

**JANUARY 28, 2020
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, Committeeman Christopher John Kruk and Deputy Mayor Terry Urfer. Also present were Don Whitmore, DPW Foreman; Municipal Clerk, Robin Keggan, RMC; Deputy Clerk, Zondra Belstra and Brielle Walsh, Events Coordinator/Sports Director.

Under the provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act", adequate notice of the meeting had been provided by publishing notice in The Star Gazette and The New Jersey Herald and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township bulletin boards.

Reports:

Mayor Tim McDonough: Mayor McDonough provided an update on the progress of the tree work being done by JCP&L and subcontractors in Silver Lake. There were 150 trees cut and removed and another 12 trees that require a 10 foot boom truck will be removed in the coming days. They will be back in April (2 years ahead of schedule) to continue with tree cutting in the rest of the Township. The Township Committee went to extreme measures to ensure the BPU got this done.

There will be a meeting of the mayors of surrounding municipalities on January 29, 2020 to discuss the state of the NW Municipal Court and the surrounding municipal courts and where the future is going.

Freeholder Sarnoski has let Mayor McDonough that money has been set aside in the County budget for a traffic study on 519/521. A DOT meeting is forthcoming to discuss same with the County and New Jersey State Police.

Committeeman Christopher John Kruk: Mr. Kruk made note that transitioning into 2020 has been smooth. Discussed the Census meeting he attended and the importance of Hope Township residents filling out their Census papers and returning them.

Deputy Mayor Urfer: Mr. Urfer mentioned that the Zoning Officer has been working on the Albertson garage issue. Also that the sidewalk plans for Town Center from the County Engineer's Office are in the office and a letter will be going out to the residents that it effects so that they know they can come in and inspect the plans for themselves. The Historic Preservation Commission will be made aware of this as well.

The Food Pantry is asking for the Township's backing to help obtain a grant through the County to support farmers and the food pantry working together. Motion was made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and all in favor.

Brielle Walsh: No Report.

Tax Collector's Report: December collections: \$171,002.83; 2019 Year End Total \$6,449,805.17. 99.38% collection rate for 2019.

Fire Department Report: Total number of calls month of December – 23; Man hours 145.10. Work Night Man Hours – 96. Special Detail – 206 man hours. Total man hours for the month of December 447.10.

Health Department: Report on file at Municipal Clerk's Office.

Township Engineer Report: Mr. Rodman was not present, but relayed to Mr. Urfer that he is still awaiting the core sample results from Cemetery Road.

Payment of Bills: January bills totaled \$493,489.64. Receipts for 2019 \$15,789.80.

RESOLUTIONS:

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPE
COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION #2020-18
IN SUPPORT OF S2505/A2558 – “VEGETATION MANAGEMENT
RESPONSE ACT” – URGING LEGISLATORS TO PASS THE BILLS FOR
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT RELATED TO UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE**

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Township Committee of the Township of Hope to promote matters that benefit the health, welfare, comfort and safety of the citizens of Hope Township; and,

WHEREAS, the Hope Township Committee finds that Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and recent snow storms and nor'easters have inflicted unprecedented damage on the citizens of the Township in recent years; and,

WHEREAS, these storms left extensive downed or damaged utility poles leaving Township residents and businesses without power and, as a result, the Board of Public Utilities ordered the State's electric public utilities to undertake additional efforts to better prepare for any major weather event in the future; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee feels it necessary for electric public utilities to maintain, remove and replace dangerous vegetation to prevent future power disruptions and preserve the uninterrupted transmission and distribution of power to the residents and businesses in Hope Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hope Township Committee supports the passage of New Jersey Senate Bill S2505/Assembly Bill A2558 which concerns “Vegetation Management Response Act” and urges the legislative leadership to ensure this bill becomes law before the New Year 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Phil Murphy, Senate President Patrick Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, Minority Leader Jon Bramnick, Republican Leader Thomas Kean, Jr., Senator Steven Oroho, Assemblyman Parker Space, Assemblyman Harold “Hal” Wirths, New Jersey League of Municipalities Executive Director Mike Darcy, New Jersey League of Municipalities Deputy Executive Director Mike Cerra, New Jersey League of Municipalities Legislative Analyst Lori Buckelew, New Jersey League of Municipalities President James Perry, Sr., Warren County Freeholders and the Warren County Emergency Management Coordinator.

