

DECEMBER 12, 2018

The monthly business 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, Don Whitmore and Ted Rodman. Also present was Municipal Clerk, Judith Fisher, RMC.

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.

Reports:

Tax Collector: for month ending November 30, 2018 - \$963,416.82; YTD \$6,186,894.97

Warren County Health Department: 119 Nightingale – currently original well being used. Water test pending; Between 406-408 Main Street – complaint received concerning flooding due to possible broken water line, complaint forwarded to Zoning Official – no change in status. Route 80 MM 11.2 – Warren County Communications requested response to a rolled dump truck leaking fluids. It was hydraulic fluid but had not entered the storm drain. Absorbent material was used to clean up spill. US Gas inspected and received satisfactory rating. No Kennel Activity. Rabies – no activity. Recreational bathing – no activity. Septics/Wells – 1 septic repair application approved; 2 septic repairs installed; 1 septic alteration installed; 1 septic alteration application approved.

Mayor Tim McDonough: Received a call from Mayor of Blairstown re: a Mayor's meeting that was held last week re: towns in the NW School District. The State is looking into consolidation of school districts. Question is asked if Hope Township wanted to join the NW School district. Belvidere High School may be closed and those sending districts attending that high school will be split up. The numbers would have to be looked at as far as tuition per student. JCP&L meeting also was had in Knowlton with Mayors. They are intensifying their vegetation plan to clean up trees, etc. on a yearly basis now instead of every other year. Stan Prader will be at a Township meeting to update everyone. Spoke to Mrs. Conti regarding moving vehicles at end of N. Locust Lake for snowplowing.

Deputy Mayor Christopher John Kruk: Recreation discussion had re: team sizes/numbers. Possibility of merging Blairstown and Hope rec. This would be a potential savings to Hope Township. Just putting this on the town's radar (especially basketball) at this point.

Committeeman Terry Urfer: County Road Department meeting with Don re: 519 paving. Stopped due to the weather. A meeting will need to be scheduled with the County for the inlays by Hope Bank for when the center of Town is paved. Should meet with the Historic Commission re: this. Salt shed still needs to be dealt with. Don and Mr. Urfer spoke about the potential budget for 2019 for DPW. Cabinets that need to be moved were discussed. All the equipment needs to be listed on MuniBid still. Snowplowing drivers were discussed as far as people who have applied. Community Use sign discussed. Discussion took place regarding farms in preservation and the map that was obtained. \$155,000 will be in our account soon. No farms in the queue as of now for preservation. Maybe use this money to maintain our Open Space? Ag Board sent out a flyer to targeted farms.

Mrs. Fisher: Insurance updates need to be done ASAP. Don and Judy will sit together and update things together.

Don Whitmore: Metal stakes on Union Brick Road was discussed. Letter needs to be sent asap as those stakes need to be taken out as they are a danger. Mr. Selvaggi was asked to send the letter, Mayor McDonough will follow up. Right-to-Know inspection was discussed, Judy Fisher hasn't received anything as of yet as far as a report from them. We need to get quotes for snowplowing for the first of the year (hourly rates for when the stand-bys are needed). Specs need to be written up. Will be posted on website, post office, Facebook.

Fire Department Report: Number of calls November – 18; Man hours – 149.35. Special detail 5; Total man hours - 51; Night Man hours 96. Total man hours for November 296.35.

Township Engineer Report: Osmun Road was inspected by the State, all the bills are in. \$115,000 was total grant. We spent \$107,000. Mayor McDonough asked if we can use the leftover money for guardrails or anything else. Birch Ridge was inspected. There are 9 catch basins (all grates needs to be replaced). Prices coming in. \$133,000 was the grant for Birch Ridge. \$7,000 over on cost for the paving (asphalt price adjustment). We will be close on the cost of this road with the grant (we were allotted \$140,000). Parking Ordinance – not being sent to Mr. Selvaggi until final changes are made. Adding 2 more speed limit signs to Hissim Road and Shiloh Road, as well as stop signs on Shiloh. Parking Ordinance by Hope Market is done. Email sent from Robin Kegan re: fence that backs up to Route 80 on a resident’s property being taken down. Contractor needs to be contacted re: this so that the fence can be put back in place.

Old Business:

Verizon Nodes: No change in status.

Benbrook & Stevens: Easement at the Distillery – no change. Estimated amount was \$17,900 of which we would pay one-third of. Send letter reminding them this is the amount we would agree to pay.

Marvin Fish: Need to do a letter of thank you.

New Business:

Billie McKenna’s Foundation – 5k run – Just an FYI.

Payment of Bills:

Receipts \$17,333.45; Bills \$58,447.06. Christmas Craft Market \$5,202.00.

Motion was made by Mr. Urfer, (Minus Ch. No. 1790) seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried

Roll Call Vote: Mayor McDonough – yes. Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – abstain;

Mr. McDonough motioned for Check No. 1790 to be paid, seconded by Mr. Urfer. Motion carried

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Urfer, yes. Mr. Kruk, yes. Mayor McDonough, yes.

RESOLUTION 2018-65:

Motion was made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried to adopt Resolution 2018-65. and allow Mayor McDonough to sign quit claim deeds.

Roll call: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough - yes.

