

AUGUST 12, 2020
BUSINESS 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, Committeeman Christopher John Kruk and Deputy Mayor Terry Urfer. Also present were Township Attorney Michael Selvaggi; Municipal Clerk, Robin Keggan, RMC; Deputy Clerk, Zondra Belstra; Ted Rodman, Township Engineer (Zoom) and Brielle Walsh, Events Coordinator/Sports Director.

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

Roll call: Mr. Urfer- present

Mr. Kruk – present

Mayor McDonough- present

Reports:

Mayor Tim McDonough: Spoke about the upcoming Hope Township events (Picnic; Halloween and Christmas Craft Market) and the fact that the Township is trying its best to make some of these happen in light of Covid-19. Details/final outcome to be determined. Also discussed that Service Electric was bought out by Altice and the Township Mayors are all trying to get better services for their municipalities. On a final note, Mayor McDonough noted that so far there are 4 soccer teams put together for Hope Township Recreation.

Committeeman Christopher John Kruk: .

Deputy Mayor Urfer: Spoke about the Welcome Wagon directories that Brielle Walsh is putting together for the Township and thanked her for all of her hard work.

Tax Collector's Report: July collections: \$638,877.26. YTD \$3,805,299.40

Health Department: No report filed with Clerk.

Hope Volunteer Fire Department Report: No report filed.

Township Engineer Report: Reported that core sampling is to be done in Hope Center on the roads that Tilcon just paved with the \$107,000 grant. The is being done on August 13, 2020. Josh Miller, Terry Urfer and Ted Rodman will all be present at coring and will fill in the holes in the pavement after core testing is done. The only work left to do in town center is to paint stop bars and parking space lines. Tilcon is looking into cost to install the bicycle grates and Ecobars for the town using the remaining grant monies. Also reported that Heller Hill is preliminarily set to be paved on Monday, August 17th. Made note that a bicycle grate/backstop on one of the storm drains needs to be upgraded by Hope Township on their portion, but that this will not hold up the paving project for Blairstown.

Payment of Bills: August bills totaled \$809,373.67. Receipts for July were \$43,249.98. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer and seconded by Mr. Kruk, the bills were approved for payment. Roll Call vote: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

RESOLUTIONS:

**RESOLUTION APPROVING LICENSE RENEWAL FOR THE
2020-2021 TERM LIQUOR LICENSE FOR
PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSE
NUMBER 2111-44-001-006
HOPE COUNTRY LIQUORS, LLC
RESOLUTION 2020-51**

WHEREAS, Hope Country Liquors, LLC t/a County Liquor Store holds a Plenary Distribution License #2111-44-001-006; and,

WHEREAS, the Hope Country Liquors, LLC. has filed an application to renew said license for the 2020-2021 license term; and,

WHEREAS, the application, fees and New Jersey Division of Taxation Clearance Certificate has been filed with the Municipal Clerk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the Plenary Retail Distribution License be renewed for Hope Country Liquors, LLC for the 2020-2021 license term.

Motion: Mr. Kruk

Second: Mr. Urfer

Roll Call:

Mr. Urfer – yes

Mr. Kruk – yes

Mayor McDonough – yes

Dated: August 12, 2020

**RESOLUTION #2020-52
RESOLUTION APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM
MUNICIPAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR
08/12/2020-12/31/2020**

WHEREAS, Carol Oleszek was hired on August 12, 2020 as the North Warren Municipal Court of Hope Municipal Court Administrator; and,

WHEREAS, Carol Oleszek is currently considered an Interim Municipal Court Administrator pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2B:12-11(e) since she was hired August 12, 2020 and does not hold a municipal court administrator certificate; and,

WHEREAS, the statute allows the governing body to appoint a person as Municipal Court Administrator that is not a certified Municipal Court Administrator, on an interim basis, for a period not to exceed one (1) year commencing on the date of the appointment (August 12, 2020); and,

WHEREAS, the statute further states, “Any person so appointed may, in consultation with the judge of the municipal court, be reappointed as a municipal court administrator, on an interim basis, for two (2) subsequent one-year terms. The municipal court administrator appointed on an interim basis may be reappointed for a fourth, and if necessary, a fifth additional one-year term, provided the municipal court administrator is currently enrolled in the certification program and need additional time to complete that program.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, Warren County, State of New Jersey, that it hereby appointed Carol Oleszek as Interim Municipal Court Administrator for a one-year term commencing August 12, 2020 and ending August 11, 2020.