Motion: Mr. Urfer

Second: Mr. Kruk

All in favor

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPE
COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION #2020-19
IN SUPPORT OF S-719/A-2426 – THE “RELIABILITY, PREPAREDNESS AND
STORM RESPONSE ACT” WHICH REQUIRES PUBLIC UTILITIES TO SET
BENCHMARKS FOR POWER RESTORATION DURING STORM MANAGEMENT AND
STIPULATES PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO REASONABLY COMPLY**

WHEREAS, the Hope Township Committee finds that Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and recent snow storms and nor'easters have inflicted unprecedented damage on the citizens of the Township in recent years; and,

WHEREAS, weather incidents leaving residents without power for more than 5 days occurred annually for several years now; and,

WHEREAS, the Township of Hope relies upon well water, which means loss of power leaves residents without electricity, heat and water – circumstances that quickly become dangerous to the health and safety of residents; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Public Utilities ordered the State’s electric public utilities to undertake additional efforts to better prepare for any major weather event in the future; and,

WHEREAS, despite these additional efforts, power restoration during storms continues to focus on more populated areas leaving those rural towns such as Hope without power for days on end; and,

WHEREAS, legislation S-719/A-2426 calls for the “designation and prioritization of areas where a power outage may result... in loss of drinkable water due to customers’ use of electric well water”; and,

WHEREAS, legislation S-719/A-2426 calls for the imposition of civil administrative penalties “if, after evidentiary hearings or other investigatory proceedings... the length of widespread outage was materially longer than it would have been but for the electric public utility’s failure or the electric public utility’s communications were materially less effective than they would have been but for the electric public utility’s failure”; and,

WHEREAS, the legislation referenced above successfully passed the NJ State Assembly but awaits a vote in the NJ State Senate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hope Township Committee supports the passage of New Jersey Senate Bill S-719/Assembly Bill A-2426 which concerns “RELIABILITY, PREPAREDNESS AND STORM RESPONSE ACT” and urges the legislative leadership to ensure this bill becomes law as soon as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Phil Murphy, Senate President Patrick Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, Minority Leader Jon Bramnick, Republican Leader Thomas Kean, Jr., Senator Steven Oroho, Assemblyman Parker Space, Assemblyman Harold “Hal” Wirths, New Jersey League of Municipalities Executive Director Mike Darcy, New Jersey League of Municipalities Deputy Executive Director Mike Cerra, New Jersey League of Municipalities Legislative Analyst Lori Buckelew, New Jersey League of Municipalities President James Perry, Sr., Warren County Freeholders and the Warren County Emergency Management Coordinator.

Motion: Mr. Urfer

Second: Mr. Kruk

All in favor

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPE
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION 2020-20
IN SUPPORT OF THE EFFORTS OF NEW JERSEY’S
SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL NJ WOMEN VOTE**

WHEREAS, the year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, guaranteeing and protecting women’s right to vote; and,

WHEREAS, this centennial offers an opportunity to commemorate a milestone of democracy; that the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the Federal or State governments on account of gender; and,

WHEREAS, New Jersey has had a long, storied history in the suffrage movement with New Jersey women playing a crucial role in pursuing the rights of women to vote; and,

WHEREAS, in 1776 women property owners were enfranchised under the New Jersey State Constitution, which was unique in the nation at the time. However, in 1807, the New Jersey Legislature eliminated the property requirement for voting rights and limited the ballot to white males; and,

WHEREAS, in 1867 New Jersey residents Lucy Stone and Harry Blackwell organized the New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association (NJSWA), devoted to gaining women's suffrage; and,

WHEREAS, in 1909 New Jersey's first open air suffrage rallies were held in Orange and Newark, led by Dr. Emma O. Gantz and Martha Klatshchken with NJWSA collecting 5,000 signatures for a petition in support of the Federal amendment guaranteeing and protecting women's constitutional right to vote; and,

WHEREAS, although the 1912 State referendum on woman's suffrage was soundly defeated in the New Jersey Legislature, a corner was turned for New Jersey's suffrage movement; and,

WHEREAS, in 1913 an automobile rally led by "General" Rosalie Jones traveled through New Jersey on the way to Washington, D.C., in a Suffrage Parade of over 8,000 marchers with many New Jersey women, including event organizer Alice Paul; and,

WHEREAS, in 1915 a second suffrage constitutional referendum was pursued in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts with active campaigns by many suffrage organizations, including the "Passing of the Torch of Liberty" via tug boats on the Hudson River from New York to New Jersey, but was defeated in all four states October 1915; and,

WHEREAS, in 1917 New Jersey suffragists Allison Turnbull Hopkins, Julia Hulburt, Beatrice Reynolds Kinkead and Minnie D. Abbott picketed in front of the White House as part of the Silent Sentinels and subsequently were arrested and imprisoned; and,

WHEREAS, on June 4, 1919, Congress passed the 19th Amendment guaranteeing all American women the right to vote; and,

WHEREAS, on February 9, 1920, New Jersey became the 29th state to ratify the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote; and,

WHEREAS, shortly after the ratification of the 19th Amendment Margaret Laird and Jennie Van Ness were the first two women elected to the New Jersey Assembly in 1921 and in 1925 Rebecca Estelle Bourgeois Winston of Estell Manor was New Jersey's first woman mayor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment, Hope Township will light the municipal building in purple, one of the colors of the New Jersey Suffrage Movement, for the week of February 10; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township of Hope supports the efforts of New Jersey's Suffrage Centennial NJ Women Vote and strongly encourages local celebrations of this historic milestone; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution will be forwarded to the Governor, Secretary of State and New Jersey League of Municipalities.

