoc Traffic Committee may be going to the next Warren County Commissioner’s meeting to discuss ideas regarding truck traffic in the center of Hope. DOT is still working on this issue as well. Bill Gleba, County Engineer, would like to revisit the crosswalks in Hope Center and a possible meeting with the Township Committee, Mr. Beatty, Mr. Gleba and Ted Rodman may be in the future regarding this.

Township Engineer Report: Ridgeway Avenue preconstruction meeting was had. Set to begin paving week of September 20, 2021. The cost of asphalt has risen \$7/ton which will increase the project roughly \$7,000. Mr. Rodman and Mr. Whitmore will meeting to discuss the cost and its impact on the project. Hissim Road estimate was given to the Committee for the 2022 grant. There are several steep sections on the road, which the Engineer recommends have guiderail installed. The cost of the guiderail is roughly \$52,000. The cost for Section 2 of Hissim is \$84,468. Shiloh Road – soil importation matter is being dealt with. The residents importing soil need to bring an application and fees into the Zoning Official. The township engineer will look over the soil analytics at that time.

DPW/Road Dept:

Mr. Whitmore gave an update on what has been accomplished since the last meeting. Hydrant at Swayze was completed; roadside mowing ongoing; trees cut on Cemetery due to storm; M CCP sheets were filled out and handed into the clerk; cleaned up flash flooding damage on Shiloh and Ridgeway; road tour with the Committee; light tower picked up and delivered for HVFD picnic; light tower returned after the picnic; worked on Storm Orleana FEMA project with clerk; pre-construction meeting for Ridgeway and met with South State paving regarding Ridgeway; township picnic preparation.

Ordinances – Introduction and Read by Title Only:

Motioned by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. All in favor to introduce.

2021-08
AN ORDINANCE FIXING AND DETERMINING THE SALARIES, WAGES OR
COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO THE
OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE,
COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2021

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

SECTION 1. The salaries, wages or compensation of the following officers and employees of the Township of Hope are hereby fixed and determined for the calendar year 2021, retroactive to January 1, 2021 at the amounts set forth herein below:

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|--|-----------------------|
| A. Mayor | \$ 3,115.00 per annum |
| B. Committeeman (not serving as Mayor) | \$ 2,750.00 per annum |
| C. Municipal Clerk/Registrar | \$65,025.00 per annum |
| D. Deputy Municipal Clerk/Registrar | \$ 19.58 per hour |

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| E. Chief Financial Officer | \$13,330.00 per annum |
| F. Treasurer | \$ 5,917.00 per annum |
| G. Qualified Purchasing Agent | \$ 1.00 per annum |
| H. Collector of Taxes | \$25,875.00 per annum |
| I. Deputy Tax Collector | \$ 2,481.00 per annum |
| J. Tax Search Officer | \$ 3,404.00 per annum |
| K. Assessor of Taxes | \$19,363.00 per annum |
| L. Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator | \$ 1,725.00 per annum |
| M. Public Works Foreman | \$ 30.89 per hour |
| N. DPW Laborer | \$ 20.01 per hour |
| O. Equipment Operator PT/Seasonal | \$ 19.72 per hour |
| P. Code Enforcement Officer | \$10,404.00 per annum |
| Q. Christmas Market/Public Events Coordinator | \$ 9,276.00 per annum |
| R. Assistant Public Events Coordinator | \$ 14.50 per hour |
| S. Animal Control Officer | \$ 7,205.00 per annum |
| | \$ 24.03 per hour/court |
| T. Dog Licensing Clerk | \$ 721.00 per annum |
| U. Temporary Clerical Assistant | \$ 15.92 per hour |
| V. Custodian | \$ 14.50 per hour |
| W. Secretary to the Planning Board | \$13,000.00 per annum |
| | \$ 173.00 per meeting |
| X. Secretary to the Zoning Board of Adjustment | \$ 4,750.00 per annum |
| | \$ 173.00 per meeting |
| Y. Secretary to the Historic Preservation Commission | \$ 1,567.00 per annum |
| Z. Secretary to the Environmental Commission | \$ 1,537.00 per annum |
| AA. Sports Director | |
| (a) Soccer Director | \$ 3,243.00 per annum |
| (b) Basketball Director | \$ 3,934.00 per annum |
| (c) Baseball/Softball Director | \$ 4,724.00 per annum |
| BB. Court Administrator | \$50,000.00 per annum |
| | \$ 63.25 per call out |
| CC. Deputy Court Administrator/Violations Clerk | \$ 24.52 per hour |
| DD. Court Reporter | \$ 24.52 per hour |
| EE. Violations Clerk: | \$ 18.30 per hour |
| FF. Municipal Court Prosecutor | \$ 511.00 per session |
| GG. Municipal Court Judge | \$29,822.00 per annum |
| HH. Municipal Court Treasurer | \$ 4,186.00 per annum |
| II. Municipal Court Officer – Level I | \$ 136.00 per session |
| JJ. Municipal Court Officer – Level II | \$ 28.28 per hour |

SECTION II: If any selection, clause, sentence, or other part of this Ordinance shall, for any reason, be adjudged by the Court of Competent Jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this Ordinance.

SECTION III. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency, only.

