

July 11, 2018

The monthly business meeting of the Hope Township Committee convened at 7:00 P.M. at the Community Center, Walnut Street, Hope Township with the following members present: Mayor Timothy McDonough, Deputy Mayor Christopher John Kruk and Committeeman Terry Urfer. Also present were Municipal Clerk, Judith Fisher, RMC.

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:

Tax Collector: for month ending June 2018 \$34,894.04; YTD \$3,095,406.04.

Warren County Health Department: 119 Nightingale – no change; 329 High Street – expansion of use beyond the approved septic capacity. Plan to alter the septic was reviewed. Additional information requested; 252 Shiloh Road – well decommissioning is pending. 32 Lakeview Avenue – complaint received re: high grass, animals and feral cats. Violation notice issued. Reinspection conducted and grass was mowed. A reinspection is scheduled. Hope Conference & Renewal Center; Inn at Millrace Pond and St. John the Baptist Facility were inspected and received satisfactory ratings. Hope Kennels inspected and received satisfactory rating; rabies – no activity. Recreational Bathing – no activity; Youth camps – no activity and campgrounds – no activity. Septics/Wells – 1 septic alteration installed; one septic repair was installed and one well/septic for new construction installed.

Municipal Court: Nothing new.

Mayor Tim McDonough: Mayor McDonough noted that Attorney Selvaggi suggested the township get a list of items available up for bid, if they don't sell then, they are free to sell to whomever. Mayor McDonough also brought State Trooper up to introduce himself. Noted to Rose Maguire (who was in audience) that she should immediately start process of applying for 501c3 so that Township can start working in tandem with her on the Foundation. Until everything in place, Township will need to co-sponsor the car show event and she should move forward. All the details will be worked out as things move forward. Mayor McDonough noted also that the Township is not subject to having to go before the Planning and Zoning Boards for permits, but Attorney Selvaggi noted as a courtesy Township should go before the Planning Board for a courtesy review to let them of the plan for the salt shed.

Deputy Mayor Christopher John Kruk: Ongoing issue with small animals. Someone in a neighboring municipality received a cease and desist order for raising bees. Mr. Kruk wants to nail down the animal ordinance amendments as soon as possible and get the ball rolling. Municipality owned properties need to get bid/auctioned off as soon as possible. Mayor McDonough noted attorney Selvaggi is currently working on getting paperwork together for the offering of these pieces of property. Discussion took place regarding the camp's interest in purchasing the "lake bottom" of Silver Lake which gives them a little shoreline and helps the Township to get rid of the municipal burden of it.

Committeeman Urfer: No updates on salt shed. Spoke about getting rid of the big generator in the yard and auctioning it off. Also spoke about the Master Plan and the expenditures for it. We are over-budget on it and need to figure out how to fund it moving forward. Mayor McDonough noted that he has told the Chairman that there is to be no more discussion about the Master Plan.

Fire Department Report: Number of calls – 13; Man hours 103. Special detail 3; Man hours 34.

Township Engineer Report: Absent.

Old Business:

Verizon Nodes: No change in status. Presentation will be upcoming from AT&T that want to do the same thing.

Benbrook & Stevens: Easement at the Distillery – Mayor McDonough stated spoke to Bob Benbrook and there is some back and forth going on between whose jurisdiction this well will be falling under (DEP). Should have a proposal in front of us soon.

New Business:

Mayor McDonough thanked Chris Maier and Maria Maier for bringing the event of having the children who work at the Land of Make Believe to witness how a Township Committee/Municipal Government works. John spoke to the children as well and encouraged them to ask questions about the municipalities. Mr. Urfer spoke about the school and how it ties to municipal budget and homeowners to the children. Chris Maier spoke as well to his employees about government and the American people.

Warren County Department of Human Services 2019 Municipal Alliance County Contract. Join with other towns in the county and receive a grant that goes towards being used in the school that gets the word out about drugs and alcohol. Samantha Marotta is our agent. Grant is for \$3,342.00. Motioned by Mr. Urfer; seconded by Mr. Kruk. Roll call: Mr. Urfer – yes; Mr. Kruk – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes.

Meeting and Greeting with Land of Make Believe Foreign Exchange Students/Workers

President of Hope Chamber of Commerce spoke about their upcoming picnic and booth at the Warren County Fair.