Motion: Mr. Kruk

Second: Mr. Urfer

Roll Call:

Mr. Urfer – yes

Mr. Kruk – yes

Mayor McDonough – yes

RESOLUTION

#2020-53

RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR PHIL MURPHY TO REIMBURSE COUNTY GOVERNMENTS WITH POPULATIONS OF 500,000 RESIDENTS OR LESS WITH FEDERAL MONIES FROM THE CORONA VIRUS RELIEF FUND (CRF) UNDER THE CORONA VIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES INCURRED IN COMBATING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

WHEREAS, county governments have led the way on the front lines and played a vital role in providing essential services and protecting the public health, safety, and welfare of residents across the Garden State during this once in a generation pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, county governments have incurred substantial costs in responding to the COVID-19 public health crisis by operating test centers, purchasing and distributing personal protective equipment, hiring public nurses, implementing mitigation measures, disinfecting county facilities, sheltering homeless and at-risk individuals, managing correctional facilities, administering social services programs, conducting elections, and more; and,

WHEREAS, under the CARES Act, the State of New Jersey received \$2.5 billion in federal CRF monies to alleviate the staggering financial burden imposed by COVID-19 public health crisis and of which the United States Department of Treasury authorized to provide much-needed relief for local governing bodies that did not receive direct aid because their populations fell below 500,000 residents; and,

WHEREAS, The Treasurer of the State of New Jersey allocated \$250.0 million in CRF monies to the Local Government Relief Fund in the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to reimburse local governing bodies for COVID-19 related expenses but has yet to release any funding while county governments continue to spend millions in limited property taxpayer dollars battling the COVID-19 public health crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Hope Township Committee, County of Warren urge Governor Phil Murphy to reimburse counties with populations of 500,000 residents or less with federal monies from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for the extraordinary expenses incurred in combating the COVID-19 public health crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution are forwarded to the Governor of the State of New Jersey Phil Murphy; the President of the New Jersey State Senate Steve Sweeney; the Speaker of the General Assembly Craig Coughlin, the Congressional and the Legislative Delegations of Warren County, the Clerks of the Board of Chosen Freeholders in Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Mercer, Morris, Salem, Somerset, Sussex and Warren Counties, the

Municipal Clerks in each of the municipalities located within Warren County, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities and the New Jersey Association of Counties.

Motion: Mr. Kruk

Second: Mr. Urfer

Roll Call:

Mr. Urfer – yes

Mr. Kruk – yes

Mayor McDonough – yes

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION REFUNDING TAX SALE CERTIFICATE 2020-001
THAT WAS REDEEMED
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-55**

WHEREAS, the property owned by Kevin Trumpore known as block 900 lot 1103 located at 21 Great Meadows Road had unpaid 2019 property taxes and was sold at a Tax Sale held on 30 January 2020 by the Hope Township Tax Collector; and,

WHEREAS, Bala Partners, LLC of 17 West Cliff Street located in Somerville, NJ 08876 was the successful bidder of the above stated property. The amount of the Tax Sale consisted of unpaid 2019 property taxes, interest, and other costs, and totaled \$2,270.42 and is represented by Tax Sale Certificate 2020-001; and,

WHEREAS, Kevin Trumpore, the supposed owner of the property, paid \$9,170.42 on 04 August 2020 to the Hope Township Tax Collector to satisfy the outstanding Tax Sale Certificate, subsequent taxes, and current taxes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope on this 12th day of August 2020 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a check payable to Bala Partners, LLC in the amount of \$17,915.91 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate 2020-001 which includes the Tax Sale Certificate of \$6,915.91 and the return of a Tax Sale Premium of \$11,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the satisfied executed Tax Sale Certificate 2020-001 be returned to Kevin Trumpore of PO Box 421 in Hope, NJ 07822.

Motion: Mr. Kruk

Second: Mr. Urfer

Roll Call:

Mr. Urfer – yes

Mr. Kruk – yes

Mayor McDonough – yes

TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION REFUNDING TAX SALE CERTIFICATE 2020-002
THAT WAS REDEEMED
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-56

WHEREAS, the property owned by Kevin Trumpore known as block 900 lot 1106 located at 104 Hissim Road had unpaid 2019 property taxes and was sold at a Tax Sale held on 30 January 2020 by the Hope Township Tax Collector; and,

WHEREAS, Donna Marie of 375 Johnsonburg Road located in Blairstown, NJ 07825 was the successful bidder of the above stated property. The amount of the Tax Sale consisted of unpaid 2019 property taxes, interest, and other costs, and totaled \$427.31 and is represented by Tax Sale Certificate 2020-002; and,

WHEREAS, Kevin Trumpore, the supposed owner of the property, paid \$1,773.45 on 04 August 2020 to the Hope Township Tax Collector to satisfy the outstanding Tax Sale Certificate, subsequent taxes, and current taxes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope on this 12th day of August 2020 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a check payable to Donna Marie in the amount of \$1,352.73 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate 2020-002.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the satisfied executed Tax Sale Certificate 2020-002 be returned to Kevin Trumpore of PO Box 421 in Hope, NJ 07822.

