

**DECEMBER 29, 2020  
YEAR-END MEETING**

The Business Meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 2:00 P.M. at the Hope Township Municipal Building with the following members present: Mayor Timothy McDonough, Committeeman Christopher John Kruk (Via Zoom) and Deputy Mayor Terry Urfer (Via Zoom). Also present were DPW Foreman Donald Whitmore; Municipal Clerk, Robin Keggan, RMC; Deputy Clerk, Zondra Belstra; Kathleen Reinalda, CFO (Zoom) and Ted Rodman and Township Engineer (Zoom).

**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 Star Gazette and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township Web and Bulletin Boards.

**ELECTRONIC MEETING STATEMENT**

In addition, as a result of the State of Emergency issued by Governor Murphy, the Township has provided the pertinent information for residents to participate in, or listen to, this meeting via Zoom. The public will be muted for the meeting but will be able to participate via a dialogue (chat) box during the public session portion of the meeting.

**Roll call: Mr. Urfer- present**

**Mr. Kruk – present**

**Mayor McDonough- present**

**Reports:**

**Mayor Tim McDonough:** See updates below on Traffic Study and Altice.

**Committeeman Christopher John Kruk:** Briefly spoke about his experience with Service Electric and perhaps getting Altice to take the lead on install. By doing so, the Townships may be quicker to sign the franchise agreements that they are looking to have put in place with each municipality.

**Deputy Mayor Urfer:** Mr. Urfer requested that the millings be moved from Swayze Mill Park. Mayor McDonough informed him that Drake's is supposed to be removing them. Mr. Urfer also asked that Mr. Whitmore cut the trees down (upon receiving the roadside mower back) around Swayze Mill. Mr. Whitmore stated that that would be done once the ground is frozen and the threat of tearing up the park grounds is past. He will also be putting a load of gravel, landscape screen and playground mulch at the site of the new swingset once the ground has frozen and the dump truck is not in danger of getting stuck. Also, would like a quote on tar and chip of Swayze Mill Park entrance. Mr. Whitmore told him that tar and chip is done through the co-op, no quote needed. Once the springtime awards are made public by the Morris County Co-Op, he will look into that and let Mr. Urfer know.

Mr. Urfer also made mention of Rick Gardner retiring (Freeholder) and the fact that the Township should recognize him by doing a Proclamation and inviting him to our Reorganization meeting via Zoom.

**Tax Collector's Report:** November 2020 - \$1,090,248.58; YTD \$6,542,673.18

**Health Department:** No report filed with Clerk.

**Animal Control Officer:** Report on file with Clerk

**Hope Volunteer Fire Department Report:** No report filed with Clerk.

**Township Engineer Report:** Mr. Rodman updated the Committee on the Town Center project. Notated that out of the \$107,000.00 grant the Township was awarded, \$89,625.00 had been paid out. Still need to

pay out an additional approximate \$1,200 for three grates not yet installed (backordered). Mr. Whitmore and the Committee will ascertain if there are any other projects in Town Center that they can put the left over grant money towards before the grant is cancelled out. Mr. Rodman will facilitate a meeting with Tilcon, Mr. Urfer, Mr. Whitmore and himself to discuss the payment due to Tilcon for Heller Hill Road (inferior paving quality). He will get back to the appropriate personnel with the meeting information. Also noted that Ridgeway Avenue (Sections 1 and 3 – either end of the road) grant was approved for \$151,700 (requested \$208,970). Mr. Urfer suggested that any road construction (i.e. drainage) that needs to be done be looked at ahead of the project starting. Mr. Rodman noted that Tilcon will not be the paving company this time around.

**Payment of Bills:** Receipts – November \$6,480.15. Bills for the month of December totaled \$377,609.80. On a motion made by Mr. Kruk; seconded by Mr. Urfer and a Roll call vote: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes, payment of bills was approved. It was noted that one payment was erroneously made out to Opdyke for dump truck repairs. Should be made out to Bay One. Ms. Reinalda will correct and re-issue a check.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION 2020-69  
TRANSFER RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that there are insufficient funds to meet the demands necessary for the 2020 balances in the Current Fund Budget. Includes General Administration S/W, General Administration O/E, Zoning Board O/E, Buildings & Grounds O/E, Environmental Commission S/W, Recreation S/W, Maintenance of Parks O/E, Celebration of Public Events O/E, Streets & Roads S/W, and Municipal Court S/W.