Motion: Mr. Urfer

Second: Mr. Kruk

All in favor.

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPE
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION 2020-21

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

2020-001 Arcade, Certificate # 2000
2020-002 Gobble-Up Game, Certificate #1016
2020-003 Duck Pond, Certificate #3001
2020-004 Dog Pounder Certificate #4044
2020-005 Stop and Go, Certificate # 5001
2020-006 Top Glo Game, Certificate # 4023
2020-007 Basketball Game, Certificate #1003

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: Mr. Urfer

Second: Mr. Kruk

Roll Call:

Mr. Urfer: Yes

Mr. Kruk: Yes

Mayor McDonough: Yes

Date: January 28, 2020

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPE
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION 2020-22
ADJUSTING SALARY OF MUNICIPAL CLERK**

WHEREAS, Hope Township has appointed Robin L. Keggan, formerly the Deputy Municipal Clerk of Hope Township, as the Registered Municipal Clerk and Certified Municipal Registrar of the Township commencing on January 1, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, as a result of that appointment, a pay increase is in order as the Municipal Clerk position is a full-time position which the State requires a certified individual to hold and which encompasses a certain skill set along with mandatory meetings for the Township Committee. Ms. Keggan has been a certified Registered Municipal Clerk since December of 2018 having fulfilled all the educational requirements and passed the State exam given in October of 2018.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Hope Township Committee, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that Hope Township agrees that Robin L. Keggan, Registered Municipal Clerk and Certified Municipal Registrar, be and hereby agrees to serve in that position at an annual salary of \$62,500.00; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the salary adjustment is retroactive to January 1, 2020.

Motion: Mr. Urfer

Second: Mr. Kruk

Roll Call:

Mr. Urfer: Yes

Mr. Kruk: Yes

Mayor McDonough: Yes

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPE
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION 2020-23
ADJUSTING THE HOURLY RATE OF THE DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK**

WHEREAS, Hope Township has appointed Zondra L. Belstra, formerly in the part-time clerical position for Hope Township, as the Deputy Clerk of Hope Township, commencing on January 1, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, in that Mrs. Belstra is the new Deputy Clerk and in order to keep in line with the 2019 Salary Ordinance adopted August 14, 2019, the Township Committee has determined to bring Mrs. Belstra's hourly rate to \$18.82 from the part-time clerical position rate of \$15.30.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the hourly rate of Mrs. Belstra be adjusted to \$18.82 per hour for an hourly work week not to exceed 30 hours per week and that this new rate be retroactive to January 1, 2020.

Motion: Mr. Urfer

Second: Mr. Kruk

Roll Call:

Mr. Urfer: Yes

Mr. Kruk: Yes

Mayor McDonough: Yes

ORDINANCES:

Introduction and First Reading

**Ordinance 2020-02
CALENDAR YEAR 2020**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE PROVIDING FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF \$6,000.00 FOR 'DPW BLOWER' FROM THE GENERAL CAPITAL – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The sum of **\$6,000.00** shall be appropriated for the following items, from the Capital Improvements Budget for the year 2020

DPW Blower - \$6,000.00

2. The sum of \$6,000.00 is available in the Capital Improvement Fund
3. The appropriation herewith does not authorize any debt of the Township of Hope.
4. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately on final passage and publication as provided by law.

Motion: Mr. Urfer

Second: Mr. Kruk

All in favor

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced for first reading at a regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Hope held on January 28, 2020 and ordered published in accordance with the law. Said Ordinance will be considered for final reading and adoption at a meeting of the Township Committee to be held on February 26, 2020 at 7:00P.M., or as soon thereafter as the Township Committee may hear this Ordinance at the Municipal Building, 407 Hope-Great Meadows Road, Hope, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

Introduction and First Reading:

**ORDINANCE 2020-03
CALENDAR YEAR 2020**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE PROVIDING FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF \$16,000.00 FOR 'DPW TRUCK DUMP BODY, HYDRAULIC SYSTEM, SAFETY LIGHTING' FROM THE GENERAL CAPITAL – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The sum of **\$16,000.00** shall be appropriated for the following items, from the Capital Improvements Budget for the year 2020

DPW Truck Body with Associated Equipment - \$16,000.00

5. The sum of \$16,000.00 is available in the Capital Improvement Fund

6. The appropriation herewith does not authorize any debt of the Township of Hope.

7. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately on final passage and publication as provided by law.