SECTION IV. This Ordinance shall take effect and shall become operative twenty (20) days after publication thereof, after final adoption; unless within said twenty (20) days a petition signed by voters of the Township equal in number to at least five (5) percent of the registered voters of said Hope Township, protesting against the adoption of this Ordinance be presented to the Hope Township Committee, in which case the provisions of Section I of this Ordinance, which provides for increased salaries, wages or compensations of the elected officials, shall remain inoperative unless and until a proposition for the ratification of such portions of this Ordinance shall be adopted at an election by a majority of voters voting on said proposition.

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 August 11 at 7:00 P.M. 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 September 8, 2021 at 7:00 P.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, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance

Ordinances – Public Session and Adoption

Motion made to Open to the Public for Discussion: Mr. Urfer 1st; Mr. Kruk 2nd. All in favor.

No public comment.

Motion made to close to the public. Mr. Urfer 1st; Mr. Kruk 2nd. All in favor.

**ORDINANCE 2021-07
CALENDAR YEAR 2021**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE PROVIDING FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF \$45,000.00 FOR ‘2022 FORD F350 REGULAR CAB 4X4 PICK-UP’ FROM THE GENERAL CAPITAL – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

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

1. The sum of **\$45,000.00** shall be appropriated for the following items, from the Capital Improvements Budget for the year 2021

OEM/DPW 2022 Ford F350 Pick-Up Truck - \$45,000.00
2. The sum of \$45,000.00 is available in the Capital Improvement Fund
3. The appropriation herewith does not authorize any debt of the Township of Hope.
4. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately on final passage and publication as provided by law.

Motion: Mr. Urfer
Second: Mr. Kruk

Roll Call:

Committeeman Kruk: Yes Committeeman Urfer: Yes Mayor McDonough: Yes

Ordinance passed.

RESOLUTIONS

HOPE TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF WARREN STATE OF NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION IN APPRECIATION OF
JANET D. MILITA, PRINCIPAL – HOPE TOWNSHIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
RESOLUTION 2021-48

WHEREAS, Janet D. Milita, who served as Hope Township Elementary School’s Principal from October 2007 through August 2011, has passed away after a long and brave journey with cancer; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Milita held many roles as an educator, one being the Principal of Hope Township Elementary School, where she was a tireless advocate on behalf of the children of Hope Township, always putting her dedication and humanism into the education profession; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Milita dedicated countless hours in serving not only school communities, but also volunteering at various animal shelters, shelters for battered women and the Hunterdon County Public Library; and,

WHEREAS, the light and love she projected to her family members and close friends will be sorely missed, as well as her love of all things purple. The title of this Resolution reflects her love of that color.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Hope Township Committee, that Mrs. Milita be remembered and honored by the residents of the Hope Township community, especially by those who were touched directly by her as a student, parent or staff member at Hope Township Elementary School. May she be at peace, and may she be always carried in the hearts of those whose lives she touched.

Motion made by Mr. Urfer to adopt; seconded by Mr. Kruk. All in favor.

TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THIRD QUARTER 2021
PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT GRACE PERIOD
RESOLUTION NO. 2021-49

WHEREAS, the Warren County Board of Taxation did not strike the 2021 Hope Township property tax rate until July 22nd resulting in late billing of Hope Township taxpayers for the last half of 2021 and first half of 2022 property taxes; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-64, Delivery of Tax Bills, provides that bills must be mailed or delivered no less than 25 days prior to the end of the grace period and Hope Township tax bills were mailed to taxpayers on July 23rd.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope on this 11th day of August 2021 that the Tax Collector be authorized to set the deadline of the extended third quarter 2021 tax payment grace period to August 17, 2021.

Motion made to adopt by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. Roll call: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

Old Business:

Internet – process is still ongoing with Optimum running line to residents in Hope Township.

Traffic Study – Ad hoc committee is working on ways to draw more attention to the truck traffic in town. Members may be attending the next Committee meeting in September 2021.

New Business:

Members of Public:

Members of the public sought clarification of the Shiloh Road soil importation matter as she lives on that road. Also, member of the public asked for update regarding speed bumps on Ridgeway Avenue. The speed bump (portable) is still being looked into or possibly using the speed/radar sign from NJSP once it is repaired. Ms. Rhinesmith also noted that the Warren County History Walk is on 11/6-11/7/2021 and that Hope Township will take part in that and that the Creative Team is putting together a “Putz” (German origin) nativity scene for the Lantern Tour.

Old Union Brick Road was discussed with the resident who lives on that road. It was decided that the DPW will use the old HVFD truck to try to blow open the drains to see if that helps to alleviate the water runoff issues. The Township engineer may need to do a report of the water running onto Old Union Brick from the Blirstown side per the Township attorney’s advice. The resident will be meeting with Mr. Whitmore and Mr. Rodman in the coming days/weeks to discuss this further. Resident also stated he would call Blirstown Township to speak to the Road Department liaison regarding the water runoff from their municipality.

Ms. Sobon discussed the Township picnic and her commission’s activity(ies) that day. Also discussed the Forestry Management Resolution from Washington Borough in relation to the State’s legislation. Asked about the possibility of trying to publish Resolutions/Ordinances ahead of meetings.

Approval of Minutes: The July 14, 2021 Business; April 14, 2021 Executive; June 30, 2021 Executive; July 7, 2021 Executive and July 30, 2021 Special 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 8:46 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Keggan, RMC
Municipal Clerk