

MINUTES
HOPE TOWNSHIP PLANNING BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 5, 2018

The agenda/business meeting of the Hope Township Planning Board was held on Monday, November 5, 2018. Vice Chairman Steve Larena called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 led the Board in the pledge to the flag.

Roll Call:

Members present: Steve Larena, Terry Urfer, Matthew Koski (Alternate 2) arriving at 7:34 p.m., Betsy Peterson, Mayor Timothy McDonough, Chris Maier, Donna Marie, and John Koonz.

Members absent: Robert May, Tom Toohey (Alternate #1), and Neil Rosenberg

Also Present: Board Attorney Roger Thomas, Board Engineer Ted Rodman, and Board Secretary Alfia Schemm.

Approval of Minutes:

Board Secretary Schemm noted a spelling correction. Mayor McDonough made the motion to approve the October 1, 2018 minutes, as corrected. Motion seconded by Mr. Koonz. In a voice vote, all in favor, except for Ms. Peterson, who was not present at the October 1, 2018 meeting.

Old Business:

#16-001 Sarabjit Singh, Block 3700, Lot 400; Block 3701, Lot 100

Board Attorney Thomas stated that although it was already announced at the October meeting, that this matter is being carried to the Board's December 3rd meeting, he announced it again, to the public.

New Business:

#18-002 Lawrence L. &Deborah C. Liguori, Block 1700, Lot 900

Bob Benbrook, Esq. was present on behalf of the Applicant and he reviewed the proposed lot line adjustment of three lots turning into two lots. (Mr. Koski arrived.) He noted: the deeds on file and the merger of the lots by the Township Tax Assessor, which he stated is an illegal act as he had no authority to merge the lots. He stated that the property owner would need to apply for a variance for the existing sheds or move the existing two sheds, because of the illegal merger of the lots. He said this would be a burden on the property owner.

Nancy Treible was sworn in and she stated that the sheds were constructed in the 1960's and there has never been any objections to the shed locations. Attorney Benbrook stated that the sheds need to be moved, by a few feet, in order to make them conforming.

Board Attorney Thomas presented his legal position on the matter and he stated that he could prepare a Resolution, for the December meeting, if the Applicant wishes to apply for the variance. Attorney Benbrook again reviewed his position and he asked that the Board consider the merits of the application. The Board continued to discuss the matter and Mr. Maier stated that due to the existing deeded lots, he feels that the Board should take the common sense approach, and he agreed with Attorney Benbrook.

Bob Berry was sworn in as a surveyor and he stated that he agrees with Attorney Benbrook. The Board continued to discuss the issues and the discrepancy between the County Deeds and the Township Records.

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

Mr. Koonz made the motion to approve the application. Motion seconded by Mr. Maier. Discussion on the motion: Board Attorney Thomas reviewed that the action is for a minor subdivision and he described the proposed lots. In a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Memorializing Resolution:

Ordinance #2018-04 Alternative Treatment Centers

Board Attorney Thomas reviewed the proposed Resolution. Mr. Koonz made the motion to adopt the Resolution. Motions seconded by Mr. Maier. In a roll call vote, all were in favor, except for Ms. Peterson who was absent at the October meeting and Mayor McDonough who abstained.

Mr. Koonz then questioned the sale of recreational marijuana, which was addressed by Board Attorney Thomas.

Mr. Koonz made the motion that the Planning Board oppose the sale of recreational marijuana. Motion seconded by Ms. Peterson. In a roll call vote, all were in favor, except for Mayor McDonough and Mr. Koski, who abstained.

Bills:

Dolan & Dolan

Re: Singh	190.76
Re: Liguori	190.76
Re: General	190.76
Re: Allentown SMSA	957.78
Re: Singh	774.03

Mr. Koonz made the motion to approve the vouchers. Motion seconded by Mr. Maier. In a roll call vote, all were in favor, except for Mayor McDonough and Ms. Peterson, who abstained.

WSP

Re: Singh	4053.83
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Mr. Koonz made the motion to approve the vouchers. Motion seconded by Mr. Urfer. In a roll call vote, all were in favor, except for Mayor McDonough and Ms. Peterson, who abstained.

Rodman and Associates

Re: Singh	2032.00
Re: General	68.00
Re: Liguori	306.00

Mr. Maier made the motion to approve the vouchers. Motion seconded by Mr. Koonz. In a roll call vote, all were in favor, except for Mayor McDonough and Ms. Peterson, who abstained.

Other:

Mr. Larena acknowledged Marvin Fish's resignation letter and Mayor McDonough stated that they hope to recognize him at the appreciation dinner. Mr. Koonz also stated that they would like to plan a group dinner. Mr. Larena stated that he will reach out to him and find out his availability. Mr. Urfer stated that Mr. Fish also donated filing cabinets to the Township.

Open to the Public:

Mr. 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 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Alfia Schemm
Board Secretary

1/7/19