

MINUTES
HOPE TOWNSHIP PLANNING BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2022

The reorganization and business meeting of the Hope Township Planning Board was held on Monday, February 7, 2022. Attorney Roger Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. He announced that notice of the meeting was given in compliance with the “Open Public Meetings Act – This meeting has been advertised in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.” He then led the Board in the pledge to the flag.

Swearing in of Board Members:

Attorney Thomas administered the oath of office to Mayor Timothy McDonough, John Koonz, and Brad Bartow.

Roll Call:

Members present: John Koonz, Steve Larena, Brad Bartow, Mayor Timothy McDonough, and Robert May.

Members absent: Chris Maier, Terry Urfer, Betsy Peterson, Donna Marie, and Matthew Koski

Also Present: Attorney Roger Thomas and Secretary Alfia Schemm.

Reorganization:

Election of Chairman

Attorney Thomas called for a nomination for Chairman. Mr. May made the motion to nominate Steve Larena for Chairman. Motion seconded by Mayor McDonough. With there being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. In a roll call vote, all were in favor of nominating Steve Larena as Chairman.

Election of Vice Chairman

Chairman Larena called for a nomination for Vice Chairman. Mr. Koonz made the motion to nominate Robert May. Motion seconded by Mayor McDonough. With there being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. In a roll call vote, all were in favor of nominating Robert May as Vice Chairman.

Appointment of Board Professionals/Board Secretary:

Mr. Koonz made the motion to retain Dolan & Dolan, Roger Thomas Esq., as the Board Attorney, French and Parrello as the Board Engineer, Heyer, Gruel and Associates as the Board Planner, and Alfia Schemm as Board Secretary. Motion seconded by Mayor McDonough. In a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Designation of Meeting Dates, Time, Place/ Adoption of the Official Newspaper

Mr. Koonz made the motion to set the meeting dates as per the distributed resolution, commencing at 7:00 p.m., at the Hope Township Municipal Building, 407 Hope-Great Meadows Road, Hope Township, Warren County, New Jersey, the official newspapers being the same as the Governing Body: the NJ Herald and Express Times-NJ Zone edition. Motion seconded by Mr. Bartow. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Adoption of "Rules Governing Internal Affairs-Board Bylaws"

Mr. Koonz made the motion to adopt the Rules Governing Internal Affairs-Board Bylaws. Motion seconded by Mayor McDonough. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Adoption of Professionals Resolution

Mr. Bartow made the motion to adopt the Professionals Resolution. Motion seconded by Mr. Koonz. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

Correspondence:

NJ Planner

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of October 4, 2021 were distributed prior to the Board meeting.

Mr. Koonz made the motion to adopt the minutes. Motion seconded by Mayor McDonough. In a voice vote, all were in favor of adopting the minutes, except for Mr. May, who was not present at the October meeting and he abstained.

Other Business:

Public Hearing: Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan Update

Mr. May presented the Plan and he recommended that the Board adopt the Plan.

The hearing was opened to the public.

Christine Rusin stated that it sounds like a good plan.

With there being no further public comment, the hearing was closed to the public.

Mr. Larena asked how this plan differs from the last plan, which Mr. May addressed.

Mr. Koonz made the motion to approve the Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan Update. Motion seconded by Mr. Bartow. In a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Budget for 2022

The Board discussed what was spent in 2021 and having sufficient funds to cover the cost of Board business in 2022, possible increase in engineering fees, and the continued review and compiling of the Board's package of ideas/recommendations. The Board also discussed procedure and staying within the Board's budget.

Mr. Koonz made the motion to recommend a \$18,000 budget for 2022. Motion seconded by Mr. Bartow. In a roll call vote, all were in favor, except for Mayor McDonough, who abstained.

Bills:

Dolan & Dolan

Re: General \$634.87

Mr. May made the motion to adopt the voucher. Motion seconded Mr. Koonz. In a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Rodman

Re: Planer 284.00

Mr. Koonz made the motion to adopt the voucher. Motion seconded by Mr. May. In a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Re: General 213.00

Mr. Bartow made the motion to adopt the voucher. Motion seconded by Mr. May. In a roll call vote, all were in favor.

NJ Planning Officials

Re: Annual Dues 185.00

Mr. Koonz made the motion to adopt the voucher. Motion seconded by Mr. May. In a roll call, vote, all were in favor.

Open to the Public:

Chairman Larena opened the meeting to the public. With there being no public comment, the meeting was closed to the public.

Adjournment:

With there being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Alfia Schemm
Board Secretary
3/3/22