

**FEBRUARY 11, 2020
BUSINESS MEETING**

The 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, Committeeman Christopher John Kruk and Deputy Mayor Terry Urfer. Also present were Ted Rodman, Township Engineer; Don Whitmore, DPW Foreman; Municipal Clerk, Robin Keggan, RMC; Deputy Clerk, Zondra Belstra 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: Reported on the activities at 37 Swayze Mill Road with the tenant that is currently leasing that property. Several summons were issued to them. There was an animal welfare check done by the ACO and State Police last month. The Township may be tasked with dealing with any animals that are left behind.

Committeeman Christopher John Kruk: Reported that the goose patrol went well. Will be looking into another session around September.

Deputy Mayor Urfer: Discussed chipping branches along Ridgeway and Hissim Roads. DPW to schedule.

Brielle Walsh: Reported that she is unsure of the number of teams that will be playing softball and baseball this season. She also spoke about the possibility of obtaining a hot spot for her craft show vendors once the cell tower is installed in the DPW lot.

Don Whitmore: Alerted the Committee that he rebuilt a plow that was in need of it. The roadside mower is in need of about \$3,000 worth of work and he is also in need of tires for roadside mower.

Tax Collector's Report: January collections: \$1,073,119.94.; YTD \$1,073,119.94.

Fire Department Report: Total number of calls month of January – 10; 141.47 Man hours . Work Night Man Hours – 96. Special Detail – 38 man hours. Total man hours for the month of January 275.47.

Health Department: Report on file at Municipal Clerk's Office.

Township Engineer Report: Mr.Rodman reported that the State core sample tests from Cemetery Road came back with air voids in them. The code book states that both of these samples need to be averaged out. Once that was done, the samples "broke even". Mayor McDonough stated the Township will not be paying Tilcon until a remedy is determined as to how to handle the event that the road falls apart (i.e., Tilcon will come back and repair/repave road, penalties, etc.) Mayor McDonough has a call into the DOT Commissioner to discuss this situation and ascertain what will be done in the event that the road does not hold up. Other vendors are involved in this situation as the hold up of our payment to Tilcon hold their payments up as well.

Union Brick Road: a swale will be looked into on the north side of the road by Mr. Whitmore to help alleviate the flooding issue going on over there.

Sidewalks: Meeting at the First Hope Bank on Friday, February 14, 2020 at 3 pm to discuss the sidewalks the County wants to install at the four-way intersection.

Campbell Foundry: Campbell received approval letters from the State. Mr. Urfer asked for copies of those letters as well as the environmental clean-up study performed by Peak Engineering.

Montalvo: DEP was supposed to do inspection of the property this week. The Committee made a motion to approve the importation of soil for septic bed only. Motioned by Mr. Urfer, Seconded by Mr. Kruk. All in favor.

Mr. Rodman will have an answer about start of paving in the center of town by next meeting. He will be contacting the Morris County Co-Op.

Payment of Bills: February bills totaled \$371,553.56. Receipts for January 2020 \$17,427.05. On a motion made by Mr. Kruk and seconded by Mr. Urfer, the bills were approved for payment. Roll Call vote: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-24

**RESOLUTION REFUNDING TAX SALE CERTIFICATE 2018-004
THAT WAS REDEEMED
RESOLUTION 2020-24**

WHEREAS, the property owned by Emily C Brown known as block 3400 lot 1300 located at 329 Johnsonburg Road had unpaid 2017 property taxes and was sold at a Tax Sale held on 01 February 2018 by the Hope Township Tax Collector; and

WHEREAS, US Bank as Custodian for ACTLien of 50 South 16th Street, Suite 2050 located in Philadelphia, PA 19102 was the successful bidder of the above stated property. The amount of the Tax Sale consisted of unpaid 2017 property taxes, interest, and other costs, and totaled \$1,602.73 and is represented by Tax Sale Certificate 2018-004; and

WHEREAS, Emily C Brown, the supposed owner of the property, paid \$15,627.87 on 16 January 2020 to the Hope Township Tax Collector to satisfy the outstanding Tax Sale Certificate, subsequent taxes, and delinquent taxes:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope on this 11th day of February 2020 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a check payable to US Bank as Custodian for ACTLien in the amount of \$13,874.17 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate 2018-004.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer also be authorized to draw a check payable to US Bank as Custodian for ACTLien in the amount of \$10,100.00 for the return of a premium paid at tax sale.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the satisfied executed Tax Sale Certificate 2019-004 be returned to Emily C Brown of 327 Johnsonburg Road in Blirstown, NJ 07825.