Motion: Mr. Urfer

Second: Mr. Kruk

All in favor

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced for first reading at a regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Hope held on January 28, 2020 and ordered published in accordance with the law. Said Ordinance will be considered for final reading and adoption at a meeting of the Township Committee to be held on February 26, 2020 at 7:00P.M., or as soon thereafter as the Township Committee may hear this Ordinance at the Municipal Building, 407 Hope-Great Meadows Road, Hope, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

Old Business: .

New Business:

Warren County Mosquito Commission: Aerial Mosquito Control Contract was presented to the Township Committee and on a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk and passed all in favor, it was approved to allow the aerial spraying. Contract signed and will be sent to Warren County Mosquito Commission.

Recycling Coordinator Contract: Lin Gabel submitted her contract for the 2020 year for Township Committee approval. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk it was approved to pay \$500.00 to Mrs. Gabel to continue on as the Recycling Coordinator for Hope Township. Roll Call: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

Addendum to Agreement for Energy Supply Services – IDT Energy: Mr. Kruk explained the addendum that was signed on behalf of the Township to stay with IDT Energy. He explained that residents will never pay more than JCP&L rates over the term of the IDT Energy contract with the Township. On a motion made by Mr. Kruk; seconded by Mr. Urfer it was approved to sign on with IDT for the duration of the contract addendum. Roll Call: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – abstain.

Alex Morgan, Esq. – Ms. Morgan interviewed with Kathy Eger, North Warren Court Administrator, for the position of Public Defender. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and all in favor by voice, Mrs. Morgan was approved by the Hope Township Committee to be appointed as the Public Defender for the North Warren Municipal Court for the year 2020.

Raffle Application - 2020-08 Hope Township School PTA – March 13, 2020 - motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk to approve. All in favor.

2020-09 Hope Township School PTA – March 13, 2020 - motion made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk to approve. All in favor.

Sign for CR 519: Mr. Bodolsky asked for permission to place a sign along CR 519 for announcements of upcoming meetings for the warehouse project, etc. Mr. Urfer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kruk all in favor to allow the sign to be placed in public view.

Swayze Mill Ball Field Dedication: Mr. Urfer motioned; Mr. Kruk seconded, all in favor to dedicate a ballfield at Swayze Mill in a local resident's name and to make this public knowledge at the 2020 Appreciation Dinner with the actual dedication being on Opening Day of Baseball/Softball 2020.

Use of Facilities:

Stephan Flynn requested usage of Community Center. Saturday nights from 7 -10 p.m. Motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk to approve usage of the Community Center for Chess Club under Hope Township Recreation with fee for usage of Center waived. Roll Call: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

Discussion:

Mr. Urfer discussed the SADC grant for updating the Farmland Preservation Plan that the Land Conservancy has in place for the update. The cost of the SADC update is \$12,500 which is a discount off the usual rate of \$15,000 due to the long-standing relationship with the municipality. The SADC is currently matching grants at 50%, up to \$20,000, to support municipal farmland plans which means that Hope's portion will ultimately be \$6,250. On a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk it was approved by the Township Committee to allow the Land Conservancy to do the update. Roll Call: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough- yes.

Public Participation:

Lt. Wambold was at the meeting on behalf of the New Jersey State Police – Troop B Unit. Mayor McDonough thanked him for all services the State Police provide for Hope Township. Lt. Wambold will be emphasizing patrolling our rural area roads. Mr. Urfer mentioned the problem the Township is having on the Westbound side of Route 80 before the Hope (Exit 12) Exit with trucks parking/idling there and the speeding on Route 519 south of the middle of Town. Lt. Wambold said he will make mention of these two issues to the staff at the barracks. Mr. Kruk thanked him for all of the help and assistance the State Police give the HVFD. Mr. Bodolsky (resident) inquired about putting a dedicated officer in place to monitor speeding on Route 519 south of town. Lt. Wambold stated that would entail an agreement with the Township and it is a budgetary issue for the Township would could perhaps be shared with surrounding/neighborhood municipalities. This would essentially be done on an overtime basis for the trooper doing the detail.

Mr. Bodolsky spoke to the Township Committee about the potential warehouse project in White Township and urged them to take part in the meetings taking place about the project. Mr. Maier also spoke about the warehouse project. An independent traffic engineer being hired by Hope Township was also discussed by Mr. Bodolsky and Mr. Maier in conjunction with Mr. Urfer. Mrs. Rusin spoke about the traffic on CR 609 that occurred this day due to a tractor trailer accident on Route 80 causing traffic to be re-routed and the fact that it is foretelling of what could happen in Hope Township's future as it pertains to the potential rock wall on Route 80 and the potential warehouse project in White Township.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for December 11, 2019 Business meeting; the December 11, 2019 Executive session and the December 18, 2019 year-end meeting were approved by a motion made by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk 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. Kruk, seconded by Mr. Urfer. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Keggan, RMC
Municipal Clerk