**RESOLUTION 2018-65
AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY
THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE AND NOT REQUIRED FOR
PUBLIC PURPOSES AND MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS
BLOCK 4400, LOT 200**

WHEREAS, the Local Lands and Buildings Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.2 requires that whenever a municipality intends to sell real property which is less than the minimum size required for development under the municipal zoning ordinance and is without any capital improvements thereon, it shall accord the owner or owners of any contiguous to such real property the right of prior refusal to purchase such land; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope is the owner of certain real property known as Block 4400, Lot 200 located in the Township with the mailing address of 4 Prospect Avenue, Blairstown, New Jersey 07825; and

WHEREAS, Block 4400, Lot 200 is less than the minimum size required for development under the municipal zoning ordinance and the property is without any capital improvements; and

WHEREAS, said property is not needed for public use and the Township Committee has determined that it is in the best interest of the Township to sell the property; and

WHEREAS, the Township sent letters to the adjacent property owners offering the property for sale; and

WHEREAS, Joseph R. Marone was the only resident who submitted an offer to purchase the property for \$1000.00; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that:

1. The property known as Block 4400, Lot 200 was offered to all contiguous property owners as required by N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.2.
2. The said property shall be sold to Joseph Marone, 6 Prospect Avenue Blairstown, New Jersey 07825, who was the only contiguous owner to submit a bid.
3. In furtherance of said conveyance, the Township Committee authorizes the Mayor to sign any and all necessary legal documents.
3. If any section or provision of this Resolution shall be held invalid in any court of competent jurisdiction, the same shall not affect the other sections or provisions of this Resolution, except so far as the section of the provision so declared invalid shall be inseparable from the remainder or any portion thereof.

RESOLUTION 2018-66:

Motion was made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried to adopt Resolution 2018-66 And allow Mayor McDonough to sign quit claim deeds.

Roll call: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes

**RESOLUTION 2018-66
AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY
THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE AND NOT REQUIRED FOR
PUBLIC PURPOSES AND MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS
BLOCK 2700, LOT 3512**

WHEREAS, the Local Lands and Buildings Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.2 requires that whenever a municipality intends to sell real property which is less than the minimum size required for development under the municipal zoning ordinance and is without any capital improvements thereon, it shall accord the owner or owners of any contiguous to such real property the right of prior refusal to purchase such land; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope is the owner of certain real property known as Block 2700, Lot 3512 located in the Township with the mailing address of 45 Far View Road, Great Meadows, New Jersey 07838; and

WHEREAS, Block 2700, Lot 3512 is less than the minimum size required for development under the municipal zoning ordinance and the property is without any capital improvements; and

WHEREAS, said property is not needed for public use and the Township Committee has determined that it is in the best interest of the Township to sell the property; and

WHEREAS, the Township sent letters to the adjacent property owners offering the property for sale; and

WHEREAS, Christopher Beatty was the only resident qualified who submitted the minimum offer to purchase the property for \$501.00; a second bid was submitted which was below the minimum bid and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that:

1. The property known as Block 2700, Lot 3512 was offered to all contiguous property owners as required by N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.2.
2. The said property shall be sold to Christopher Beatty, 2 Birch Ridge Drive, Great Meadows, New Jersey 07838, who submitted the highest bid.
3. In furtherance of said conveyance, the Township Committee authorizes the Mayor to sign any and all necessary legal documents.

3. If any section or provision of this Resolution shall be held invalid in any court of competent jurisdiction, the same shall not affect the other sections or provisions of this Resolution, except so far as the section of the provision so declared invalid shall be inseparable from the remainder or any portion thereof.

RESOLUTION 2018-67:

Motion was made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried to adopt Resolution 2018-67 and allow Mayor McDonough to sign quit claim deeds.

Roll call: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes

**RESOLUTION 2018-67
AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY
THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE AND NOT REQUIRED FOR
PUBLIC PURPOSES AND MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS
BLOCK 2700, LOT 1200**

WHEREAS, the Local Lands and Buildings Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.2 requires that whenever a municipality intends to sell real property which is less than the minimum size required for development under the municipal zoning ordinance and is without any capital improvements thereon, it shall accord the owner or owners of any contiguous to such real property the right of prior refusal to purchase such land; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope is the owner of certain real property known as Block 2700, Lot 1200 located in the Township with the mailing address of 8 Beaver Road, Blairstown, New Jersey 07825; and

WHEREAS, Block 2700, Lot 1200 is less than the minimum size required for development under the municipal zoning ordinance and the property is without any capital improvements; and

WHEREAS, said property is not needed for public use and the Township Committee has determined that it is in the best interest of the Township to sell the property; and

WHEREAS, the Township sent letters to the adjacent property owners offering the property for sale; and

WHEREAS, Brielle Walsh and Don Whitmore were the only residents who submitted an offer to purchase the property for \$510.00; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that:

1. The property known as Block 2700, Lot 1200 was offered to all contiguous property owners as required by N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.2.

2. The said property shall be sold to Brielle Walsh and Don Whitmore, 10 Beaver Road, Blairstown, NJ 07825.

3. In furtherance of said conveyance, the Commission authorizes the Mayor to sign any and all necessary legal documents.

3. If any section or provision of this Resolution shall be held invalid in any court of competent jurisdiction, the same shall not affect the other sections or provisions of this Resolution, except so far as the section of the provision so declared invalid shall be inseparable from the remainder or any portion thereof.

RESOLUTION 2018-68:

Motion was made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried to adopt Resolution 2018-68.

Roll call: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes

**RESOLUTION 2018-68
MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE DEDR GRANT TO JUNE 2020**

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community,

parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Warren;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

The Township Committee does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Hope Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2020 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$ 3,042.00
Cash Match	\$ 913.00
In-Kind	\$ 2,282.00

The Township Committee acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

Public Participation:

House fire in town. The community is coming together to help the Belstra family out and the Township Committee is strongly urging the community to be as generous as possible.

Approval of Minutes: August 8, 2018; September 12, 2018 and October 10, 2018.

Motion made by Mr. Urfer to approve the above minutes; 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 8:20 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Fisher RMC
Municipal Clerk