

FEBRUARY 8, 2023
BUSINESS MEETING

The Business Meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 3:30 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; Deputy Clerk, Zondra Belstra and Donald Whitmore, DPW Foreman.

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

Executive Session:

A motion was made by Mr. Kruk, seconded by Mr. Urfer and carried to adopt the Resolution to go into Closed Session at 3:31 PM.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P. L 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from that portion of this meeting
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
 - A. Potential Litigation
 - B. Personnel Matters

As nearly as can be ascertained, the matter or matters to be discussed at this time will be disclosed to the public when such matters are resolved.

Time In: 3:31 PM

Present: Committeeman Kruk, Deputy Mayor Urfer, Mayor McDonough.

Also Present: Robin Keggan, Municipal Clerk

Time Out: 4:01 PM

A motion made by Mayor McDonough, seconded by Committeeman Kruk and carried to return to regular session. No Official Actions were taken but the public was apprised that potential litigation and personnel matters were discussed.

Bills: No bills were available. However, the Hope Township School tax check was approved to be paid upon request of the clerk in the amount of \$687,178.00 on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and roll called: Mr. Kruk yes; Mr. Urfer yes; Mayor McDonough yes.

Reports:

Tax Collector: Not available.

Environmental Commission: Mrs. Sobon distributed the 2022 Yearly Report for the Environmental Commission at the prior meeting. The Committee thanked her for same. Verified that the Township Picnic will definitely be held on September 9 this year so that she may try to make arrangements for vendors. Requested use of the Community Center the weekend of the Green Fair for overflow from the event. The Committee granted their permission for same.

Mayor Tim McDonough: Reported that the Local Finance Board approved certain items to now be moved outside the CAP – items such as gasoline and diesel; liability and comp insurance; solid waste and recycling. Also reported that any ARPA funds the municipality has need to be spent ASAP as there is talk of the Federal Government recalling any monies that have not yet been spent. Also discussed new legislation being signed in regarding Preserved Farms being able to hold Special Events.

Committeeman Christopher John Kruk: No report.

Deputy Mayor Urfer: Updated the Committee on the \$5,000 grant from the Highlands Council. He expects the agreement to be forthcoming soon. He also mentioned that the Highlands Council is doing a press release stating that Hope Township is the first recipient to be awarded this grant. Also asked the Clerk could make some phone calls to find out about the Sussex County Co-Op and joining same. Also questioned the library tax (\$129,000 is Hope's portion) and if we could opt-out of the library to save taxpayers money. This would need to be looked into further as to if and how that could be accomplished.

DPW Report: Mr. Whitmore updated the Committee on the projects he has been working on since the last meeting, which include salting during the last storm; removal of trees; clearing of catch basins and working on his 2023 budget, as well as his 2023 capital item budget. Reported that the drains on Ridgeway need to be worked on ahead of paving this year.

RESOLUTIONS:

None.

ORDINANCES – PUBLIC SESSION AND ADOPTION

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

No members of the public had any comment.

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

**CALENDAR YEAR 2023
ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO
ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-01

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 2023 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 **\$10,822.37** 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 2023 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 **\$37,878.30**, and that the CY 2023 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 to Adopt: Mr. Kruk

Second: Mr. Urfer

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes

2023-02 – INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING - TABLED

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 20-4.6 “NUISANCES: OPEN STORAGE: SIDEWALK DISPLAYS” TO EXPAND THE LIST OF PROHIBITED ACTS

Unfinished Business:

Truck Traffic – Mayor McDonough noted that the DOT is still actively working on the truck traffic issue. Mr. Kruk gave a brief update of the meeting he attended in January with the Commissioners and other Mayors regarding truck traffic. “No turning” signs for tractor trailers will be installed at the 4-way

blinking light intersection in Hope Township in the Spring as well as a change in the speed limit leaving town and heading towards Route 46 so that the decrease in speed is not so abrupt outside of town center.

New Business:

Polar Plunge – was tabled for this year at Swayze Mill Park.

Use of Facilities- Permission was granted for using Swayze Mill Park for the annual Easter Egg Hunt on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and all in favor.

Public Participation:

Ms. Rusin asked the Township Committee if they receive a report from the State Police regarding any crimes that are committed in the municipality. Mayor McDonough responded that the Station Commander keeps in close contact with him regarding any issues in the municipality.

Mrs. Bonner requested that the Committee consider purchasing electronic radar sign for use around the township. Mr. Urfer requested the clerk to send a letter to the Warren County Engineer asking if the County would install their electronic radar sign outside of town center for temporary use.

Ms. Hoffman and Ms. Shaw offered some suggestions for verbiage in the Noise Ordinance that was tabled in order to continue tightening up the language on it.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 5:05 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Kruk; seconded by Mr. Urfer. Motion carried.

Robin L. Keggan, RMC
Municipal Clerk