

DECEMBER 13, 2017

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 George Beatty, and Committeeman Christopher John Kruk. Also present were Municipal Clerk, Judith Fisher, RMC, Ted Rodman, P.E. Township Engineer and Don Whitmore, DPW Supervisor.

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 and The Star Gazette and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township bulletin boards. The flag was saluted and roll call taken.

PUBLIC:

Joy Neubauer was present speaking about both parking a traffic issue concerns. Mayor McDonough noted that adjacent to her establishment on Cedar Street a rock wall was taken out by a truck and was replaced by Nancy Treible and bollards were installed. According to the ordinance, parking is prohibited on the south side of Cedar Street from Walnut to Hickory. The Committee has discussed making it one-way and prohibiting trucks from using the road.

Joy Neubauer expressed concern with designating the road one-way as it would not solve the problem and would be an inconvenience for both customers and area residents. She felt the issue on the road is speeding and if that could be dealt with and slowed down that would be the best solution. She stated very few trucks use the road.

Joy Neubauer suggested denying parking on the side of her building to address traffic congestion; parking would remain by the barn. If parking is removed on both sides of the street, there would be very limited parking for customers. Mr. Rodman suggested limiting the parking to short-term. The Committee considered making it a one-way because they felt this would slow vehicles down. The problem stems from Mt. Hermon up the road and Joy Neubauer suggested a stop sign on that road to slow people down. Following further discussion, the Committee agreed the following signs would be installed: NO PARKING (against the building); NO BLOCKING DRIVEWAYS; NO TRUCKS PERMITTED EXCEPT FOR LOCAL DELIVERIES. A stop sign would also be installed and all would be enforced. Mr. Selvaggi will be asked to review the matter and draft an amendment to the ordinance.

Douglas Tighe was present on behalf of the school board. He stated as part of their five-year plan, the school would like to replace the school marquis and would like guidance from the town on how to approach the matter and also be respectful of the neighbors and overall historic area. Douglas Tighe would like it to be aesthetic but still get noticed, possibly digital. Mr. Beatty noted as the property is located in the historic district, permission would be necessary from Historic Commission. It would affect two neighbors and he suggested placing the sign on a timer. The township may be interested in sharing the sign with the school and Douglas Tighe agreed to discuss it with the school board at their upcoming meeting.

Monica Sobon – felt there are ways of getting out 21st century information while keeping in a particular style with respect to the historical aspect of the community.

Someone has a volunteer interested in playing the organ at the church but he would like to know if there is heat in the church as there has not been

Chris Maier suggested during budget and insurance review, the town should identify the individuals doing the luminary tour for liability purposes. Mayor McDonough had looked into it and it could not be insured, however a rider could be added by the town which would be expensive or the group could obtain insurance.

Betsy Peterson was present as a Planning Board member, noting she has been member for 12 years and it has been an honor. She has never had a problem being the only female member in the past but this year

feels it is not balanced in that respect. She requested as positions open, the Committee should seek women in the community to serve and she can make recommendations if needed.

Engineer Report:

Stormwater Management. – Hope Elementary School will hold a program on Tuesday, December 19th – five points; 170 free activity books will be distributed to meet handout requirement of 2 points; information posts at the Municipal Building and on the website earned one point each for a total of 9 points – seven hours. A form letter will be sent to detention basin owners regarding maintenance of such and will earn an additional 3 points.

Jenny Jump Overlay: The work has been completed and Mr. Rodman is currently working on change orders and certifications for final payment. No yellow line was installed.

Ridgeway Avenue Fill Material: Mr. Rodman has been in contact with Tony Gomes, the contractor for the project. Test results were forwarded to Kevin at the Warren County Health Department who will forward them to NJDEP. Mr. Rodman would like an LSRP sign off on the material. The contractor felt an alternative solution would be to remove the material; Mr. Rodman was not in favor of doing so. At this point, the contractor is cooperating and working on the issue.

Generator: Only one bid was submitted by Wire's and it was under the FEMA amount.

Wire's - \$14750.00; FEMA has allowed for \$15,000.

Salt Shed:

Three bids were received and RAM Buildings Inc. was the low bidder at \$102,800. The Committee questioned who was the low bidder based on the two options offered and felt clarification was needed.

The low bidder will be determined by Mr. Selvaggi based on the specifications.

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to reject the three bids received and negotiate with the lowest bidder to obtain a more suitable cost for the township, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

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

Chris Maier referred to the Jenny Jump overlay project, stating there were a number of overlays in 2017 and he asked if they had all been completed. Mr. Rodman stated there is only one other overlay project and that is for Birch Ridge scheduled for 2018.

