

FEBRUARY 23, 2022
BUDGET MEETING

The Budget 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, Deputy Mayor Christopher John Kruk, and Committeeman Terry Urfer. Also present were DPW Foreman Donald Whitmore; Municipal Clerk, Robin Keggan, RMC; Zondra Belstra, Deputy Clerk; Emily Brown, Chairperson HPC; Scott and Laura from Blairstown Emergency.

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 Express Times New Jersey edition and the New Jersey Herald and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township Web and Bulletin Boards.

Roll call: Mr. Urfer- present

Mr. Kruk – present

Mayor McDonough- present

Blairstown Emergency Squad spoke about the need for more volunteerism and how the lack of volunteers is creating longer response times. Also spoke about the difficulties that the Covid 19 crisis has caused. There are 31 members (21 EMTs). Instruction for volunteers is \$300 per student through Atlantic Health. Instruction/certification will be held at the BES building. A request was made to be able to advertise in Hope Township with a banner in front of the firehouse that BES is looking for volunteers.

Budget request is the same as last year - \$13,950.

Emily Brown requested that \$275 for longer-term HPC members be put into the budget for CEUs. The HPC typically requests a \$400 budget each year. The Committee Ok'd the cost of CEUs.

Creative Team will be a new “line item” under Public Events. It was noted again that a Township employee must collect any monies on behalf of the Team. The annual calendar will remain a part of the Hope Creative Team.

Admin O/E was raised from \$28,800 to \$38,800 in order to implement software and IT upgrades recommended by IT.

\$105,000 will be put into the capital budget again this year. Portions are earmarked for upcoming purchases the DPW needs as well as a fire truck within the next 10 years. Dump truck within 6-7 years. Roadside mower needed within next 3 years.

Union Brick Road – ARP monies will be used to conduct drainage work for stormwater management. Old Union Brick maybe tarred/chipped. Part of Foundry Road will be repaired using ARP monies too.

Contribution to 55 Plus Club is \$2200 per year.

Anthony Lytle was appointed to the Zoning Board of Adjustment on a motion made by Mr. Kruk; seconded by Mr. Urfer and all in favor.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 5:37 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Keggan, RMC
Municipal Clerk