**WHEREAS**, the following accounts have sufficient excess funds to meet such demands: Recreation O/E, Electricity, Gasoline, Municipal Prosecutor S/W, Buildings & Grounds S/W, Financial Administration O/E, Telephone, Tax Collection O/E, Legal Services O/E, Road Maintenance O/E.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 40A:4-58 the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to make the following transfers:

|       |                                  |                    |
|-------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| TO:   | General Administration S/W       | 10,000.00          |
|       | General Administration O/E       | 4,000.00           |
|       | Zoning Board O/E                 | 1,000.00           |
|       | Buildings & Grounds O/E          | 10,000.00          |
|       | Environmental Commission S/W     | 100.00             |
|       | Recreation S/W                   | 200.00             |
|       | Maintenance of Parks O/E         | 10,000.00          |
|       | Celebration of Public Events O/E | 1,000.00           |
|       | Streets & Roads S/W              | 10,000.00          |
|       | Municipal Court S/W              | <u>8,000.00</u>    |
|       | <b>TOTAL</b>                     | <b>\$54,300.00</b> |
| FROM: | Recreation O/E                   | 12,000.00          |
|       | Electricity                      | 4,000.00           |
|       | Gasoline                         | 3,000.00           |
|       | Municipal Prosecutor S/W         | 2,000.00           |
|       | Buildings & Grounds S/W          | 2,000.00           |

|                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Financial Administration O/E | 1,000.00           |
| Telephone                    | 2,000.00           |
| Tax Collection O/E           | 1,000.00           |
| Legal Services O/E           | 4,000.00           |
| Road Maintenance O/E         | <u>\$23,300.00</u> |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                 | <b>\$54,300.00</b> |

On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and roll called: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes, this Resolution was passed.

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
 CANCELATION RESOLUTION 2020-70**

**WHEREAS**, certain improvement appropriation balances within the General Capital Fund remain dedicated to projects now completed or not being pursued; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to formally cancel balances so that the unexpended balances may be returned to each prospective Capital Improvement Fund, or Surplus, and unused debt authorization be canceled within the General Capital Fund.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope that the following unexpended and dedicated balances be canceled:

| <u>Ordinance No.</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Funding Source</u> |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 2020-02              | DPW Blower         | \$883.89      | CIF                   |
| 2020-03              | DPW Truck Body     | \$485.00      | CIF                   |
| 2020-04              | Fire Truck         | \$14,800.00   | CIF                   |

**TOTALS:** **\$16,168.89 Returned to CIF**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that two certified copies of this resolution are to be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and roll called: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes, this Resolution was passed

**Old Business:**

Traffic Update: Mayor McDonough reported that the DOT Commissioner has approved a meeting between themselves, the Freeholders, State Police and the municipality. Awaiting a time and date to be set. Anticipated that this will happen in the first 2 weeks of the new year.

Internet: Continuing to work with Altice. The Mayors of Hope, Knowlton, Blairstown, Hardwick and Frelinghuysen (as a group and singularly) had a conference call via Zoom regarding the Altice contract that they are still putting together and negotiating. Work continues to move forward in tightening up the franchise agreement. Every road without internet or adequate internet service has been provided to Altice. Planet Networks is in the process of applying for a grant to get their project started (wiring and

running fiber optic line). Mayor McDonough thanked Mr. Kruk for helping to get the needed information in such short order.

P.I.E. Grant: To be discussed at next business meeting.

**New Business:**

POP Zone: Discussion took place regarding the POP Zone and the fact that the Tramontin building (Block 3600 Lot 100) was erroneously left out of the POP Zone on the Zoning Map. In speaking with the Township Attorney, it was made known that upon a motion by a committeeman and notice to the Zoning Officer, an update to the Zoning Map could take place. Mr. Urfer motioned to make known the intention of the Tramontin building being put into the POP Zone, seconded by Mr. Kruk and all in favor. The Municipal Clerk will provide the Zoning Official with a copy of these minutes for his record and the next time the Zoning Map is updated, the update shall reflect that the Tramontin building was inadvertently left out and should be rightfully placed in the POP Zone.

**Public:**

Sherry Shaw inquired about the status of the Township's progress with a noise ordinance. She made reference to the ordinance that Blairstown has in place as a point of reference. Mayor McDonough stated that the Committee will take a look at that ordinance and try to implement it in some way into Hope Township's current nuisance ordinance. The Municipal Clerk will obtain a copy of the Blairstown ordinance and distribute to the Committee for their review and discussion with the Township attorney.

**Approval of Minutes:** October 28, 2020 business meeting and November 18, 2020 work 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 4:55 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mayor McDonough. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Keggan, RMC  
Municipal Clerk