

**JANUARY 24, 2024  
WORK MEETING**

The Work Meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 4:00 P.M. at the Hope Township Municipal Building with the following members present: Mayor Timothy McDonough, Deputy Mayor Christopher John Kruk, and Committeeman Terry Urfer. Also present were Municipal Clerk, Robin Keggan, RMC; Donald Whitmore, DPW Foreman and Patti Whitmore, 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 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**

**Payment of Bills:** On a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and roll called as follows: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes, bills in the amount of \$1,108,453.80 were approved for payment.

**Reports:**

**Tax Collector: Month Ending December 2023 - \$155,695.83 Y-T-D for 2023 \$7,087,925.98.**

**Animal Control Officer/Assistant ACO:** Last quarter report on file with the Clerk.

**Environmental Commission:** Mrs. Sobon distributed the 2023 Yearly Report for the Environmental Commission and gave her monthly update to the Committee. Mrs. Sobon presented the Committee with an agreement with Abilities for the E-waste truck at the Green Fair. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer and seconded by Mr. Kruk and roll called as follows: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes, the approval was given for the Clerk to sign the agreement on behalf of the municipality to secure the E-waste truck at the Green Fair.

**Mayor Tim McDonough:** Discussed the Blairstown Branch of the Warren County Library temporarily relocating to the St. Lukes Church in Hope. The County is hopeful that this will occur some time in February and a picture of the signage the County wants to use for this will be forthcoming. Also discussed a letter received regarding the truck weight limits being put into place as well as the accompanying signage and a letter received regarding the repaving of Route 80 eastbound from Mine Hill Road to Exit 12.

**Deputy Mayor Christopher John Kruk:** Noted that a travel baseball team will be sharing the fields with our recreational softball teams and this will be coordinated through Chris Beatty as the Outdoor Sports Director. The appropriate Certificate of Insurance was given to the clerk. Also, made a motion to resign his position as Deputy Mayor, effective January 24, 2024 through February 21, 2024, and nominated Mr. Urfer to take over the Deputy Mayor duty for that time period. Mayor McDonough seconded the motion and by roll call: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Mayor McDonough -yes, this motion passed and Mr. Urfer will be sworn in as Deputy Mayor for that time period. At the meeting on February 21, 2024, Mr. Kruk will resume his duties as Deputy Mayor. He also asked that Mr. Whitmore try to line up some estimates for various jobs in town with contractors who will be in town estimating other work in order to get everything quoted out in a more timely manner.

**Committeeman Urfer:** Mentioned that he would like a camera installed in the Community Center to monitor who is going in and out of the building; asked about receiving a monthly update from the Court

Administrator on tickets that were issued; will be obtaining quotes for various other work at the Community Center, i.e., sanding and refinishing the floors.

**Events Coordinator:** Mrs. Whitmore requested the Committee to pick a date for the Appreciation Dinner so that she could begin event planning. The date chosen was April 13, 2024 as long as the HVFD is OK with that date. It was also noted that Mrs. Whitmore will no longer be cleaning the township-owned buildings with the exception of the municipal building. A cleaning service for these buildings will be looked for upon the installation of the windows in the Community Center. Mr. Urfer asked that Mrs. Whitmore retain her position as the Events Coordinator and noted that he would very much like her to stay on with the Committee's approval. Mrs. Whitmore did confirm that she would stay on as the Events Coordinator.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LICENSES FOR  
ARCADE AND AMUSEMENT GAMES FOR  
THE LAND OF MAKE BELIEVE  
RESOLUTION 2024-18**

**WHEREAS**, Christopher Maier, t/a Land of Make Believe has filed applications for the following arcade and amusement games licenses:

- 2024-001 Top Glo Game, Certificate #4023
- 2024-002 Stop and Go, Certificate #5001
- 2024-003 Duck Pond, Certificate #3001
- 2024-004 Dog Pounder Certificate #4044
- 2024-005 Basketball, Certificate # 1003
- 2024-006 Arcade, Certificate # 2000
- 2024-007 Gobble Up Game, Certificate #1016

**WHEREAS**, the foregoing applications are complete and in conformance with the provisions of Chapter 21 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Hope.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Township Committee, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that the foregoing applications be approved and that the appropriate licenses be issued by the Legalized games of Chance Control Commission in the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Consumer Affairs.

Motion: Mayor McDonough

Second: Mr. Kruk

Roll Call:

Mr. Kruk: Yes

Mr. Urfer: Yes

Mayor McDonough: Yes

**Unfinished Business:**

None.

## **New Business:**

Warren County Mosquito Commission – On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk, all in favor, the Mayor was given permission to sign the agreement to allow for the yearly aerial spraying in Hope Township.

Discussion Regarding Warehouse Prohibition Ordinance - A discussion took place regarding the rough draft received from the Township attorney regarding the prohibition of warehouses in Hope Township. Mr. Urfer stated that he felt that some tightening up of this needed to take place and asked permission from the Township Committee to call Mr. Selvaggi and let him know what he is looking for as far as edits to which the Township Committee approved.

ARPA Funds – A short discussion was had regarding the monies still left in the ARPA grant monies received during Covid. It was decided to use those monies by ordering the remaining garage doors needing to be replaced on the DPW garage and the doors of the municipal building.

MS4 Permitting (Highlands Council Grant) – Stefanie Williams, the Township engineer, attended the meeting for a short time to discuss this via speakerphone. She went over the parameters of this grant and the fact that it may be used for engineering, planning and design purposes only (i.e, mapping, ordinances). On a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and roll called as follows: Mr. Kruk – yes; Mr. Urfer-yes; Mayor McDonough – yes, the committee approved the submission of this grant paperwork to the Highlands Council through our Township engineer once she has a conversation with the Township attorney and we obtain something in writing from him that this grant will not lock us into anything relating to the Highlands. The proposed grant will be for \$98,500.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the December 13, 2023; December 27, 2023 and January 4, 2024 meetings were all approved on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and all in favor.

## **Public Participation:**

Mr. Iulo asked the Committee questions regarding the timing of the signage being put in place to enforce the truck weight limits newly put in place by the County and DOT on CR 519/521. He also asked about the Master Plan Re-exam that the Township will be continuing to work on and was made aware that the Planning Board meetings are always open to the public. Lastly he questioned the likelihood of getting a water system put in place for the center of town. The Committee stated that they would need a lot more information before they could begin pursuing or finding out about any grants. He also thanked the Township for clearing the snow in front of the businesses on High Street.

Seeing there was no other business for tonight, this meeting of the Hope Township Committee was adjourned at 6:13 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. Motion carried.

Robin L. Keggan, RMC  
Municipal Clerk