

**FEBRUARY 9, 2022
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 and Committeeman Terry Urfer. Also present were DPW Foreman Donald Whitmore; Municipal Clerk, Robin Kegan, RMC; Deputy Clerk, Zondra Belstra; Brian Grace, Esq. and several members of the public. Deputy Mayor Kruk was absent.

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 – absent

Mayor McDonough- present

Payment of Bills: February Bills - \$1,226,401.06 (noted that these are bills for January and February – no bills paid in January 2022 due to CFO being out of office). On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mayor McDonough and roll called as follows: Mr. Kruk – absent; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes - the bills were approved for payment with the exception of check number 14272 in the amount of \$50.00, which was voided out.

Reports:

Tax Collector: Month Ending January 2022 - \$464,067.98 Y-T-D for 2022 \$464,067.98.

Mayor Tim McDonough: A meeting with the County and the DOT, Hope Township, White Township and possibly Knowlton Township is in the process of being set up. The DOT was mailed the packet that Margo Biblin spoke about at the January 26, 2022 meeting. The Commission of the DOT has been out of work due to surgery, but is now back and will be scheduling the meeting shortly.

Deputy Mayor Christopher John Kruk: Not in attendance.

Committeeman Urfer: Discussed the Community Center grant quickly. Received an email from the architect with renderings and a mock-up of the advertisement for bids. This will be on the March 9, 2022 agenda for discussion.

Also discussed starting the salt shed when the weather breaks and having the DPW work on it. Will begin with the \$40,000 of insurance money still in the Township's account and see how far that goes.

Thanked the DPW employees for their hard work due to the snow and ice every weekend.

Township Engineer: Not in attendance.

Events Coordinator: Not in attendance.

DPW: Mr. Whitmore reported that he has been busy due to the snow and ice every weekend so far and keeping up with the maintenance and repairs of the DPW trucks.

Resolutions:

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF A 1993 KME INTERNATIONAL FIRE ENGINE
RESOLUTION
#2022-19**

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope has in its possession a **1993 KME International Fire Engine**; and,

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope placed the **1993 KME International Fire Engine** on MuniBid, and has received a bid of \$11,700.00 at the close of auction on Friday, February 4, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, the personal property being sold is no longer needed for a public purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that the sale of the **1993 KME International Fire Engine** belonging to the Township of Hope shall take place as soon as it is mutually convenient for both parties.

**HOPE TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
NO IDLING IN NEW JERSEY MUNICIPALITIES**

RESOLUTION 2022-20

WHEREAS, emissions from gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles contribute significantly to air pollution, including greenhouse gases, ozone formation, fine particulates; and

WHEREAS, numerous scientific studies have found links between exposure to fine particles and health effects including premature death, and increased incidents of asthma, allergies, and other breathing disorders; and

WHEREAS, asthma is a significant public health concern in New Jersey, especially among children (up to 25% of New Jersey's school-age children are asthmatic) and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, for every gallon of gasoline used, the average car produces about 20 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the largest contributor to greenhouse climate change, with one-third of greenhouse gas emissions coming from the transportation sector; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has classified diesel exhaust as likely to be carcinogenic to humans; and

WHEREAS, petroleum-based gasoline and diesel fuel are nonrenewable fuels and should be used wisely and not wasted; and

WHEREAS, vehicle idling occurs in locations (e.g. school grounds, parking lots, stores, drive-through windows, etc.) where New Jerseyans can be exposed to concentrated sources of air pollutant emissions; and

WHEREAS, the reduction of fine-particle emissions from diesel engines could also prevent 16,000 new asthma cases annually and save \$770 million to \$10 billion in health care and related costs in the State; and

WHEREAS, idling is not generally beneficial to a vehicle's engine because it wears engine parts; and

WHEREAS, idling more than 10 seconds uses more fuel and emits more pollutants than turning an engine off and on again; and

WHEREAS, idling for 10 minutes uses as much fuel as it takes to travel 5 miles; and

WHEREAS, current state law prohibits the idling of vehicles for more than three minutes and studies have shown that an anti-idling policy will save fuel, prolong engine life, and improve air quality. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of HOPE TOWNSHIP, County of Warren, State of New Jersey supports the adoption of a strong anti-idling policy by government agencies, schools, businesses, and other organizations by:

1. Encouraging drivers of any gasoline or diesel-powered motor vehicle to turn off their engines immediately at schools and off-site school-related events to minimize exposure of children to vehicle emissions;
2. Maintaining municipal vehicles to eliminate any visible exhaust and complying with the annual inspection requirement for those vehicles;
3. Encouraging drivers of any gasoline or diesel powered motor vehicle to turn off their engines after 10 seconds if they plan to remain at that location for more than 30 seconds; and
4. Supporting broad education of the public about the health, environmental and economic impacts of idling and ways to reduce idling.

