

**FEBRUARY 7, 2024  
BUSINESS MEETING**

The Work 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, Committeeman Christopher John Kruk, and Deputy Mayor Terry Urfer. Also present were Municipal Clerk, Robin Keggan, RMC; Donald Whitmore, DPW Foreman and Patti Whitmore, Events Coordinator.

**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 Express Times New Jersey Edition 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**

**Public Session:** Pat Koeniges was in attendance to discuss the purchase of plastic totes to store Moravian Lantern Tour materials. The Committee asked her to look into what she needs and perhaps this can be worked into the budget as we will be beginning budget discussions soon. Mr. Urfer thanked her for all of her efforts.

**Payment of Bills:** On a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and roll called as follows: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes, bills in the amount of \$381,832.54 were approved for payment.

**Reports:**

**Tax Collector: Month Ending January 2024 - \$370,993.19 Y-T-D for 2024 \$370,993.19.**

**Environmental Commission:** Mrs. Sobon gave her report which included the County being involved in the Wildlife Certification that she has been working on for Hope Township. Anyone that takes part in the program and signs up through the County will also count towards our certifications in Hope Township. She also discussed Adopt-a-Drain program and the possibility of putting this in place in Hope Township (we have approximately 210 drains). She is working on 2024 CHPP grants for a sound system in the Community Center and kiosks in the center of town.

**DPW:** Mr. Whitmore updated the Committee on projects he has been working on, which include getting Kostenbader Road ready for paving this year. Also noted that he and the Clerk had a meeting with Mr. Tipton from Warren County Elections regarding ADA compliance for voting. The handicapped accessible parking in the municipal building needs to be addressed. Discussion took place regarding that and getting that put into place. Also getting quotes for doors on the municipal building (4) and the remaining 3 garage doors on the DPW garage replaced. Honey Run Road work is beginning in the near term (FEMA project).

**Mayor Tim McDonough:** Discussed a complaint by a resident regarding Kostenbader Road and people speeding on a hill near their home. Discussion took place regarding the manner in which we may be able to slow people down, painting on the road may be the way to go. JCP&L will begin their tree cutting efforts in the near future and continue through September. The Zoning Board of Adjustment will be reorganizing – merging of the two boards into a Land Use Board will occur at a time to be determined in the future. COAH and OPRA bills are before the Senate in a couple of weeks, hopefully with some promising relief for the municipality/clerk’s office regarding these topics. He also noted that five new Hope Township signs to replace the current ones have been committed to by various town businesses.

**Committeeman Kruk:** Noted that Foundry Road has some potholes that need to be filled. Also discussed renting County equipment as necessary since their rates are far better than renting from outside vendors; County trimmed the trees at the overlook and a short discussion the work being done regarding the POP Zone as it relates to setbacks etc. took place.

**Deputy Mayor Urfer:** Suggested that we have the IT person for the municipality come in one day and meet with staff regarding security issues to ensure that the municipality is doing all that we can to safeguard our files, emails, etc. Mentioned that the Inn at Millrace Pond has had a container sitting in their parking lot for a while and maybe the HPC should look into requesting it be removed.

**Events Coordinator:** Working on the Appreciation Dinner, confirmed that the HVFD will be where the dinner is held at 6 pm on April 13,2024. RSVPs will be directed to the municipal clerk.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPE  
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
RESOLUTION 2024-19**

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE CANCELLATION OF SPECIAL ITEMS OF REVENUE  
IN THE 2023 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(s) 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**, this amount was erroneously inserted into the 2023 budget a second time and must be cancelled in order to balance out the grant line items.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of the Township Hope, County of Warren, hereby requests that the following be cancelled out of the 2023 budget:

Highlands Council of New Jersey – Warehouse Zoning Study      \$ 5,000.00

Motion:        Mr. Urfer

Second:       Mr. Kruk

Roll Call:

Mr. Kruk:    Yes

Mr. Urfer:    Yes

Mayor McDonough:    Yes

**ORDINANCES: PUBLIC SESSION AND ADOPTION**

Motion to open to the public made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and all in favor.

No comment was made by the public.

Motion to close to the public made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and all in favor.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-01 was made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and roll called: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes

**HOPE TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**  
**CALENDAR YEAR 2024**  
**ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO**  
**ESTABLISH A CAP BANK**  
**(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**  
**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-01**

**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 2024 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 **\$11,207.06** 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 2024 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 **\$39,224.71**, and that the CY 2024 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.

**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 4, 2024 and ordered published in accordance with the law. Said Ordinance was considered for adoption at the February 7, 2024 meeting of the Township Committee and passed.

**New Business:**

**Rescind Ordinance for No Swimming in Swayze Mill for the Polar Plunge** – the ordinance was rescinded for the time period of the Polar Plunge on February 17, 2024 on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and all in favor.

**Use of Facilities Request** – a 4-H Group requested the use of the Community Center for a presentation. Insurance certificate and multiple dates were provided. The Committee approved the request, fee waived, and stated that the dates of March 14 or 21 were the dates that they were approving due to the window installation at the Community Center. The group can meet in the basement if necessary. Mr. Urfer made the motion to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Kruk and all in favor.

**Honey Run Road** – An email from our Township engineer was received regarding the future right-of-way on Honey Run Road and the Township’s need to purchase a further amount of footage. The engineer stated that this was not necessary, as well as the DPW Foreman who noted that a farm was going into Farmland Preservation in the area; there are State lands and wetlands there, so the possibility of any building, etc. does not exist.

**Recycling Coordinator** – On a motion made by Mr. Urfer and seconded by Mr. Kruk and roll called: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes, Mrs. Gabel’s contract to remain on as Recycling Coordinator was approved in the amount of \$500.00.

**Contral Security** – quotes were received for a security system to be installed in the Community Center. Mr. Urfer suggested working that into the 2024 grant he is putting together for another round of funding to continue work on the Community Center.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the January 24, 2024 meetings were approved on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and all in favor.

**Public Participation:**

A discussion about ordering Code Books for the members of the Planning and Zoning Boards took place. It was suggested that perhaps a demonstration on how to use the e-code on the Township website be given in the hopes that perhaps Board members would opt to use that instead of order a code book.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 5:35 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Robin L. Keggan, RMC  
Municipal Clerk