Motion: Mr. Kruk

Second: Mr. Urfer

Roll Call:

Mr. Urfer – yes

Mr. Kruk – yes

Mayor McDonough – yes

TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION TO REFUND 2020 REAL ESTATE TAXES
BLOCK 2000, LOT 300
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-57

WHEREAS, the Wardens & Vestry of St Luke's Church owns a house located at 2 New Street known as block 2000, lot 300; and,

WHEREAS, third quarter 2020 property taxes were due in the amount of \$1,524.12 and on 16 July 2020 the Wardens & Vestry of St Luke's Church mistakenly paid \$5,124.12; and,

WHEREAS, the Wardens & Vestry of St Luke's Church has requested that the overpayment be refunded.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope on this 12th day of August 2020 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a check in the amount of \$3,600.00 payable to the Wardens & Vestry of St Luke's Church of 408 3rd Street located in Belvidere, NJ 07823 to refund the tax overpayment.

Motion: Mr. Kruk
Second: Mr. Urfer
Roll Call:

Mr. Urfer – yes
Mr. Kruk – yes
Mayor McDonough – yes

Old Business:

The Land Conservancy Agreement was revised and was re-submitted to the Township Committee for signature. The new Agreement has been revised to a cost of \$8,000 down from \$10,000. Mr. Urfer recommended that the Agreement be signed and submitted for payment after an approval letter from the Agricultural Advisory Board stating that they are in agreement. Motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk to move and pass Resolution. Resolution so moved. Roll Call: Mr. Urfer- yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

Traffic Study – Mayor McDonough gave a brief update relaying that the DOT Commissioner is scheduled to sit and meet with him within the next couple of weeks to go over the traffic study. Mr. Urfer asked that a speed study be done in the town center as well and discussion ensued about the possible purchase of a portable speed table. This will be discussed again at the September meeting.

Rain Barrel – The Hope Township Environmental Commission has requested permission to purchase a rain barrel (\$188) for some time now. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and roll called for passage – Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes – the Hope Township Environmental Commission is given to permission to purchase this.

Swayze Mill Pavilion – discussion took place regarding the possibility of a pavilion being put in place in Swayze Mill Park. The preliminary location of the pavilion is in the area where many people kayak, bird watch and fish. It was suggested by Mr. Kruk that a poll be put out to determine if residents are in favor of the pavilion being put in this location. It was also determined that the subcommittee for this project would still be authorized to work on the project (no money being spent).

New Business:

COAH – Mr. Selvaggi updated the Township Committee on their COAH obligations. He confirmed that the Township is in total compliance with the Agreement and mentioned that the Midpoint Report was distributed to the Township Committee in July which spells out all of the points of compliance. The conditions were imposed via an Agreement struck in September 2017. Reiterated that Hope Township is in very good shape where COAH is concerned. Mr. Urfer questioned Mr. Selvaggi whether the Township should be adding a fee on to certain building permits for COAH purposes. Mr. Selvaggi noted that this fee charge was approved through Resolution No. 2018-33. Mr. Urfer will look into this further.

POP Zone – Correspondence was sent to the Township Committee regarding making a change to conditional uses allowed in the POP Zone. Pete Peterson submitted correspondence asking that this be placed on the Committee's agenda. Mr. Selvaggi took several questions from the public regarding this issue and it was determined that this question was one that belonged before the Township's Planning Board as they are in charge of Master Plan Re-Exam (and recommending Ordinances that should be added/revised) and the process of examining a change to the POP Zone would need to start with them. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and roll called to move – Mr. Urfer –yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes, it was passed and the Township Clerk was asked to send

correspondence to the Hope Township Planning Board secretary asking that this matter be placed on their next agenda. All correspondence submitted to the Township Committee is to accompany this letter.

Raffle License 2020-10 - Hope Volunteer Fire Department submitted an application for Township approval to hold a raffle on December 6, 2020. All paperwork has been submitted to the clerk. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer and seconded by Mayor McDonough, this was moved to pass. Roll Call – Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – abstain; Mayor McDonough – yes.

Planet Networks – this subject was tabled until Mayor McDonough is able to have further discussions/presentation by the company on their intended plans.

Public Participation:

The public participation was noted above in the New Business heading as it pertained to the POP Zone.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the June 24, 2020 work session; June 24, 2020 Executive Session; July 8, 2020 Business meeting and July 8, 2020 Executive Session were approved on a motion by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk – all in favor.

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 5:29 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. Personnel

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: 5:29 PM

Present: Committeeman Kruk, Committeeman Urfer and Committeeman McDonough

Also Present: Robin Keggan, Municipal Clerk

Time Out: 5:37 PM

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

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 5:39 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Keggan, RMC
Municipal Clerk