Motion: Urfer

Second: McDonough

Committee polled: Kruk - Absent
Urfer - Yes
McDonough- Yes

**HOPE TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
ADDING SIGNATORY TO THE HOPE TOWNSHIP SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX**

RESOLUTION 2022-21

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope does possess certain documents that are in need of safekeeping, which documents are currently housed in a safety deposit box in the First Hope Bank Hope Township branch; and,

WHEREAS, from time to time the Municipal Clerk for the Township of Hope needs to add additional documents to or remove documents from the safety deposit box; and,

WHEREAS, the last update made to the signatories/owners of the Hope Township safety deposit box was done in 2019. Since that time, the municipal clerk position has changed hands and the signatories need to be updated in order for the Municipal Clerk to access the documents in that box.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hope Township Committee does give permission for the Hope Township Clerk, Robin L. Keggan, to be listed as a signatory/owner of the Hope Township safety deposit box in order that she may gain access to the documents therein. This action will also be notated in the Township Committee meeting minutes for the February 9, 2022 meeting.

Motion: Urfer

Second: McDonough

Committee polled: Kruk - Absent
Urfer - Yes
McDonough- Yes

**HOPE TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
DESIGNATING OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-22**

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:53-1, the Township is required to designate official newspapers for the publication of advertisements and legal notices as required by law to be published; and **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, New Jersey as follows: 1. That the New Jersey Herald is the Official Newspaper of Hope Township and 2. The backup newspaper for the Township of Hope is the Express-Times, New Jersey edition, printed on Thursdays only.

Motion: Mr. Urfer
Seconded: Mayor McDonough
All in favor

Ordinances:

2022-01 Public Session and Adoption

Motion to Open to the Public by Mr. Urfer; Seconded by Mayor McDonough – all in favor
No public comment.

Motion to Close to the Public by Mr. Urfer; Seconded by Mayor McDonough – all in favor.

Motion to adopt made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mayor McDonough – Roll Call: Kruk – absent; Urfer - yes; McDonough yes.

**CALENDAR YEAR 2022
ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO
ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)
ORDINANCE NO. 2022-01**

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 2022 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 \$ 10,456.40 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 2022 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 \$36,597.40, and that the CY 2022 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.

Old Business:

Traffic Study – See report from Mayor McDonough above.

New Business:

Official Newspaper: The Official Newspaper for Hope Township is now designated to be the New Jersey Herald in order to accommodate for ease of advertising. The Express-Times New Jersey edition is the back-up newspaper.

Block 3600, Lot 100: See public participation below for Tramontin Family, LLC.

Lin Gabel – Recycling coordinator: On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mayor McDonough and roll called as follows: Mr. Kruk – absent; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes, the contract agreeing to Mrs. Gabel remaining the Recycling Coordinator for Hope Township for the year 2022 was renewed and approved. The amount of the contract is \$500.

PCFA – The Inter-local agreement between Hope Township and the Pollution Control Financing Authority was renewed and approved upon a motion by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mayor McDonough and roll called as follow: Mr. Kruk – absent; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes. This agreement is renewed yearly.

Public Participation:

Mr. Grace, the Tramontin Family, LLC attorney, was in attendance along with the potential buyers of the Tramontin property to discuss the POP/LDAR Zoning issue. The Township Committee spoke about the options that the potential buyers have at this point to continue working in that building in the capacity in which they have been since October. The potential buyers and Mr. Grace were advised that the quickest and easiest way to approach this is for the potential buyers to obtain a conditional use variance from the Zoning Board. The zoning of the property will be addressed as the Master Plan Re-exam and ordinance work are undertaken at the Planning Board in coming months.

Several members of the public were also in attendance to discuss the previous work done at Campbell Foundry with the DEP and remediation of the site after fill had been brought in without approvals. Copies of the work done by PEAK Environmental and a copy of the violation issued were requested to be obtained. The clerks will work with Mayor McDonough on that issue. Also, the property at 525 Blairstown Road status was updated due to correspondence being received from the SADC and the same requests were made as far as remediation of that site due to the DEP investigation.

Mr. Bodolsky complimented the DPW on the great work they have been doing and also spoke to the Committee about one of them being in attendance at the White Township Planning Board meetings so that Hope Township is represented.

Approval of Minutes: The December 22, 2021 year-end; January 5, 2022 reorganization and January 26, 2022 work meeting minutes were all approved on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mayor McDonough and all in favor.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 8:36 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mayor McDonough. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Keggan, RMC
Municipal Clerk