PAYMENT OF BILLS AND RECEIPTS:

Mr. Kruk reviewed the receipts for November 2017 - Total: \$15,625.32

Mr. Beatty reviewed the bills list – Total: \$376,421.01

Following review of the bill list, Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to pay the bills, \$376,421.01, holding the payment for the bills submitted by Heyer, Gruele & Associates PA, and Brian D'Aconti, LLC, as more information and itemization of bills are needed, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

Discussion: Mayor McDonough would like final approval from Mr. Motyka, Tax Assessor, prior to paying D'Aconti and he would like back up from Heyer and Gruele as well as a total amount.

Mr. Kruk asked to hold PO #18435 for his league reimbursement until a history is obtained.

Mr. Beatty stated he spoke with Mr. Motyka, Tax Assessor, who informed him that D'Aconti missed 60 houses. Mr. Motyka has agreed to complete those assessments on his own time, out of his own pocket.

Mr. Kruk recommended deducting the cost from the total due to D'Aconti and noted both he and Mr. Motyka were very disappointed. Mr. Motyka would request a two-week extension to complete the process.

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

Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Tax Collector: – November 2017 - \$1,008,824.82; year to date - \$6,104,076.33

Collection Rate: 95.62%

Zoning Officer:

The Committee received a memo from Mr. Boesze regarding the following matters:

-Ordinance for Soil Removal and Importation – Schedule A cannot be located. The Committee suggested contacting Warren County to see if they have a Schedule A as they have handled such matters in the past.

-Bridgeville Road Violation: The Zoning Officer inquired if the Committee would like the matter closed at this time. The Committee agreed.

Warren County Health Department:

119 Nightingale Road – Well drilled without permit. (NJDEP has ordered that it be sealed and a new well drilled) Currently using the original well. Property owner reported that it was now yielding a sufficient amount of water. The new well has not been put into operation. No change in status.

329 High Street – Expansion of use beyond the approved septic capacity. No change in status.

34 Ridgeway Avenue – Truckloads of fill. No change in status.

252 Shiloh Road – House demolition; (The septic abandonment was witnessed and found to be satisfactory). A letter was sent requiring the abandoned well to be properly decommissioned. No change in status.

Rabies Report: One dog bite was reported. The dog was quarantined and released after the required 10-day period. One kitten was reported to have bite wounds of unknown origin. A four-month advisory notice was issued.

Food Establishment: No activity.

Kennels: No activity.

Recreational Bathing: No activity.

Youth Camps: No activity.

Campgrounds: No activity.

Septics/Wells: One septic alteration application was approved; one septic repair was installed.

Department of Agriculture: Notice received indicating there were no major infestations detected during the fall gypsy moth egg mass survey.

Court: Mary Pat Pfeil has satisfactorily completed the Principles of Municipal Court Administration Introduction Program.

Facilities Use Request: Billy McKenna's Foundation - 5K Run for Toys- 4/28/18 – Swayze Mill Park
A certificate of insurance will be provided prior to the event.

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to approve the facility request form and waive the fee, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kruk, yes, Mr. Beatty, yes, Mayor McDonough, yes
Motion carried.

Mayor McDonough:

COAH is moving forward, waiting for the final plan from Heyer and Gruele to be turned over to the court. The Committee will have to discuss assessing fees on future development. A public hearing will be held once everything is received back from Heyer and Gruele.

Christmas Craft Market:

Mayor McDonough heard from several residents that it was the best fair yet. He commended Patty Whitmore and she will provide an accounting at a future Committee meeting.

Lantern Tour: The tour was a huge success and wonderful event.

Committeeman Beatty:

Kim Tighe asked about a conflict with baseball - April 28th – event is 9 a.m.-12 noon – games will be rescheduled. Mrs. Fisher noted parking was difficult last year and she asked if one section could be blocked off, possibly using cones. The Committee agreed to look into the matter.

Information was received from the Land Conservancy regarding the Planned Incentive Grant application.

Agricultural Board: Two applications may be back now that ordinance has been reworded.

Environmental Commission:

Monica Sobon reported the Green Fair will be held on April 14th at the school.

On behalf of the Environmental Commission, she thanked the Township Committee and staff for their support. She thanked Mr. Beatty and praised him on his work with the Environmental Commission and for his service.

Committeeman Christopher John Kruk:

Mr. Kruk commended the events team on the success of both the tree lighting and Christmas Craft Fair.

Municipal Clerk: Correspondence on file in Clerk's Office

2017-59 Municipal Alliance Grant Cycle – July 2018

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:

1. The Township Committee does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Hope/White Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2019 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$ 3,342.00
Cash Match	\$ 1,003.00
In-Kind	\$ 2,507.00
2. The Township Committee acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

APPROVED: _____
Timothy McDonough, Mayor, Hope Township

CERTIFICATION

I, Judith Fisher, RMC, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of a resolution duly authorized by the Township Committee on this 13th day of December, 2017.

