

**JANUARY 13,2021  
WORK MEETING**

The Work 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, Committeeman Christopher John Kruk (via Zoom) and Deputy Mayor Terry Urfer (via Zoom). Also present were DPW Foreman Donald Whitmore; Municipal Clerk, Robin Keggan, RMC; Deputy Clerk, Zondra Belstra; Ted Rodman, Township Engineer (Zoom) and Patti Whitmore, Assistant 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 the Star Gazette and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township Web and Bulletin Boards.

**ELECTRONIC MEETING STATEMENT**

In addition, as a result of the State of Emergency issued by Governor Murphy, the Township has provided the pertinent information for residents to participate in, or listen to, this meeting via Zoom. The public will be muted for the meeting but will be able to participate meeting by raising their hand with the use of the appropriate button to do so on their electronic device during the public session portion of the meeting. Questions may also be submitted to the Municipal Clerk by 12 PM up to one day **PRIOR** to the meeting to be read into the record. The public is obligated to disclose their full name, residence address and email address in any question/statement sent to the Municipal Clerk. Any question not meeting the above-described timeframe will be handled at the next available Township Committee meeting.

**Roll call: Mr. Urfer- present**

**Mr. Kruk – present**

**Mayor McDonough- present**

**Reports:**

**Tax Collector:** \$184,479.77 – December collections                      \$6,728,480.79 – 2020 Collection Total –  
99.13% collection rate (unaudited).

**Mayor Tim McDonough:** Mayor McDonough thanked the community for their outpouring of condolences and thoughtfulness on the passing of his mother.

**Deputy Mayor Christopher John Kruk:** Nothing new to report.

**Committeeman Urfer:** Noted that he will be starting to work with architect for planning purposes on the Community Center grant that was secured by the County. He will be asking members of the Community Center Grant Committee to provide their input and attend meetings with the architect as well. Mr. Urfer also requested that the Township attorney attend an upcoming meeting regarding the noise ordinance the Township is looking into.

**Township Engineer Report:** Mr. Rodman reported that Hope Center grates and backstops have been installed except for two that are on backorder. The Committee asked Mr. Rodman to check into portable speed bumps and radar speed signs as possibilities of using up some of the grant monies received for town center. Mr. Rodman stated he will do so. Reported that he is still trying to reach out to Tilcon regarding the Heller Hill paving project and payment. Mr. Rodman also let the Committee know that we received 12 points for Stormwater Management for 2020 and have satisfied the requirement. Mr. Urfer asked that Mr. Rodman let Warren County know about the Ridgeway paving project due to be paved in 2021 so that they can work in unison with any projects going on through the County at the time the Township paves the road (both ends being paved).

## **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, Rick Gardner, who won his first term as Warren County Freeholder in 2003, has decided to retire and not run for his 7<sup>th</sup> term of office, after 16 years of dedicated service to the residents of Warren County, New Jersey; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Gardner is the longest-serving member of the current Freeholder Board and the longest serving Warren County Freeholder in 100 years; and,

**WHEREAS**, among Mr. Gardner's major accomplishments in office, one of his earliest initiatives, the County Projects Committee, was formed. Under the Committee's oversight, the County remodeled six buildings including repurposing the former Warren Haven nursing home into the current environmental building, as well as renovations to the County Courthouse and the adjacent Warden's house; and,

**WHEREAS**, during Mr. Gardner's tenure, the Warren County library system was revitalized by acquiring the sites of the Northeast Branch and the Headquarters branch, which also houses the Human Services Department. Construction of the Southeast Branch in Stewartsville was completed in 2019. The New Jersey Library Association named Warren County's library system the most improved statewide. These projects were funded without raising County taxes; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Gardner was a supporter of Warren County Community College opening its satellite campus in Phillisburg, New Jersey in 2011. More recently, the college added an annex to their main campus in Washington with Freeholder support; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Gardner was credited for his responsiveness to municipal concerns, particularly when Superstorm Sandy came through New Jersey in 2012; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Gardner supported Hope Township in their endeavor to re-route truck traffic from going through Hope center and supported Hope Township in their grant application to update and upgrade the Community Center; and,

**WHEREAS**, during Mr. Gardner's tenure, he helped farmers throughout Warren County to help preserve thousands of acres of farmland. He has been an advocate for farmers at all levels, including at the Warren County Agricultural Board, New Jersey Farm Bureau, County Freeholders and New Jersey State House.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Timothy C. McDonough, Mayor of the Township of Hope in the County of Warren, New Jersey, on behalf of Deputy Mayor John Kruk and Committeeman Terry Urfer, congratulate Rick Gardner for his successful run of 15 years as Warren County Freeholder and for the support he has given to the residents and business community of the Township of Hope.

### **Appointments:**

A motion was made to appoint Alan DeCarolis as Animal Control Officer, 2021, by Mr. Kruk; seconded by Mayor McDonough. Roll Call: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – abstain; Mayor McDonough – yes.

### **Old Business:**

**Internet** – Mayor McDonough reported that he is still waiting to hear from Altice. He also reported hearing from CenturyLink that they may be starting to look into providing better/more services in the area after hearing complaints from municipalities.

**Traffic Study** – Mayor McDonough reported that he spoke with the DOT Commissioner and they are still in the process of setting up a meeting with the County, State Police and Hope Township to discuss the truck traffic situation/study.

### **New Business:**

**Far View Road Damaged Guardrail** – The clerk reported receiving a check from the Township’s insurance company in the amount of \$7,957.50 which was the full amount of the estimate received by Road Safety Systems for replacement of the guardrail, minus the \$1,000 deductible. The insurance company is pursuing the insured’s insurance company to recuperate the deductible the Township has to pay out in order to have the guardrail repaired. Once received, that money will come back to the Township. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk – Roll call: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes, the motion was passed and approved to repair guardrail and lay out the \$1,000 deductible out of pocket until the insurance company recuperates it.

**Warren County Mosquito Commission** – On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk – all in favor, the motion passed to sign the annual agreement for aerial spraying by the Warren County Mosquito Commission.

**Zoning Officer** – Mr. Boesze provided the Township Committee with his annual Zoning report. Mr. Urfer asked that we invite Mr. Boesze to a work meeting so he can bring the Committee up to speed on where he sees things going for the upcoming year. Mayor McDonough knowed the thoroughness of the report and the fantastic job Mr. Boesze has been doing for the Township.

**PAIC** – Sharon Cooper was on the call from PAIC, the Township’s insurance company. Mayor McDonough asked her to attend a budget meeting so that she may go over her insurance quote for the year and the Committee may ask any questions that they may have. She agreed to do same.

### **Public Participation:**

Monica Sobon, Environmental Commission Chairperson, asked about the status of the cell tower that is to be erected at the municipal building. Mayor McDonough reported that he has heard nothing from the company but does know the tower is built and we have been receiving the lease monies agreed upon since the Township approved the application. Mr. Kruk noted that the cell tower will be a definite benefit to the municipality and its residents.

A brief discussion took place regarding the Co-op the municipality is in for electric bills.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Keggan, RMC  
Municipal Clerk