Mayor McDonough spoke about the Movie Night and invited all the students working at the Land of Make Believe to attend it.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of April 11, 2018 and May 9, 2018 approved by motion of Mr. Kruk; seconded by Mr. Urfer. All in favor.

Payment of Bills:

Receipts \$23,058.74; Bills \$362,933.60. Motion was made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried to pay the bills presented tonight - \$363,758.67. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Urfer, yes. Mr. Kruk, yes. Mayor McDonough, yes.

RESOLUTION 2018-41:

RESOLUTION 2018-41

REFUNDING TAX SALE CERTIFICATE 2018-002

WHEREAS, the property owned by Thomas Ponnwitz known as block 1600 lot 1000 located at 124 North Locust Lake Road had unpaid 2017 property taxes and was sold at a Tax Sale held on 01 February 2018 by the Hope Township Tax Collector; and

WHEREAS, US Bank as Custodian for ACTLIEN of 50 South 16th Street, Suite 2050 located in Philadelphia, PA 19102 was the successful bidder of the above stated property. The amount of the Tax Sale consisted of unpaid 2017 property taxes, interest, and other costs, and totaled \$8,171.77 and is represented by Tax Sale Certificate 2018-002; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Ponnwitz, the supposed owner of the property, paid \$12,475.82 on 05 July 2018 to the Hope Township Tax Collector to satisfy the outstanding Tax Sale Certificate and subsequent taxes:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Hope on this 11th day of July 2018 that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw a check payable to US Bank as Custodian for ACTLIEN in the amount of \$12,475.82 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate 2018-002.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer be also authorized to draw a check payable to US Bank as Custodian for ACTLIEN in the amount of \$10,600.00 for the return of a premium paid at the Tax Sale.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the satisfied executed Tax Sale Certificate be returned to Thomas Ponnwitz of 124 North Locust Lake Road in Blairstown, NJ 07825.

Motion was made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried to adopt Resolution 2018-41.

Roll Call: Mr. Urfer – yes Mr. Kruk – yes Mayor McDonough – yes

RESOLUTION 2018-42:

RESOLUTION 2018-42

AWARDING CONTRACT FOR ROAD SURFACING – BIRCH RIDGE ROAD

WHEREAS, The Township of Hope is a member of the Morris County Cooperative Pricing System and wishes to utilize the contract for Road Resurfacing for Resurfacing of Birch Ridge Road; and

WHEREAS, Tilcon New York, Inc., Wharton, NJ has been awarded Contract #6 for Road Resurfacing through the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council of which the Township of Hope is an active participant; and

WHEREAS, Denville Line Striping, Rockaway, NJ has been awarded Contract #36 for Traffic Striping through the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council of which the township of Hope is an active participant; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Hope, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey that road resurfacing services, including the raising of catch basins, for Birch Ridge Road, is awarded to Tilcon New York, Inc., 625 Mt. Hope Road, Wharton, New Jersey 07885, in the amount not to exceed \$120,496.70; and Denville Line Striping for \$2,040.00

Motion was made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried to adopt Resolution 2018-42

Roll Call: Mr. Urfer – yes Mr. Kruk – yes Mayor McDonough – yes

RESOLUTION 2018-43:

RESOLUTION 2018-43

CANCEL STALE DATED CHECKS

WHEREAS, checks are considered stale dated after a period of six months; and

WHEREAS, the following checks have remained outstanding according to the Chief Financial Officer's Current Account Reconciliation of the Township of Hope.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Hope that the following checks be considered void and the cumulative total in the amount of \$4,142.71 be added back to the appropriate balances of the Current Account of the Township of Hope.

<u>Check#</u>	<u>Amount</u>
8680	100.00
9127	175.00
9475	2593.22
9726	159.25
10032	84.00

10414	100.00
10438	3.00
10759	27.89
11041	150.35
11178	750.00

Motion was made by Mr. Urfer, seconded by Mr. Kruk and carried to adopt Resolution 2018-43

Roll Call: Mr. Urfer – yes Mr. Kruk – yes Mayor McDonough – yes (Mr. Urfer noted he'd like the names of the people whose checks are being cancelled)

Public Participation: Question and answer forum took place with the students who are working at the Land of Make Believe and the Township Committee.

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,

Judith M. Fisher RMC
Municipal Clerk