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to adopt Resolution 2017-59, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kruk, yes, Mr. Beatty, yes, Mayor McDonough, yes
Motion carried.

2017-60 Chapter 159 – Radon Grant - \$2,000

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2017 BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948)

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount, thereof, was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation for equal amount,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2017 in the sum of \$2,000.00, Radon Awareness Program (RAP) Grant, which is now available from the 'Department of Environmental Protection, Radon Awareness Program (RAP).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a like sum of \$2,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption Radon Awareness Program (RAP).

CERTIFICATION:

I, Judith M. Fisher, clerk of the Township of Hope, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was introduced and adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope at their regular meeting convened on December 13, 2017

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to adopt Resolution 2017-60, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kruk, yes, Mr. Beatty, yes, Mayor McDonough, yes
Motion carried.

SUPPORT: PLEDGE TO SUPPORT NEW JERSEY'S FIGHT AGAINST OPIOID ADDICTION

Pledge was provided by the Committee and signed by the Mayor.

OLD BUSINESS:

Status:

Sanitary Landfill: Still waiting to hear back from the NJDEP.

Wastewater Management Plan – Grant Search: The DCA has identified a grant; waiting for the information.

Stormwater Management Update: Provided by Mr. Rodman under the Engineer Report.

Stephens/Benbrook, Water Issue – Community Center

Following a brief background on the issue, Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to partner with the two residents, providing one-third of the payment for the cost of a well treatment system to be installed at the Community Center, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kruk, yes, Mr. Beatty, yes, Mayor McDonough, yes
Motion carried.

DISCUSSION:

Cell Tower: Status (90-days to sign lease and award – November 22, 2017)

New engineering company has taken over. Mayor reached out to Mr. Selvaggi for the deadline date.

Generator – Awarding of Bid

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to award the project to Wire's Electric, in the amount of \$14,750, meeting the maximum allowed by FEMA of \$15,000, to install a generator, seconded by Mr. Beatty.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kruk, yes, Mr. Beatty, yes, Mayor McDonough, yes
Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Reminder: Year End Meeting – December 27, 2017 @ 4 p.m.

Date and Time Determination for Reorganization Meeting in January 2018: Mrs. Fisher would need the date by the end of year meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

August 23, 2017 – Joint Meeting with Planning Board

October 11, 2017, Business Meeting

October 25, 2017 – Work Meeting

November 8, 2017 – Business Meeting

Mr. Kruk made a **motion** to approve the minutes as listed, seconded by Mayor McDonough.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kruk, yes, Mayor McDonough, yes, Mr. Beatty, abstain

Motion carried.

Public Participation: This portion of the meeting was opened to the public for any questions or concerns.

Michelle Tickner asked if the roads were salted and plowed during the recent snowstorm; it appeared they were not done and her son was involved in a car accident. Mr. Whitmore stated he was out four times during the storm. Mr. Kruk noted he was out late and the roads were in good condition.

Kim Tighe – Warren County Baseball League is decreasing in size; the four ascending districts going to Belvidere High School decided to move towards Little League – Knowlton and Frelinghuysen are going to North Warren Little League. Warren County will now include Belvidere, Hope, White Township and Harmony. Registration signs will be posted early, she questioned how long the signs are permitted to be displayed. She also asked about accepting credit card payments for registration and linking the system to the bank account. Mr. Kruk suggested contacting the CFO for more information.

Mr. Whitmore can post the registration signs and they can remain for a couple of weeks. A member of the public suggested doing a registration email blast to participants.

Fundraising account for sports – she asked if baseball and softball could be separated as they do most of the fundraising. The Committee felt it should be one account as the funding is for all the kids. Kim Tighe needs to know how much is in the account as they would like to do outfield sponsor signs (banners) and break-away fencing. Mr. Beatty estimated the account between \$18,000 and \$19,000. A line item for fundraising will be set up within the Recreation Trust for 2018. The Committee asked for a cost estimate for the break-away fencing.

Terry Urfer – suggested contacting the Park Police to address speeding in the township.

Someone questioned if Hope still had a Community Officer. The Committee stated a new officer will be replacing the former officer shortly.

There being no further members of the public wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed.

Mayor McDonough thanked Mr. Beatty for his years of service to the township, volunteers and recreation program. It was a pleasure working with him. All wished him well in the future.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 8:34 p.m. on a **motion** made by Committeeman Kruk, seconded by Committeeman Beatty. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Fisher RMC
Municipal Clerk