Stephen J Lance
Tax Collector
21 January 2020

Date: February 11, 2020

Mr. Urfer – yes

Mr. Kruk – yes

Roll call: Mr. Kruk – yes

Mr. Urfer – yes

Mayor McDonough - yes

CERTIFICATION

I., Robin L. Keggan, Clerk of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey hereby certifies this to be a true and accurate copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope at a Business Meeting held on the 11th day of February, 2020.

Robin L. Keggan, RMC
Municipal Clerk

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-01: PUBLIC SESSION AND ADOPTION

**ORDINANCE NO. 2020-01
CALENDAR YEAR 2020**

**ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO
ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to **2.5%** unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2020 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee hereby determines that a **1.0%** increase in the budget for said year, amounting to **\$ 9,101.96** in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS the Township Committee hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, in the County of Warren, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2020 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Hope shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to **\$31,856.86**, and that the CY 2020 municipal budget for the Township of Hope be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

Motion: Committeeman Urfer

Second: Committeeman Kruk

Roll Call: Committeeman Kruk: yes Mayor McDonough: yes Committeeman Urfer: yes

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 January 6, 2020 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 February 11, 2020 at 7:00P.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.

Robin L.Keggan, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Old Business: None.

New Business:

PCFA Interlocal Agreement- Motion was made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk to allow Mayor McDonough to sign the Interlocal Agreement with the PCFA. All in favor.

Court Administrator, North Warren Municipal Court – Mrs. Eger provided the Township Committee with her letter of retirement as of June 1, 2020. An ad was run on the Administrative Court website for the Court Administrator position that will be open due to her retirement. The ad will run from February 10 – March 2, 2020. Interviewing will be done shortly thereafter.

R&K Environmental – Motion was made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk to sign the R&K Environmental Agreement for the 2020 calendar year to provide Right-to-Know services for Hope Township. Roll Call: Mr. Urfer- yes; Mr.Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

Use of Facilities:

Kaleidoscope Productions: Tina Ritchie was in attendance to discuss her desire to bring back show productions to Hope Township. She is a 5013c and had her paperwork in place as such. She is asking for permission to use the Grange from now through June in order to hold auditions and put a program on sometime in late May or early June. She will be making improvements to the building by way of stage lighting and sound. These items will need to be left in place during the auditions/rehearsal/show. The Township Committee was in full support of this. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer and seconded by Mr. Kruk, the approval was carried. By roll call vote: Mr. Ufer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough- yes the fee was waived for use of the facility. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk, the Community Center was approved as a back-up for use if the Grange was unavailable.

Baseball/Softball: Brielle Walsh requested use of the Township fields for the 2020 baseball and softball season. Mr. Urfer motioned; Mr. Kruk seconded to approve the request. By roll call vote: Mr. Ufer- yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – the fee was waived for use of the facilities.

Easter Egg Hunt: The Grange will be putting on the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Swayze Mill on April 4, 2020 (raindate April 11, 2020) 9 am – 12 pm. Motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk, all in favor to approve.

Discussion:

P-cards: Tabled until February 26, 2020 meeting.

The Land Conservancy submitted their Agreement to allow Hope Township to secure a grant and to allow the Land Conservancy to do the work. Mr. Urfer motioned; Mr. Kruk seconded to allow Mayor McDonough to sign the appropriate paperwork to allow Hope Township to qualify for the \$12,500 grant. Roll Call: Mr. Urfer- yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes. Discussion also took place

regarding the Land Conservancy Agreement to assist the Township Committee and Open Space/Farmland Committee paying hourly vs. a set yearly fee. This will be re-visited once that agreement is received.

Budget meeting dates were put into place. February 26, 2020 at 6 pm; March 11, 2020 at 6 pm and March 25, 2020 at 6 pm. Mr. Urfer requested the NW Court's budget from last year and their proposed budget for the 2020 year.

Public Participation:

Frank Desiderio was in attendance to ask for permission to get a copy of the preliminary salt shed plans from our DPW. The Township Committee gave him permission to do so.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of January 6, 2020 reorganization meeting and January 28, 2020 business meeting 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 8:19 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Kruk, seconded by Mr. Urfer. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Keggan, RMC
Municipal Clerk